



FoCC Incorporated

Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor
February 2021 Issue Number 74

Spikey News features

1. 55 Recreation Road
2. Clean Up Australia Day
3. March General Meeting
4. Koala spotting
5. Koala monitoring continues
6. Deceased Koala follow up
7. Trial Sawmill and Tramway
8. Whoops we erred!
9. Recreation Road issues.
10. Wildlife Nest boxes
11. Grasstree Creek
12. Grasstree Creek Trail
13. Sparrow Ground Upgrade

1. 55 Recreation Road


City of Ballarat decides to purchase 55 Recreation Road.

On Wednesday February 24th 2021 the City of Ballarat council voted unanimously to:

“to give the CEO authority to negotiate the purchase of unused state government land to complete the so-called Bunny Rail Trail, a cycling and walking path linking Ballarat East to Woookarung Regional Park.”
Ballarat Courier Thursday February 25th”

Ballarat Courier article re the pending Bunny trail decision.



 A section of the land council is considering purchasing. Photo: Friends of Canadian Corridor.

A community dream of one continuous trail connecting the Bunny Trail in Ballarat's east could come a step closer to reality if council pushes ahead with buying surplus state government land.

Ballarat City council will be voting on the purchase of the block of land in Mount Clear for the new linking trail at this Wednesday's council meeting.

Courtesy of the Ballarat Courier February 23rd 2021

FoCC February 2021 Spikey News

2. Clean Up Australia Day Sunday March 7

The FoCC is hosting a clean Up Australia Day on Bakers Rd and Davidsons Rd, meeting at the South Gate. Map below and signs from Elsworth St.

The clean-up will be on Sunday March 7th and begin at 10 am and conclude at midday. All welcome.

Hopefully the bushland and roadsides around the Bakers Road, adjacent trails and tracks and the Lookout will get a good clean. Most of the rubbish is fast food and drink containers plus a bit of household rubbish. Wear solid footwear and long trousers. Gloves and bags provided.



Red dot is the meeting point.

Other nearby Clean Up Australia day sites are:

- Boyd Court, Canadian
- Sparrow Ground
- Yarrowee River at 17 Prest St Redan
- White Flat
- Barkly Square

To contact the organisers of the above clean ups, register via the Clean Up Australia Day web site

<https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/join-a-clean-up>



3. March General Meeting:

The first FoCC general meeting in 12 months will be held on Wednesday March 17th 2021 at 7pm (Covid permitting).

Speakers

1. Powerful Owls – Citizen Science report.
2. Mt Xavier Golf Club – Trevor Edwards. Keeping the Golf Club as an important link in the Corridor.
3. Koala Monitoring Project: Louise Jory – Findings so far.

Venue: Mt Xavier Golf Club Fortune St, Ballarat East.



Star indicates Golf Club Rooms.

4. Koala spotting

Koalas keep turning up in interesting places.

- a) Woovookarung Regional Park northern part



West of Boundary Rd between Wilson St and Clay Rd.
Image courtesy of Gail. Feb 1st 2021.

- b) Long St. A grunting Koala, most likely male heard, but unable to be located on north side of Grasstree Creek. Reported by Pat 2nd February 2021
- c) Olympic Avenue, Mt Clear.



Image: Olympic Avenue, Habitat tree, Feb 7th 2021

- d) Gear Avenue east end. A large male high in a tree. Reported by Peter. No Image. 15th February 2021

- e) And in Granny Whites Lane, Buninyong



Image: Courtesy of Phil: February 20th 2021

5. Koala monitoring continues

FoCC volunteers were busy looking for Koala scat in Woovookarung Regional Park on Friday 26th of February as part of the University of Melbourne research project. A calendar of monitoring days will be put together soon and Friends who wish to be part of the research project will have the opportunity to join the search.



Louise, Brad and Dave at work near Bakers Rd

The elusive goal of the search. Koala scat samples.



Image: Courtesy of Louise Jory, February 2021

6. Deceased Koala follow up

The August 2020 Spikey News reported a little Koala found dead near the corner of Foos Lane and Boundary Road. An Autopsy short report has been sent to the FoCC noting the Koala died some-time after sustaining injuries consistent with falling from a tree or hit by a car.

Boundary Road has a speed limit of 100kph along the edge of the Park. One of the FoCC wishes, is for speed limits to be placed on all 22 Council Roads that intersect or pass through the Forest and Park.

7. The Trial Sawmill and Tramway

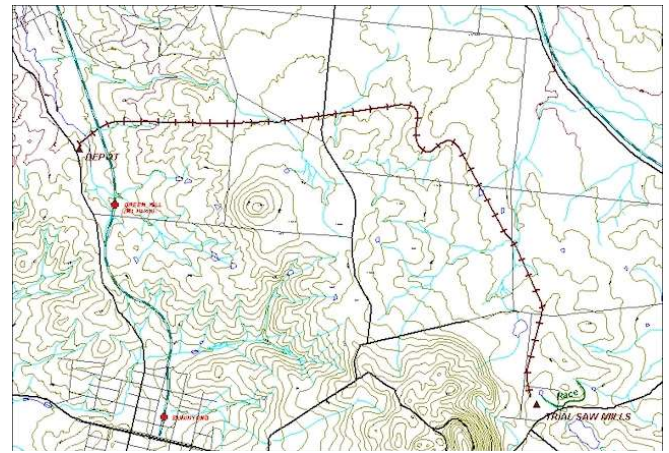
A "Trial Sawmill" was established in 1855 on the north-east slope of Mount Buninyong following the awarding of a government contract to provide sawn planks for a wooden road between Ballarat and Meredith.

The mill was built on the side of the mount near a permanent water supply at the base of several gullies. The mill itself was a two-storied structure, 30 by 14 metres, with the ground floor housing the engine and offices and the top floor the saw benches, which comprised two vertical and two circular saws. Logs were drawn up to the bench floor by means of an inclined tramway worked by a rope. Some 30 cubic metres were cut each working day. This colossal tally was due to the mill exclusively cutting long length thick planks rather than smaller building timbers.

Around the mill were the stables, chaff shed, blacksmith, carpenter, wheelwright shop, veterinary forge, offices and the manager's house. The workforce numbered around fifty persons. Logs were hauled in by bullock teams and the sawn timber initially sent away in horse drawn carts. During the first winter the outlet track became impassable, so an eight km length of tramway was laid down between the mill and the main Buninyong to Ballarat Road at Green Hills."

Source: Evans, P (1998). A Study of Historic Sawmill and Tramway Sites in the West Forest Region, Victoria.

The main Road at Mt Helen was known as Plank Road until 1868. The route of the tramway was just to the south of Greenhill Road is shown on the map below.



Map of Tramway

Remnants of the tramway were still evident in 1998 according to Evans, with a 400m raised earth section still apparent just north of Yendon Number 1 Road.



Sleeper impressions on the Trial Sawmills Company tramway at Buninyong photographed in 1998, over 140 years after abandonment. This archaeological evidence confirms the documentary sources of the 1850s.

Photo: Norm Houghton

Image courtesy:

http://media.lrrsa.org.au/cli0170/Light_Railways_170.pdf

8. Whoops – We erred

The hills around Woovookarung were featured in the January 2021 Spikey News.

However, the legend numbers were wrong.

The Woovookarung Regional Park has several hills within and adjacent to it.

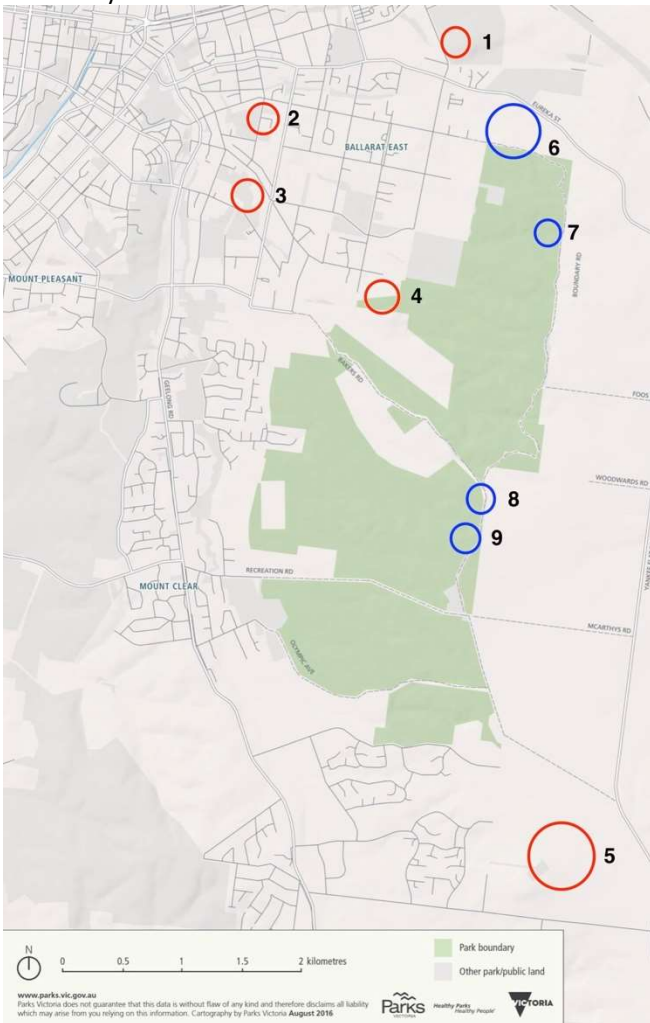
Named hills are:

1. Mount Xavier
2. Pennyweight Hill
3. Clayton Hill
4. Sinclair Hill
5. Green Hill

Locally recognised hills are

6. Cremorne Hill
7. Red Hill
8. Billy Cart Hill
9. Conglomerate Hill

There may be other hills that FoCC is unaware of!



Map courtesy of FoCC

9. Recreation Road issues

Recreation Road is heavily used as bypass by many varied vehicles. The image below shows an unsafe passage of a truck squeezing a car near the Water Tanks.



Image: February 7th 2021.

Recreation Road needs a well thought out plan to allow wildlife to cross safely, cyclists to ride safely on the road

and for vehicles to transit safely. FoCC traffic surveys last year recorded large numbers of commercial vehicles using the road and many more passenger and tradie vehicles travelling at unsafe speeds.

The plan should include cycle and wildlife crossings and a "Park speed limit".

10. Wildlife nest boxes

A letter received by the FoCC recently with useful information for any landholders wishing to assist birdlife and small animal life.

Hi FOCC

I'm Miles Geldard and I have been making nest boxes for native wildlife for about 20 years. I design my nest boxes from peer reviewed ecological research studies and extensive field trials. They're built to last and constructed from quality local sustainable materials.

Recently I installed a dozen nest boxes in a property neighbouring your patch of forest and the property owner expressed an enthusiasm for me to approach your group and offer my services from the list below. I am from Castlemaine area so would be guided by your local knowledge on things if you choose to proceed but I am happy to help.

I also include a 'bee treatment' that prevents swarming honey bees from invading the boxes. It is chemical free, maintenance free and lasts forever.

I also offer:

- *installation and monitoring*
- *Presentations on wildlife and habitat*
- *Construction workshops*
- *Nationwide delivery/postage*
- *Advise on nest box programs*
- *Educational talks to schools and community groups*
- *Consultancy on habitat assessments*
- *Inc. body funding guidance*

Cheers

Miles Geldard

Wildlife Nest boxes

wildlifeneestboxes.com.au

www.facebook.com/Wildlife-Nestboxes

0427591269

11. Grasstree Creek

Grasstree Creek runs from Joseph St in Canadian, in an easterly direction through Sparrow Ground, via Cherry and Boyd Courts before emerging at Fussell St where it runs through open land before entering the Woowookarung Regional Park at the corner of Long St and Spencer St. The creek continues on easterly direction into Woowookarung Regional Park through to its head just east of Boundary Road.

Grasstree Creek was named in 2013 by the City of Ballarat after representations from the Friends of Sparrow Ground. The naming was celebrated in 2013 with a ribbon cutting by local ward Councillor Des Hudson.

Invite

The Friends of Sparrow Ground
invite local residents to a celebration
of the naming of



“Grasstree Creek”

Grasstree Creek was named in the Victorian Government Gazette on September 12th 2013 and after 30 days the name became official on October 12th 2013.

The naming follows a long process that began in May 2011 when the Friends applied to name the creek running through Sparrow Ground. At that time there was some confusion about the creeks name with the “Pennyweight Gully” walking track running through Sparrow Ground. However the truth is that the real Pennyweight Gully runs from Canadian Lead School through the Canadian Springs Estate and on through the Southern part of Pax Hill Scout Camp.

The name “Grasstree Creek comes from the numerous Grasstrees in its catchment area and within Sparrow Ground. Naming of the creek should provide improved prominence in our community as well as permanent protection from unauthorised works.

Sausage sizzle, cuppa and chat provided by the Friends. Please bring a chair and any drinks.

Held on the banks of Grasstree Creek, midway between Kline St and Richards St, just behind the oval.

Organised by the

Friends of Sparrow Ground
5.30pm on
Friday 18th October 2013

For further info call the organisers:
Jeff Rootes 0408509591 Glen Strange 53321143

Invitation to local residents, courtesy FoSG



Grasstree Creek naming: Glen, Ashlee and Cr Des Hudson cutting the ribbon on Grasstree Creek Trail beside Grasstree Creek. 18th October 2013.

How Grasstree Creek got its name:

In 2013 the Friends of Sparrow Ground nominated four names for the creek:

They were

- Grass Tree creek – Grass trees form the understory in the head waters in the (then) Canadian forest. They

are in Sparrow Ground and would have been in cleared areas originally.

- Xanthorrhoea creek
- Wadawurrung peoples name for “grass tree” creek.
- An appropriate mining or historical name. As Pennyweight Gully and Specimen Vale creeks are named.

Ballarat East local area plan and Grasstree Creek

In January 20 2018 the FoCC responded to the city of Ballarat “Imagine Ballarat East” Directions Paper, by identifying the following:

Trail B: A trail along Spencer St to the corner of Long St and Spencer St and then east along a cycle path beside Grass Tree creek through the Park until the Boundary Rd is reached. This trail passes the northern boundary of Pax Hill Scout Camp on Spencer St.

The FoCC also submitted that the “The Grasstree Creek trail is wrongly named as the Pennyweight Gully (trail) in its upper reaches beyond Joseph St. “

An almost unreadable “Pennyweight Gully Trail” at the west side of Kline St, Canadian on the Grasstree Creek trail.



Wrong creek! Pennyweight Gully Trail post on Grasstree Creek trail at Kline St, Canadian February 24th 2021. There is now a new trail along Pennyweight Gully south of Spencer St and the above post could be relocated to that trail.

12. Grasstree Creek Trail

The Grasstree Creek trail runs from Joseph St, Canadian eastwards through Sparrow Ground, Cherry court and Boyd Court before emerging at Fussell St where it runs through open land before entering the Woowookarung Regional Park at the corner of Long St and Spencer St.



Grasstree Creek Trail. Image courtesy of Map my Walk

Attached with this edition of Spikey News is draft version of the "FoCC Grasstree Creek Trail Guide" Comment and feedback welcomed.

13. **Sparrow Ground Upgrade**

In 2018 the City of Ballarat initiated a discussion on improvements to Sparrow Ground. The Council had undertaken a range of upgrades including signage, tree planting, trail surface with high quality granite sand and built a viewing shelter for the Oval.

2021 Membership

FoCC membership runs from January 1st 2021 until December 31st 2021.

This year 65 members have already renewed or joined which is a fantastic result and we welcome every member whether new or ongoing.

Every 2021 membership paid will receive a copy of the Indigenous Wildlife of Southern Ballarat Brochure. If you have paid and have not received a copy please email the secretary at focinfo@gmail.com

A membership application is at the end of this Spikey News.

Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals

The FoCC encourages Park friends to report track vandals, rubbish dumped, 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.

FoCC facebook and webpage

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

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

Currently we have just over 716 727 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

Mar 7	Clean Up Australia. Bakers Rd 10am to noon. Details on page 1
March 17 th	General Meeting: 7pm Covid permitting. Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerful Owls – Citizen Science report. • Mt Xavier Golf Clubs role in the Corridor, • Koala monitoring Louise Jory. Venue Mt Xavier Golf Club, Fortune St Ballarat East. Gold coin donation pls
April 21	General Meeting – TBA
May	Tree planting maintenance and tree guard and stake recycling working bee
May 30	Mining Heritage Walk – Focus on Water Races
June 16	Forum: Sean Dooley Birdlife Australia, National Public affairs Manager Birdlife Australia.
July	Koala tree planting x 500 trees
Aug 18	General Meeting; Birds of Prey
Sept	FoCC visit to Clarksdale. Bird ID. Date TBA
Oct	Woovookarung Wildflower Walk. TBA
Oct	Great Aussie Backyard bird count. TBA
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 727 736. 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

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 focinfo@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