



FoCC Incorporated Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor
October 2020 Issue Number 71

Spikey News features

1. Great Australian Backyard Bird Count
2. Wild Flower walk
3. Friends clean up
4. Koala spotting
5. Park Works
6. Local wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services advice
7. Katy Ryans Road. What do we know?
8. Yarra Gums
9. Frog season
10. FoCC Annual Meeting
11. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals
12. Membership renewals

1. Great Australian Backyard Bird Count

The Birds Australia Great Australian Backyard Bird Count found many interesting birds in the forests of Woookarung Regional Park and the corridor. The Friends of Canadian Corridor encouraged friends and residents to visit the Park and use Citizen Science to observe and count local birds and learn more about the Park.



Ballarat postcode count Birdlife Australia App: 25 October 2020



It was good to open locals' eyes to the beautiful world of birds and wildlife in the area

Joel Ellis, Friends of Canadian Corridor



RARE SIGHTING: The eastern crested shrike-tit was one of the birds recorded in the count in the Ballarat area. Picture: Jeffrey Crawley

Ballarat Courier October 29th 2020

According to Birds Australia, 738 bird count checklists and 157 different species and 16836 birds sighted in the week long Ballarat 3350 Post Code Bird Count records. Many of these observations were in the Canadian Corridor and Woookarung Regional Park."

More counts occurred in Buninyong and other nearby localities.

The observations show some birds in large numbers such as: Crimson Rosellas, White-winged Choughs, Currawongs, Red Wattlebirds and White-eared Honeyeaters. Kookaburras, Sacred Kingfishers, Golden and Rufous Whistlers were present in smaller numbers.

An unusual and surprising observation and locally quite rare, was a Crested Shrike-tit.

The count involves an observer identifying and counting the numbers of birds spotted at a selected site. The results are recorded on a downloaded app from Birdlife Australia and after 20 minutes of observation the results are sent to Birds Australia. Birds Australia collates the records to create a snapshot of birds in particular sites.

Andrew recorded the following birds in each 20-minute observation period over 5 days at site 2 off Clayton St

Day 1

Grey Fantail × 2
Laughing Kookaburra × 2
Crimson Rosella × 4
Long-billed Corella × 5
Red Wattlebird × 1
White-throated Treecreeper × 2

Day 2

White-throated Treecreeper × 1
Grey Currawong × 1
Laughing Kookaburra × 2
Grey Fantail × 1
Crimson Rosella × 2
Yellow-faced Honeyeater × 1

Day 3

Grey Fantail × 3
White-throated Treecreeper × 2
Long-billed Corella × 8
Crimson Rosella × 5

Day 4

Sacred Kingfisher × 2
Grey Fantail × 4
Grey Shrike-thrush × 1
Crimson Rosella × 2
White-throated Treecreeper × 2
Yellow-faced Honeyeater × 1

Day 5

Laughing Kookaburra × 1
Grey Fantail × 4
White-throated Treecreeper × 2
Crimson Rosella × 6
Grey Currawong × 1

2. Wild Flower walk

The Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat and the FoCC worked together to set up the self-guided pop up wild flower trail walk in the central part of the Woowookarung Regional Park for the week October 25th until October 31st.



John setting up the walk signs. Image October 25th 2020.

The Ballarat Courier Highlights

"Self-guided wildflower trail opens in Woowookarung Regional Park

A new self-guided wildflower trail will open this Sunday, allowing nature-lovers to explore the floral delights of spring at their own pace.

From 10am on Sunday, walkers will be able to follow a route through the Woowookarung Regional Park, designed to take in some of the wildflowers that are currently in bloom.

The route has been devised in a collaboration between the Friends of Canadian Corridor community group and the Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat.

Usually at this time of year, the group organises a guided walk, but this has not been possible due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The start of the trail is about 1.7 kilometres along Katy Ryans Road in Mount Clear. Information signs placed throughout will help walkers identify some of the species along the trail in a place described as a "very diverse, wildflower-rich area".

The pop-up trail will be open from Sunday until next Saturday (October 31).

The total length of the trail is 1.57 km long. and is described as "undulating with minor rough sections", with solid footwear and reasonable fitness advised, as well as social distancing measures."



Rob Loveband, Jeff Rootes, John Gregurik, Joel Ellis, Elaine Gregurik, Tam Kruger, Kent Warrick and Jo Kelly: The Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat and Friends of Canadian Corridor have prepared a self-guided walking trail

Article courtesy, Ballarat Courier Oct 24th Online.

Hundreds walk the walk

Wildflower walkers in their hundreds took the walk around the wildflower trail over the week of Oct 25th until Oct 31st. At most times several cars were parked with small groups around the trail.

Feedback was very positive with:

"glad I went"

"signs and plants were great"

"well labelled and great terrain".

"at least six cars parked".

"wonderful wander and a fantastic initiative"

"bleak weather"

"signage was a great idea and informative"

"fantastic walk – thanks"

"great walk – thankyou"

And the Ballarat Times highlighted the Walk.



Park protectors: FoCC's Tracie Currie and president Bob Hartmann along the path which requires solid footwear and a reasonable level of fitness. Photo: EDWINA WILLIAMS

Walk amongst the wildflowers

BY EDWINA WILLIAMS

A SELF-guided, pop-up wildflower trail walk will introduce the public to diverse, vibrant plants native to local regional park, Woowookaring.

Set up from 10am on Sunday, 25 October until the following Saturday, it's the fifth event of its kind, coordinated by the Field Naturalists' Club Ballarat and the Friends of the Canadian Corridor.

Walkers will follow the 1.57-kilometre trail to spot 20 species including golden bush pea, pink bells, white slender rice flower, and heath tea-tree.

All will be identified by informational markers stating descriptions and identifying features, common and scientific names.

Field Nats committee member and friend of Canadian corridor John Gregurke said one of the wildflowers in Woowookaring is particularly rare.

"Most of the plants growing here are fairly common, but the penny-leaf flat-pea is one that doesn't grow any closer than Mount Cole and Gisborne," he said.

"It's a good spot for all of the

native plants around Ballarat."

Mr Gregurke said it's fun for the two environmental groups to collaborate and share knowledge.

"The Field Nats know all the plants, so we put the signs up and can not only educate the members of the Friends of the Canadian Corridor, but the general public, too."

FoCC secretary Jeff Rootes said the walk is a way to attract visitors to the park, to view their local bushland differently.

"This is the park in our own backyard, and we have all these native treasures to discover. It's an opportunity to visit, learn about the flowers and park features," he said.

"Some species will not be familiar, so the walk brings them to the fore. They're the little plants that matter; mother nature doing what it does best."

In the past, the annual walk has been guided from the Wilson Street water tower, attracting 50 to 60 people. This year, it is self-guided to ensure COVID safety.

Trail parking is off Katy Ryans Road. Follow signs placed at Bakers Road corner, Dozed Track corner and Boundary Road corner.

Ballarat Times Oct 22nd 2020

3. Friends clean up

A small group friends met on Sunday October 11th and cleaned up the area around the wildflower walk site.



Clean up friends with bags of collected rubbish. Image October 11th 2020

4. Koala spotting

Spring through to summer is Koala mating and breeding time. Koalas are on the move and they can be quite noisy which is a clue that they are around.



Koala - Pax Hill. Image courtesy of Gin, Oct 5 2020



Koala corner of Cathie St and Boundary Rd. Image courtesy Liz October 14th 2020.



Gate sitting Koala Fisker Av, Mt Helen. Image courtesy of Chris Oct 19th 2020



Olympic Avenue. Image courtesy Bob October 26th 2020



Spotted close to the South Gate adjacent to Bakers Rd. October 20th 2020



On the road Spencer St Pax Hill. Image courtesy Jeanette October 21 2020

5. Park Works

The Big Dirt Dump is no more!

The rangers for Woowookarung Regional Park would like to thank the many friends of the park for making the effort to report illegal activities to info@parks.vic.gov.au. Your support has been fantastic with many park visitors keeping an eye out and even helping with the clean-up litter!

Parks Victoria wants everyone to enjoy and preserve Woowookarung and will continue to take up its responsibility protecting the special plants and animals in Woowookarung.

Recently, an investigation was completed into the dumping of 15m³ meters of soil in 7 separate locations in the park. Thanks to a report of an alert park visitor, the offender was tracked down, and formally interviewed with support from VicPol. Under the Environmental Protection Act, the offender was ordered to clean and dispose of the soil at an approved facility, all at the expense of the offender. Multiple infringement notices for littering and illegal wood removal have also been issued, with currently a further 5 investigations in progress.

The most common and concerning offences in Woowookarung are:

1. *dumping of rubbish and littering*
2. *illegal trail construction and off-track riding and driving*
3. *not having your dog on a lead*
4. *illegal wood cutting.*

If you observe any wrong-doings in the park, please report as much detail possible to info@parks.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Rangers October 27th 2020



The big dirt dump. August 2020.



Looking much better, same site. Oct 15th 2020

Dementia Forest sensory trail works

A large infestation of gorse along the Dementia trail was removed by Parks Victoria and a large number of trees and shrubs were planted.



Revegetation plantings October 12th 2020.

6. Local wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services advice

Spring brings with it; heightened wildlife activity and greater possibilities of local wildlife being involved in road and other incidents.

Recently an issue was brought to FoCC s attention via facebook about injured and deceased wildlife.

Ballarat has some wonderful local wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services. If a sick, injured or orphaned wildlife is found on private or public property who do you take it to?

To help, the FoCC is sharing the contact details of local services available. Please bear in mind these are volunteer services that run not-for-profit shelters 24/7, so be patient and thankful in dealings with them.

Recommended local contact

BADGAR Emergency Wildlife Rescue: 1300 223 427

Recommended other contact

Wildlife Victoria: 03 8400 7300 Please note their call hours are from 6:40AM—7:30PM.

Other contacts

- Parks Victoria: 13 1963 Parks Victoria do not provide rescue services.
- DELWP: 03 5336 6856. DELWP should be advised of wildlife deaths if foul play is suspected.
- City of Ballarat: Recommends BADGAR Emergency Wildlife Rescue. The city animal officers deal with cats and dogs only. The City removes deceased animals from Council controlled roads.
- Snake Catching: The Ballarat Snake Catcher 0439 242 889
<https://www.facebook.com/BallaratSnakeCatcher/>

7. Katy Ryans Road. What do we know?

Katy Ryans Rd runs from Elsworth St through the Park to the corner of Boundary Rd.

In 1934 it was the flattest road between Ballarat and Geelong via Greenhill and Clarendon. The aerial image shows the road, nine cart widths wide near Boundary Road. Other roads are just one track wide.



A B Ryan owned the property on the corner of Elsworth St and Katy Ryans Rd in 1880 as the old Shire of Buninyong title map below shows.



In 1940 a Mrs C Ryan operated a woodyard at B Ryans site as reported in The Argus Newspaper April 1 1940.



According to one older local, Katy Ryan operated a shop along the road. The shop only makes sense when the road past the Ryan property was then, a major road for horse drawn vehicles between Ballarat and Clarendon. It was the flatter shortcut through the forest.

Today the deep ruts of the cart tracks nine tracks wide are still visible in the forest on the rise up to Boundary Rd. So who was Katy Ryan?

8. Yarra Gum Eucalyptus Yarraensis

According to the COB Ballarat East Plan, Council Background Paper 5, Nov 2018, Yarra Gum is listed as rare on DELWP's Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria (DEPI 2014).

It is poorly known, being difficult to distinguish from Swamp Gum Eucalyptus ovata, and as a result may be under-reported.

Although there are only four Yarra Gum Eucalyptus yarraensis records in the Ballarat East area, this species is likely to be more widespread.

Well most surprising is a stand of Yarra Gum alongside Lal Lal Drain just below the Lookout. The Yarra Gums have been in the creek line and have survived the plantation era. Now the Yarra Gums have spread their seed onto the southern side of the creek and a little Yarra Gum forest is in the making. Another Park surprise!

9. Frog Season

This year good spring rainfall has led to many ponds in the park being full of aquatic life.



Pond on the North South track teeming with life. Image 22nd October 2020.



Foam containing frog spawn in pond just north of Katy Ryans Rd. Image 23rd October 2020.

10. FoCC Annual Meeting

The FoCC annual meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday October 21st 2020.

President Bob Hartmann presented a snapshot of the key Friends initiatives over the year:

- Koala Report delivered to the City of Ballarat and participation in the COB living Corridors strategy planning.
- Development of the Bunny Trail Proposal" for 55 Recreation Road and subsequent negotiations with the City of Ballarat and Victorian Schools Building Authority. Progress is ongoing.

- Development of the “Little Creeks do matter” project and its incorporation into the City of Ballarat’s Yarrowee River Strategy.
- Wildlife Brochure. Joint Leigh Catchment and FoCC task to update and improve the Indigenous Wildlife of South Ballarat brochure. Noting the substantial effort put into this project by Joel Ellis.

Election of Office bearers and committee for 2021.

President: Bob Hartmann

Vice President: Tarn Kruger

Secretary: Jeff Rootes

Treasurer: Peter Darveniza

Committee members:

Jo Kelly, Joel Ellis, Carolyn Barry Rob Loveband, and Tracie Currie

11. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals

The FoCC encourages Park friends to report track vandals, rubbish dumped and dumpers and wood thieves to Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or email: info@parks.vic.gov.au
If an offender is spotted, please note vehicle registration details as vehicle identification is most helpful, plus location and details.

12. FoCC facebook and webpage



Comments on the FoCC website. Image courtesy of Rob. October 13th 2020.

Joel is the FoCC Facebook page manager. www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/

Rob is overseeing the webpage webmaster@focc.asn.au

Currently we have just over 627 686 friends following us on facebook and growing. Welcome to all new friends. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

2020 calendar

Dec 4th	Christmas at the Lookout. More details soon.
2021	Hopefully a full program

2021 FoCC Membership

Membership of FoCC runs from January to December 31st each year.

Membership for 2021 is now open.

Members will receive an email invite to renew their membership in a couple of weeks. Members renewing are asked to put their name on bank payment transfers. Any friends who wishes to become a member can use the new membership form below.

Memberships received after August 1st are credited to the next year. To those wonderful people who have paid early thank you.

The FoCC Spikey News is published on behalf of the Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated, Registered No A0097535B.

The purpose of “Spikey News” is to link the community with Woowookarung Regional Park and the Canadian Corridor.

Circulation this issue is 674 691 Welcome to all new friends.

The update is generally published monthly. Friends wishing to add articles to the FoCC update may do so by emailing foccinfo@gmail.com

Feel free to circulate widely including doctor’s waiting rooms, work offices, friends and neighbours.

We are proud to walk this land with the Wadawurrung people and all other First Nations people.

Any opinions expressed in the publications are those of the editors and do not officially represent Parks Victoria or the FoCC.

Web - www.focc.asn.au Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/>

Unsubscribe by emailing the editor foccinfo@gmail.com

Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated



Registered number A0097535

Membership Application 2021

Individual membership of the FoCC runs from January 1st to December 31st each year at a cost of \$20 per year Community groups may be represented by individual members.

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Name of Group represented: (if applicable)	
Address first line:	
Address second line:	
Town/City:	
State:	Post Code:
Home Phone:	
Mobile phone:	
Email address:	
I agree to the rules of association and abide by the FoCC committee of Management decisions	
Applicants signature:	
Date:	
Applications may be sent by email to focinfo@gmail.com or by mail to the Treasurer (address below)	

Payment may be made by

1. Bank transfer to details: **BSB** 06 3502 **Account No** 10955630. Note: Please add **your name** to the bank transfer and email focinfo@gmail.com a copy of this application form or your name and the date of the transaction.
2. Payment to the Treasurer at a FoCC meeting
3. Cheques to made out to "FoCC Incorporated" and addressed to:

FoCC Treasurer
PO Box 83,
Mt Clear Vic,
3350.

Date Received:

\$

Receipt No