



# FoCC Incorporated

# Spikey News



Linking the community with Woovookarung and the Canadian Corridor  
April 2021 Issue Number 76

## Bumper Edition

### Spikey News features

1. Nature Trail opening
2. Koala monitoring continues
3. Working bee – Pick up stakes and tree guards
4. Birds Forum event
5. Ballarat Heritage Weekend Water Race walk
6. Metro Trains grant
7. Dementia trail
8. Koala spotting - 5 observations
9. Gorge water easement works begin
10. Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline
11. Park works
12. Midland Hwy overhead animal crossing installation
13. Recreation Road works
14. Membership
15. Facebook and Web

### 1. Nature Trail opening

After almost three years of promotion, planning and construction the Grasstree Nature Trail was officially opened by Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Regional Development in the Victorian Government at the Lookout at 11.30am on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.



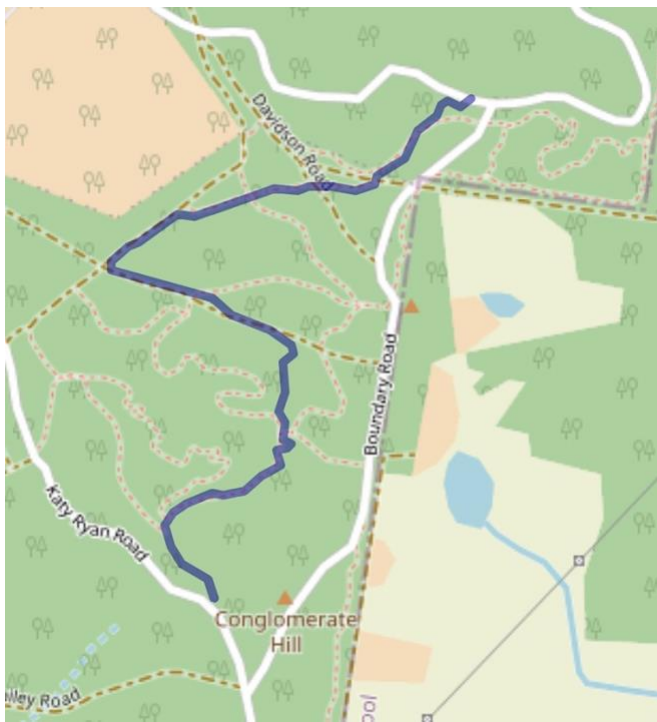
Parks Victoria Manager Jodie Heath, Bob Hartmann, Minister Mary Anne Thomas MP and Micheala Settle MP at the opening. 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.



Local horse rider Sandy leading the horse attendees. 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021



And other trail perambulators



Trail map courtesy Andrew of U3A Walkers. 22nd April 2021

The trail was funded by a "Pick My Project" community grant of \$78005 in 2018. The Nature Trail was one of ten projects voted for by local people out of a list of 124 submitted project ideas. The vote for the trail was promoted strongly by FoCC members with assistance from local walking, cycling, naturalist, youth and health organisations. The construction of the trail was ably managed by Parks Victoria. The Nature Trail now forms one leg of a much larger yet to be constructed 10000 step trail. This trail is the centrepiece of the Woookarung Regional Park Strategic Directions Plan.

## 2. Koala monitoring continues

FoCC volunteers have been busy looking for Koala scat in Woookarung Regional Park during April as part of the University of Melbourne research project in collaboration with the Australian Koala Foundation, Parks Victoria and the FoCC.

## How to become a Koala monitor?

**Monitoring forward dates will occur on the following Fridays.**

- Week beginning Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Wonderful Volunteers for the research project are needed and for more information follow the contact details below:

Louise Jory Mob 0418375373  
or email: [ljory@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ljory@student.unimelb.edu.au)

More than 30 wonderful FoCC friends have already assisted with looking for pellets. So far 2 koalas and many bags of pellets have been found.

## The Quest for Koala Pellets

Jolyon Attwooll

Latest News



If you ever thought life as a wildlife researcher might be a glamorous path to tread, a session as a koala monitor down at Woookarung Regional Park might make you think again.



📷 KOALA QUEST: University of Melbourne researcher Louise Jory assesses the habitat in Woookarung Regional Park. Picture: Kate Healy.

Courier Article Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Channel 9 news features Koala monitoring in action.



Image of Stephanie, Louise and John measuring trees. from Channel 9 News Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

## 3. May 16<sup>th</sup> Working bee – To pick up stakes and tree guards

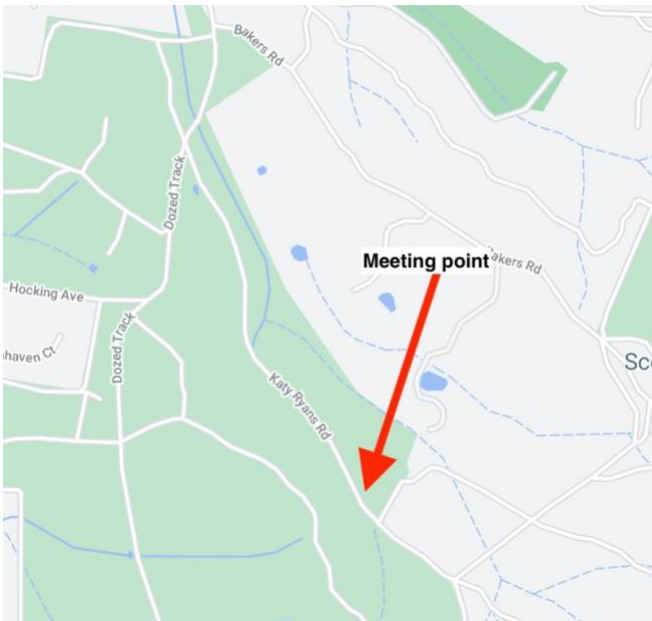
A FoCC working bee to pick up used tree guard stakes and guards will be held at 10am on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The working bee will recycle the tree planting materials from 2017, 18 and 19 tree plantings. All told over 1600 trees were planted in those sessions.

This year it is planned to plant 500 trees at the end of July and the recycled materials will be reused there. The 2021 tree planting site has not yet been selected. More information soon.

Solid footwear, gloves and long trousers are required. All other equipment supplied.

Pls RSVP to [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com) or text 0408509591 or via facebook.

Cup of covid safe tea provided. All other Covid rules apply.



Meeting place: Katy Ryans Rd. Signs out from Elsworth St.

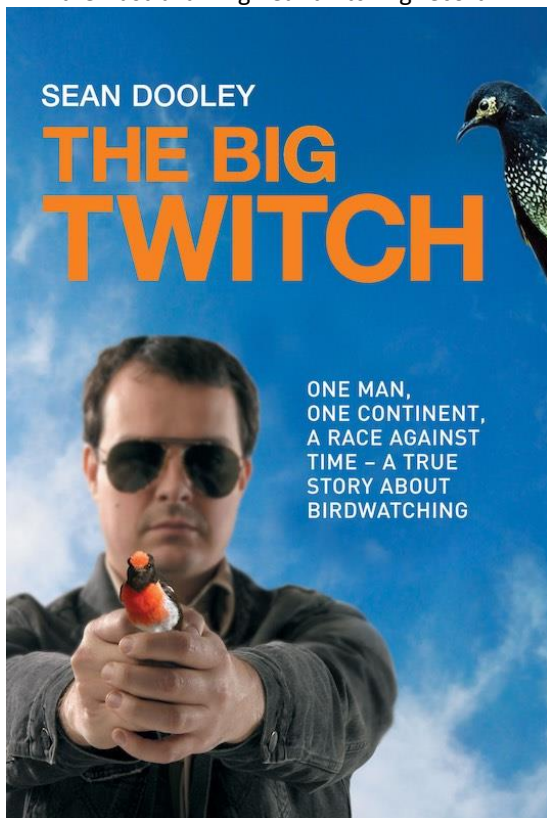
**4. Birds Forum Event**

The FoCC is hosting a “Birds” Forum on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

The Guest speaker is:

**Mr Sean Dooley**

**National Public Affairs Manager for BirdLife Australia,**  
author of The Big Twitch, and former holder of  
the Australian Big Year twitching record.



Final details for the event will be out soon.

**5. Ballarat Heritage Weekend Water Race walk**

Over the past months the FoCC has become aware of how extensive the water race network is in the hills of Woowookarung Regional Park and surrounding areas.

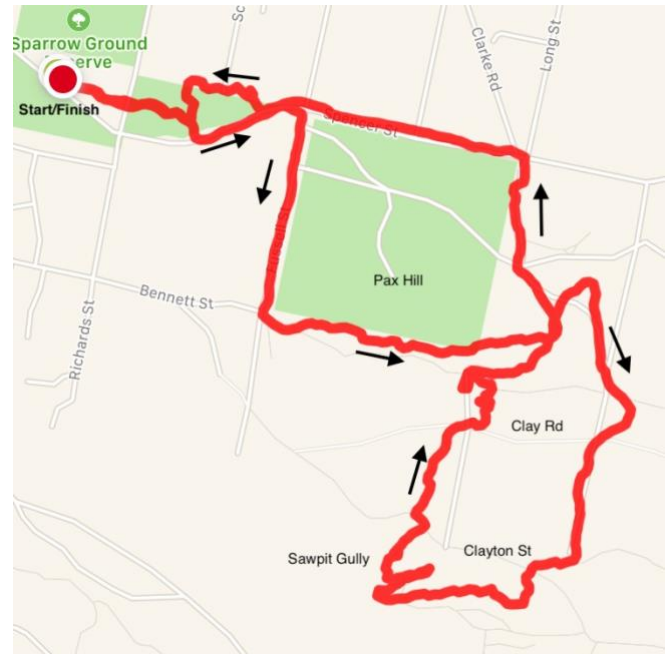
At 2pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021 a walk along three of the water race systems near Pax Hill will be held.

The walk begins and ends at the Sparrow Ground Rotunda on Spencer St Canadian.

The walk takes in:

- The Sparrow Ground sluice fields
- The Pax Hill sluice field and connecting water races
- The Sawpit Gully sluice field, water races and dam.

The water races and associated sluice fields were built in the 1860’s and are still in good condition today.



The water race walk route

RSVP appreciated but not essential to:

[FoCCinfo@gmail.com](mailto:FoCCinfo@gmail.com) or facebook or 040850959

**6. Metro Trains Grant**

Metro trains provides grants of \$1500 for environmental and community projects. These grants are available via employees and their associated community groups. FoCC member Jason works for Metro Trains and he successfully applied for a grant to assist in publishing a Wildflower Brochure to accompany the October wildflower Walk.



The FoCC application was made on a one-minute video saying:

*This video is being filmed on Wadawurrung Country and we pay our respects to elders past present and merging.*

*The Woookarung Regional Park is an exciting new Nature Park in the Canadian Corridor on the eastern edge of Ballarat*

*The Friends of Canadian Corridor is a 750 strong friends' local group. Since 2016 the Friends have hosted a Spring Sunday wildflower walk in the Park. Last year because of Covid, a week-long pop-up wildflower walk was organised to keep the walk open and safe*

*300 people walked the wildflower path.*

*Signs like this identified the wildflowers in bloom.*

*This year the Friends want continue the pop-up walk idea, by creating a wildflower identification brochure, published in print and online in a similar format to this guide. (image of guide)*

*Thank you for watching*

#### **Resulting in:**

FOCC

Dear Jeff,

*I'm delighted to confirm that your organisation has been **successful** in receiving a \$1,500 Metro Cares Community Grant. Congratulations!*

Ebony Fry

Metro Cares at Metro Trains

Many thanks to Jason for spotting the opportunity and seeing it through.

#### **7. Dementia Trail**

Work on the dementia trail is well underway with over 75 trucks loads of track gravel placed already. The gravel is required to fill the heavily eroded track that had degraded into a deep eroded drain. The trail also requires significant drainage works and repair works



One of the Dementia trail conversation areas. Image 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Tree thieves: Last year during the Covid lockdowns the Dementia Trail area was hit by tree thieves. Several large healthy trees were illegally cut down leaving behind trunks and branches. Any stump that is cut with Vee is an indicator of an illegally felled tree. The remnant of one such tree is right on the edge of the Dementia Trail about a halfway along.



2020 Illegally felled tree Dementia Trail 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

#### **8. Koala spotting – 5 observations**



Image of Koala near Dozed Road Mt Clear courtesy of Rex. 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Union Jack Koala. Image courtesy of John 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Greenhill Rd Koala. A grunting Koala was heard in the central area of Greenhills Rd Mt Helen. Reported by Calvin 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021.



Sawpit Gully Koala. Spotted by Louise: Image 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Wilson St Koala. Image courtesy of Bernie 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**9. Gorge water easement works begin**

“Recently Parks Victoria put signs up inviting park neighbours to meet rangers on April 8. I alerted two neighbours and we all attended. Three other people came while we were there talking to the rangers. We raised the issue of vehicles being heard in the park after dark and theft/fence cutting on a property adjoining the park. By last Friday, there were bollards across the 4 main access tracks apart from the movable pins required for authorised vehicles. A great result in record time.” Report by Joan.

Already Central Highlands Water workers have been busy closing each end of the easement



Bollards installed at the Greenhill Rd end of the easement. Image courtesy of Joan. 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Gates on either side of the Gorge 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Works on the Olympic Avenue. Image 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**10. Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline**

The Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline was underway again on April 20 and 21.

The inquiry is examining measures to restore habitats and populations of threatened and endangered species. Under the terms of reference, issues being considered include:

- the extent of the decline of Victoria’s biodiversity and the likely impact on people and ecosystems
- the adequacy of the legislative framework protecting Victoria’s environment and ecosystems, particularly in the context of climate change impacts
- the adequacy and effectiveness of government programs.

A report is due by September this year. Many thanks to Linda for bringing the enquiry to the Friends attention.

**11. Park works**

The journey of the land from a neglected forest and failed blue gum plantation to a managed Woowookarung Regional Park is extraordinary.

The launch of the management plan in 2018 was seminal moment for the Park.

After significant and broad ranging community consultation over two years before 2018 the Park Plan is a substantial and authoritative document which captures the wishes and expectation of the many different organisations that have interest in the Park.

Implementing the plan of course will take a lot time and effort. Access to some parts of the Park will need to be managed to deal with threats such as Phytophthora, erosion, koalas, bush fire risk, rubbish dumpers and tree thieves.

Recently Alex from parks gave an in-depth article to the Ballarat Courier on changes to the Park.

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7196188/changes-are-underway-at-woowookarung-regional-park/>

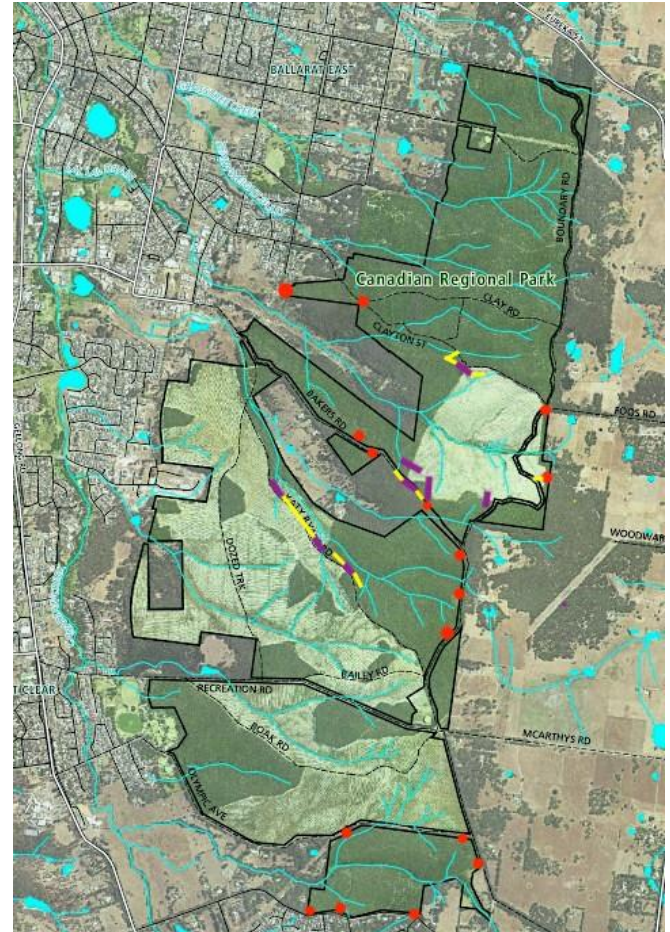


Courier Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Works**

Track closures have been implemented between Clayton St across Sinclair Hill and Richards St.

Track closures in the Gorge area in conjunction with Central Highlands Water Easement works.



Red dots bollards, Purple lines gates Yellow lines fences

**Recreation Road works**

The City of Ballarat has continued with repair works on Recreation Road.

**Truck traffic increase sparks concern on Mount Clear's unsealed Recreation Road**



Increase: Recreation Road resident Tracie Currie said more B-double trucks are using the single-lane unsealed road. Picture: Kate Healy

Heavy trucks using a single-lane unsealed road as a shortcut at the edge of town are the latest symptom of Ballarat's growing pains, with residents worrying a deadly accident could occur.

On Recreation Road, which runs out of Mount Clear, the B-double truck traffic has sharply increased, according to Tracie Currie.

Image courtesy of Ballarat Courier 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

New drains, white posts and surfacing has been put in place. It is believed a traffic number recording system will be installed to monitor traffic volumes.

**12. Overhead animal crossing installed on the Midlands Highway**

An overhead animal crossing has been installed across the Midlands Highway at the high point on Mt Buninyong. The crossing was proposed in the 2019 FoCC submission to Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) planning of the highway upgrade.

The upgrade is nearly complete and the impact on the local roadside environment still raw. The original plans showed 600 trees to be removed. The final count is under 300 whilst still significant, is a much better outcome.

The old habitat tree at Scotsburn was originally slated for removal but with some deft work by RRV it is still there.



The hard to see aerial wildlife crossing Mt Buninyong 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**13. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals**

The FoCC encourages Park friends to report track vandals, rubbish dumped, dumpers, wood thieves and other suspicious activity to Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or email: [woovookarung@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:woovookarung@parks.vic.gov.au)

If an offender is spotted, please note vehicle registration details as vehicle identification is most helpful, plus location and details.



Terrible dump at Katy Ryans Rd, Image 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Rubbish dumping is a major cost to the Parks Victoria management of Woovookarung Regional Park.

The recent closing of many of the tracks used by dumpers and wood thieves hopefully will reduce the amount rubbish dumping and wood theft in the Park.

**14. Membership**

Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year, Membership fee is \$20 per year.

Membership forms are available online at or email [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

**15. FoCC facebook and webpage**

Joel at is now overseeing the FoCC Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/)

Rob is overseeing the webpage [webmaster@focc.asn.au](mailto:webmaster@focc.asn.au)

Currently we have just over 744 776 friends following us on facebook and growing. Welcome to all new friends. Feel free to pass on to other friends and press the like button.

May 3 to 7	Koala monitoring field work
May 16	Tree planting maintenance and tree guard and stake recycling working bee
May 30	Mining Heritage Walk – Water races.
June 16	Forum: Sean Dooley, National Public affairs Manager Birdlife Australia.
July (late)	Koala tree planting x 500 trees
Aug 18	General Meeting; TBC
Sept	FoCC visit to Clarksdale. Bird ID. Date TBA
Oct 17 – 24	Woovookarung Wildflower Walk.
Oct 18 – 24	Great Aussie Backyard bird count.
Oct 20	Annual Meeting
Dec 3	Drinks at the Lookout

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 to Woovookarung Regional Park and the Canadian Corridor.

Circulation this issue is ~~749~~ 754. 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 [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@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.

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