



FoCC Incorporated Spikey News



Linking the community with Woovookarung and the Canadian Corridor
January 2021 Issue Number 73

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1. Xmas at the Lookout

The end of 2020 was celebrated at the Lookout by friends on December 4th 2020.



Image: Xmas at the Lookout. December 4th 2020

2. PEARCES Quartz Mill. ("The Canadian Crushing Company Stamp Mill")

In 1889 the Star newspaper reported that:

"...in the close neighbourhood the Atlas soap and candle factory, and the Canadian battery of Mr Pearce, which has long been a notable land mark. Altogether the Butts station should give a very fair account of itself in the traffic returns. The railway station yard was located in its present position for sufficient engineering reasons, with which you and I, dear reader, need not trouble. But a vested right, in the form of a race connected with Messrs Pearce's

quartz mill was there before. The race couldn't be carried over the line nor around it, so the only resource was to carry it under. This was done by means of an underground channel, which runs from side to side of the station yard, and has at either end a large settlement pit, lined with masonry and cemented. The expense was considerable, but the vested right had to be respected.

Source:

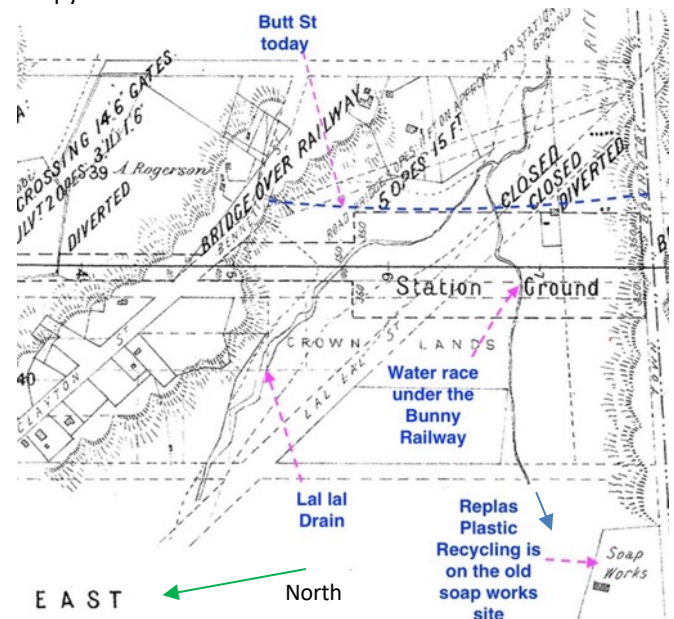
https://bih.federation.edu.au/index.php/Buninyong_Railway_Line



PEARCES Quartz Mill. Courtesy Ballarat Historical Society

<http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com/collection/Records/Record026.79.htm>

PEARCES Quartz Mill (Canadian Crushing Company Stamp Mill) was situated on Elsworth Street on the North side of Soapys Dam.



Water race under the Canadian Station Ground, Butt St
Canadian. Map: Victorian Railways 1889

The water race that fed water to the mill was a diversion from Lal Lal Drain adjacent to Butt St. It passed under the Buninyong Railway and along a water race to the Mill on Elsworth St.

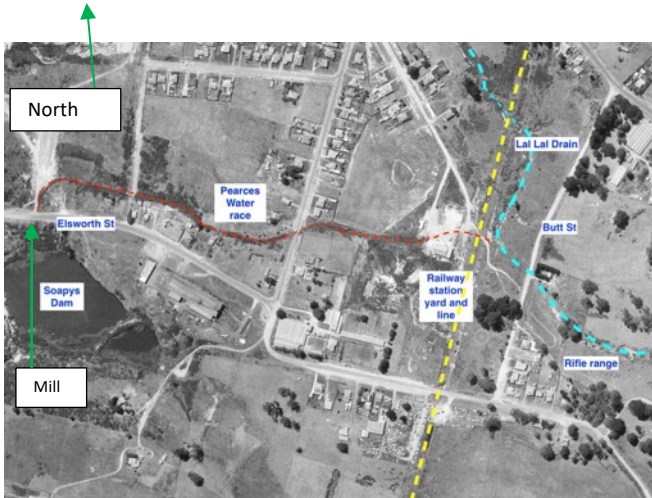


Image: Pearces Quartz Mill water race location. Aerial map 1970.

The mill was established sometime in the 1870s. Isiah Pearce held a mining lease on the western side of Geelong Road opposite what is now Zagames. The quartz mill was still in operation in 1907 when a Victorian Government mining report showed Pearces Mill putting sludge into the Yarrowee River.

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/papers/govpub/VPARL1908No14p101-140.pdf>

Today the only evidence of the mill and water race are the brick abutments of the crusher adjacent to Soapys Dam and a flat section of Joseph St near the Elsworth St Corner where the race ran diagonally across the road.



Image: Are these abutments the foundations of Pearces Quartz Mill? January 18th 2021

3. Fire bug charged

The Friend's welcome the Victoria Police charging of an alleged fire bug. Over the past months several suspicious fires were lit and hopefully this threat has eased.

4. A walk in the Park

On Sunday December 20th a good sized group of friends walked the recently constructed Bag:gup trail (name not official).

Trek on new Trail

BY EDWINA WILLIAMS

OVER recent weeks Parks Victoria Contractors have completed works on the Woowookarung Regional Park Nature Trail.

The walking track from the Park's lookout through to Katy Ryans Road is an initiative of the Friends of the Canadian Corridor and has received \$78,000 worth of funding from the State Government's Pick My Project community grants scheme.

An FOCC group christened the trail, heading off for their first official walk on the path last Sunday morning, 20 December, led by secretary Jeff Rootes. "We have worked with the

Wathaurong Land Council, and we have found the proper name for *saxorrhoea australis* plants; baggup. We want to call the trail, Baggup Trail," he said.

Signage along the Woowookarung Nature Trail is yet to be finished and installed.

Phytophthora, or cinnamon fungus, is present around Woowookarung and attacks grass trees. Parks Victoria have placed *Phytophthora* control stations across the Park where people can disinfect the soles of their shoes.

They are installing a new control station at the lookout, where walkers will access the Woowookarung Nature Trail.

"These stations are to remind people not to bring mud into the Park on the bottom of their walking shoes," Mr Rootes said.

Those moving through the Park are encouraged to watch out for wildlife. Echidnas and koalas have recently been spotted throughout.

"The other day I found an echidna, a 'spiky,' down by the gorge having a swim in a big puddle. He got out of there and went to ground so quickly," Mr Rootes laughed.

FOCC members would usually enjoy an informal, social gathering with refreshments after a long walk, but these activities are still on hold to ensure COVID safety.



Weekend walk: Friends of the Canadian Corridor assembled on Bakers Road before they set off for a 4.5-kilometre round trip. Photo: EDWINA WILLIAMS

Courtesy: Ballarat Times December 24th 2020.

5. Indigenous Wildlife of Southern Ballarat Brochure

The FoCC and Leigh catchment group have produced an excellent brochure "Indigenous wildlife of southern Ballarat Brochure.

All 2021 members new and ongoing will receive a copy upon payment of membership fees.

Additional copies are available from FoCC:

The brochures are \$3 each.

Banking details are:

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 your name, address and the date of the transaction. And a copy will be mailed to you.

It does all seem a lot of effort for such small amount, however we hope the brochure is enjoyable and useful.



6. Park Works

Bag;gup trail: Over the past weeks the Bag;gup nature trail from the Lookout through to Katy Ryans Road was competed by Parks Victoria contractors. Funding for the trail was made available via the FoCC’s successful application to the Victorian Governments Pick My Project competition in 2018. The sum of \$78005 was allocated to the project.

Track signage and further works are expected over the next weeks.

Weed removal: Since taking over the park in 2016, Parks Victoria have carried out significant weed removal works in the Park. Recently follow up spraying of gorse shoots was conducted on the north side of Katy Ryans Rd with an estimated 12000 gorse shoots treated. (The estimate comes from total litres used divided by spray volume per shoot application)

Dementia-friendly Forest and Sensory Trail:

Prior to Christmas Parks Victoria contractors cleared the soil from the proposed car park area in preparation for a car park.



Image: Fencing around Car Park area construction zone. 20th December 2020.

The soil removed from the car park area was used to fill in a deeply channelled former vehicle track. Very clever use of soil. Hopefully native grasses will sprout when winter arrives.



Image: Former vehicle track filled with displaced soil. 20th December 2020

Tree planting watering

Carmel from Parks Victoria and volunteers met for a Saturday morning watering of trees planted around the entrance of the soon to be constructed Dementia-friendly Forest and Sensory Trail.



Image: Volunteers filling buckets and watering cans at the entrance. Saturday January 23rd 2021

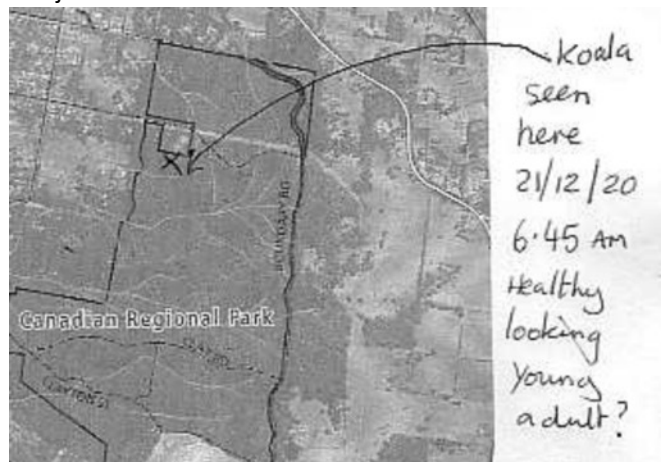
7. Koala spotting

Koalas keep turning up in interesting places. The Koala shown below was in Blackberry Lane, Mt Buninyong.



Image: Courtesy Gary December 21st 2020

And just south of the Wilson St Water Tanks.



Map and observation: Courtesy: Maggie 21 December 2020



Image: Greenhills Road Mt Helen. December 26th 2020.
Courtesy of Sheilagh.

"We have 2 Koalas in our front garden that seem to be "fighting" but we were wondering if this was a mating game?"

Text message: Gear Ave Mt Helen. Courtesy of Jan,
December 28th 2020.

8. The importance of Citizen Science Koala spotting

Recently a development application to the City of Ballarat stated that
 "The landscape around the site historically has 27 sightings of the Koala recorded on the Atlas of Living Australia with most being from the 1980's and only 5 from the period of 2008 to 2014." (The area around a development site is 5 kms radius)
 The FoCC Citizen Science Koala spotting program which began in September 2018 is now approaching 100 confirmed sightings.
 Many are within the 5 km radius of the development application. Maggie's observation of December 21 2020 is in the same street and the next block as the application. So clearly the Atlas of Living Australia is way out of date. The FoCC is working to get the City of Ballarat to improve application of the Koala Plan. Every koala observed and photographed (if possible) and the location noted adds another important piece of data for keeping Koalas safe.

9. Looking for the Great Australian Icon

Volunteers and researchers gathered together to trial searching methods for Koala scat evidence on Australia Day in Woowookarung Regional Park.
 Led by University of Melbourne student Louise, with support from the Australian Koala Foundation and with Parks Victoria research permission, the FoCC volunteers trial searched an area, first recording tree marking, tree identification methods and trunk size.
 Then a hands on the ground search for Koala scats around likely trees was undertaken as the images show. Scats are

an excellent indicator of Koala habitation as the scats remain findable for up to twelve months.
 The trial focussed on an area just west of the North Gate on Clayton St in Woowookarung Regional Park. No Koala scats were found but quite a few swamp wallaby scats were. The Koala research program will investigate up to 65 sites over the next three months. More information will be forthcoming once procedures are sorted out. There will be an opportunity for volunteers to join in the searching for Koalas.



Measuring and recording trees. Image Jan 26th 2021



Looking for Koala scat. Image Jan 26th 2021

10. McCarthy's Road upgrade

The Shire of Moorabool has sealed Mc Carthy's Road east of Boundary Road.
 Issue 72 of spikey News identified the Recreation Rd, McCarthy's Rd and Boundary Road intersection as particularly dangerous.
 The sealing of the road will encourage more traffic to come onto the narrow and dangerous connecting Recreation Road. Recreation Road may need to be a priority for the City of Ballarat Roads upgrade schedule.



Image: Recently sealed McCarthy's Road. January 23rd 2021

11. Spikey is out and about



Image: courtesy of Rob, 30th December 2020.



Image: Near Foss Lane. Courtesy of Matt, December 2020. Calvin has recommended the University of Adelaide for information about an echidna CSI program. <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/environment/give/echidna-csi>

12. The hills around Woowookarung

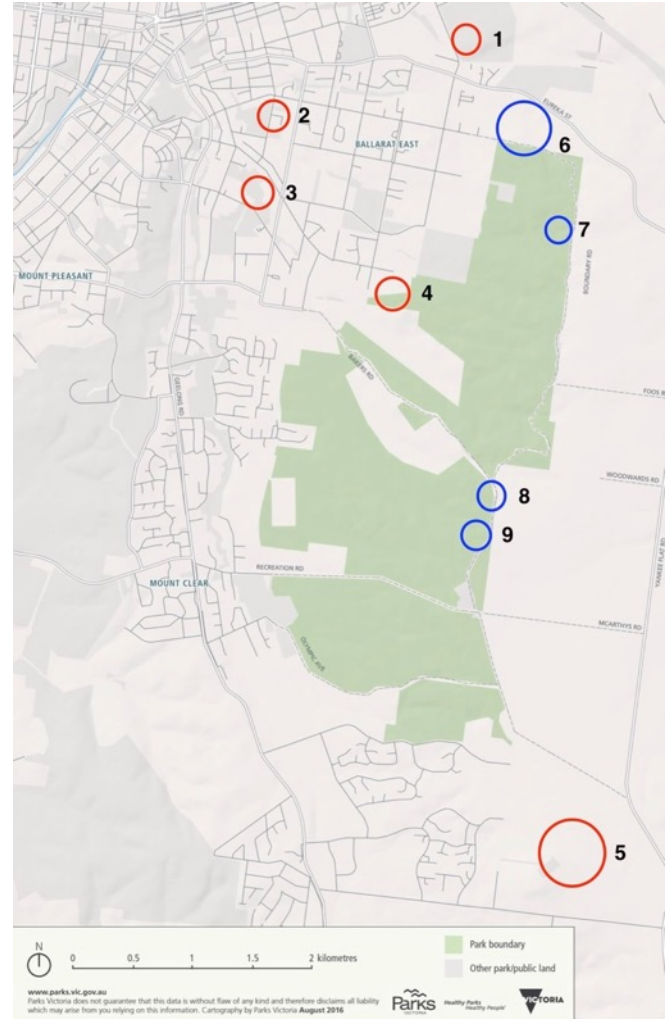
The Woowookarung Regional Park has several hills within and adjacent to it.

Named hills are:

1. Mount Xavier
2. Pennyweight Hill
3. Clayton Hill
4. Cremorne Hill
5. Sinclairs Hill

6. Green Hill
- Locally recognised hills are**
7. Red Hill
 8. Billy Cart Hill
 9. Conglomerate Hill

There may be other hills that FoCC is unaware of!



13. Vandals damage new gates.



Image: Bob and Anne at the vandalised gate at the Lookout. December 7th 2020.

14. Piscatorial delights in the Corridor

A Tench caught in the Canadian Creek just south of Hocking avenue by two intrepid fishers. Tench are not a native species of fish. Originally introduced by acclimatisation societies in the 1870s, tench have become widespread although not especially common in Victoria, New South Wales.



Image: Two intrepid fishers with catch. Courtesy of Yvonne January 2021

15. 2021 Membership

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

This year 55 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.

16. 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.

17. FoCC facebook and webpage

Joel at 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 ~~698~~ 716 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

Feb 17 th 2021	General Meeting: Covid permitting. Speaker Topic Powerful Owls – Citizen Science report. More info to come.
Mar 7	Clean Up Australia No information yet.
April 21	General Meeting – Topic Wildlife Mgt. Possibly Fed Uni and Ballarat Wildlife Park.
May	Tree planting maintenance and Tree guard and stake recycling working bee
May 30	Mining Heritage Walk
June 16	Forum: Birds Possibly Sean Dooley
July	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 ~~701~~ 727. 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