



FoCC Incorporated

Spikey News



Linking the community with Woovookarung and the Canadian Corridor
March 2021 Issue Number 75

Spikey News features

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1. Koala monitoring continues

FoCC volunteers were busy looking for Koala scat in Woovookarung Regional Park on the 12th, 17th and 18th of March as part of the University of Melbourne research project.



Louise identifying trees whilst scat hunters are at work near Greenhills Rd. Image 12th March 2021.

The elusive goal of the search. Koala scat samples.



Koala scat sample. This scat contained a cocoon of a moth that only lays its eggs in Koala scat !8th March 2021

How to become a Koala monitor?

Monitoring forward dates will occur on the following Fridays.

- Friday 9th April 2021
- Friday 16th April 2021
- Friday 23rd April 2021
- Week beginning Monday April 26th to Friday April 30th
- Week beginning Monday 3rd May to Friday 7th 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

2. Clean Up Australia Day Sunday March 7

The FoCC is hosted a Clean Up Australia Day on Bakers Rd and Davidsons Rd Mt Clear.

The clean-up was on Sunday March 7th at 10 am. The bushland and roadsides around the Bakers Road, adjacent trails and tracks and the Lookout got a good clean. Most of the rubbish was fast food and drink containers plus a bit of household rubbish
Many thanks to the small group of wonderful volunteers who picked up a lot of rubbish.



The stack of litter collected around the South Gate area. Image: 8th March 2021.

3. **March General Meeting:**

The first FoCC general meeting in 12 months was held on Wednesday March 17th 2021 at the Mt Xavier Golf Club.

Speakers were:

1. **Powerful Owls** – Citizen Science report. Joel Ellis provided an outline and update on Powerful Owls. A breeding pair has been observed adjacent to the Park.
2. **Mt Xavier Golf Club** – Trevor Edwards spoke about keeping the Golf Club as an important link in the Bio Corridor. Trevor outlined the connection between the Golf Club and the local community.
3. **Koala Monitoring Project:** Louise Jory – gave a background to her Koala monitoring project and how the on-ground hunt for koala scat evidence is going.

Thanks to Mt Xavier Golf Club for hosting our meeting.



Top: Louise Jory, LH Trevor Edwards and RH Joel Ellis. Image courtesy Rob

4. **Koala spotting**

Koalas keep turning up in interesting places.

1. A local Air B & B reported

We hope to stay again - we even saw a koala this morning. [redacted] was pretty chuffed! Have a great day

Bell Avenue Mt Helen, 28th Feb 2021. Note courtesy Peter



Canadian Koala. March 3 2021 Image courtesy of Matt.



Koala in Hillview Rd driveway 4th March 2021 Image courtesy of Stephanie

(4) Koala observed by Joan. No Image. Timbertop Drive, Mt Helen 18th March 2021.

5. **Parks Works**

Dementia Trail works begin. Contractors have removed bog holes and have fixed drainage lines along the Dementia trail. A large number of landscaping boulders have been delivered to the fenced off Car Park. Soil from the track has been stored on the corner of Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd.



Track works along the Dementia Trail Image 1st April 2021

Safety Grill: The adit at the base of Conglomerate Hill has had a safety grill fitted.

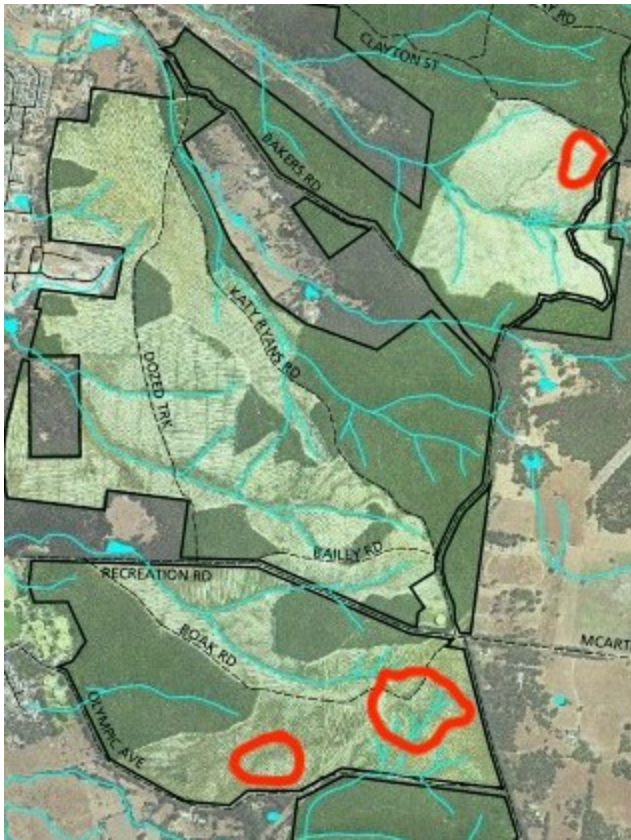


Adit safety grill Image 25th March 2021

Weed control: Parks Victoria have funded additional weed control in the Park.

Since establishment, Parks Victoria have spent in the vicinity of \$160000 on weed control and removal.

The Eco Blade machine has removed large areas of broom and gorse in the last few weeks in areas shown by the red circles on the map below.



Map of treated areas in the southern part of Park. Base map, Courtesy Parks Victoria.



Eco Blade treated broom area near Fools Lane. Image 25th March 2021.

Once native trees get to decent size, broom weeds start to disappear.

6. Gorge water easement ecological repair meeting

A local resident meeting 4pm Thursday April 8th at the Park Entrance on Greenhill Road Mt Helen.



Date 19/03/2021

(to be hand delivered)

Dear Resident,

In the coming weeks, Central Highlands Water (CHW), in partnership with Parks Victoria, will engage a contractor to reinstate a water pipe easement in Woookarung Regional Park, in the area known as 'The Gorge' (please see map overleaf). This water infrastructure supplies drinking water to Buninyong and surrounds.

This work will protect CHW's water main and support environmental improvements. The work will create one accessible track (for emergency vehicles). The surrounding area will be rehabilitated.

You may notice machinery and temporary fences placed at the site. Traffic, noise and dust will be kept to a minimum. Post works, bollards and temporary fencing will be in place to protect the works and pipeline.

The work will involve rebuilding and securing the creek embankment and filling in deep holes along the easement.

These works are supported by the Woookarung Strategic Directions Plan 2018 (available at www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/woookarung-regional-park). The Plan has a specific goal (8D – 2) regarding this license area: 'In conjunction with Central Highlands Water, undertake significant rehabilitation of the existing water easement (adjacent to Olympic Avenue) where there is extensive erosion and damage caused by illegal vehicle access, as well as weed infestations.'

Parks Victoria will be seeking feedback on Thursday 8 April 2021 (between 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm at the park entrance on Greenhill Avenue) from locals who see this extended area as a place they access nature frequently to understand which trails are important for their local neighbourhood trail experience. This process will include consideration of where trails are dangerous or intersect with important flora or provide habitat for the parks' fauna.

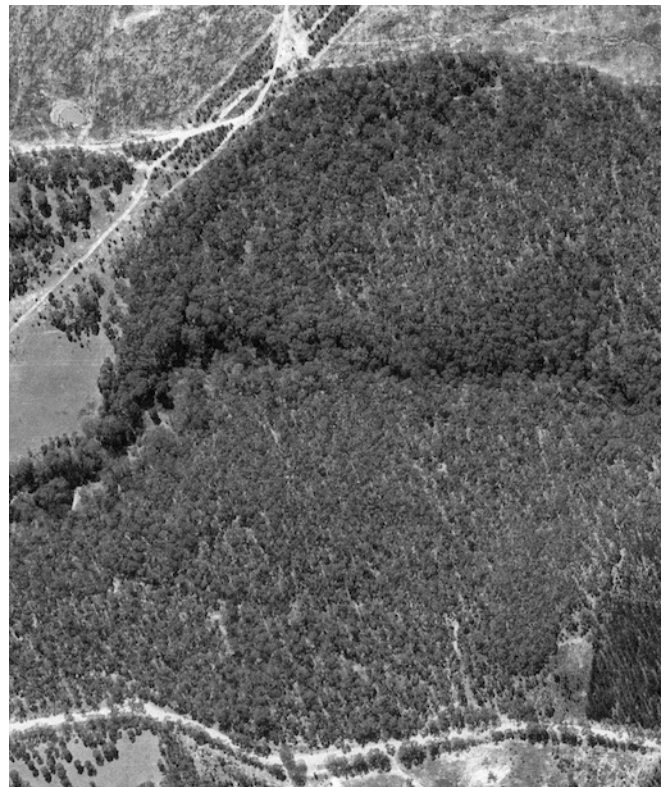
For more information about the water main reinstatement project, please contact CHW on 1800 061 514.

Yours sincerely,

CHW Network Assets & Operations team

Central Highlands Region Water Corporation
 7 Leamonth Rd Wendouree VIC 3355 PO Box 152 Ballarat VIC 3353
 T: 1800 061 514 F: 03 5320 3299 E: customersenquiries@chw.net.au ABN: 75 224 340 348

chw.net.au



The Gorge prior to the water easement. Image: 1970 Aerial survey



The Gorge and water easement. Image: 1990 Aerial survey



The Gorge and water easement. Image courtesy COB 2017



The Gorge south bank in 2000, published in LINC's program documents. Image courtesy of T D'Ombain



The same place twenty-one years later. Image: 25th March 2021

7. Rifle Range up for sale again

Duly noted by local real estate watchers. A price of \$4.5m was quoted by the agent after an enquiry was made.

The rifle range was last on the market a couple of years ago for \$2.5m.

The Rifle Range is owned by Rifle Range Developments Pty Ltd.

The FoCC imagined that the eastern end of the rifle range would make a welcome addition to the Woowookarung Regional Park. We recognise that any progress would entail significant planning detail and discussions with the owner, local and state government agencies.



209a 211-213 Elsworth Street East, Canadian, Vic 3350

38.85 ha Residential Land

8. Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline

The current Victorian Parliamentary "Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline" is underway on line in Melbourne.

The inquiry is charged with inquiring into:

"...the decline of Victoria's ecosystems and measures to restore habitats and populations of threatened and endangered species including..."

The inquiry received 946 submissions, some from Ballarat involving the Woookarung Regional Park and the Yarrowee/Barwon river system. The inquiry began on December 3rd and more sessions are yet to come.

To read about the inquiry’s terms, members, submissions or to listen to the submissions

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc-lc/inquiry/995>

The report is to be completed and given to Government by September 30th 2021.

Then, Friends will be looking carefully at the report, in particular, items of interest to Ballarat such as Koalas and Powerful Owls. This will be an opportunity for friends to raise issues they want with local MP’s so as to influence the Governments response. The Government is required to provide a response within six months of receiving the report.

More to come once the report is released!

Many thanks to Linda for following the inquiry and bringing it to the Friends attention.

9. Rubbish dumpers track closed on Elsworth St West

A rather interesting method of closing a “popular” rubbish dumping track on the South Side of Elsworth St opposite Sovereign Hill.



Image: March 23 2021

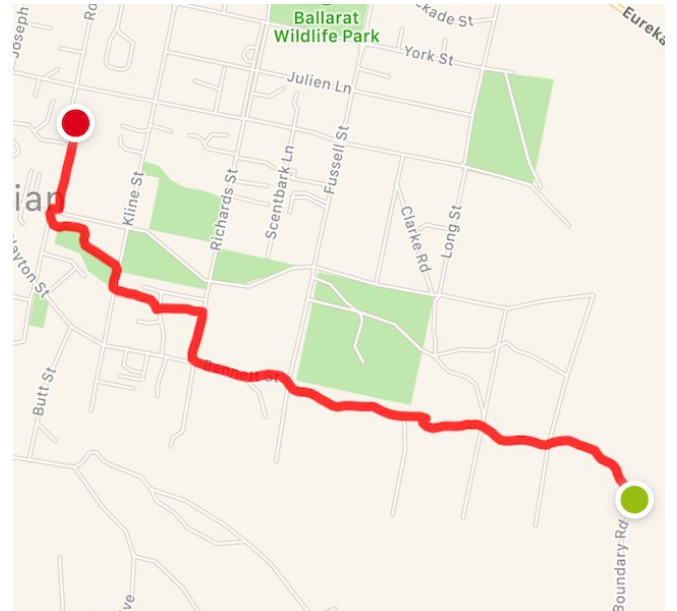
10. Pennyweight Gully walking and cycle trail.

The Pennyweight Gully trail is the sister trail to Grasree Creek Trail.

The trail starts at the Grasree Creek bridge on the old Bunny Rail line adjacent to Rodier St Canadian.

The east end is at the intersection of Boundary Road and Clay Rd Canadian.

The track follows Pennyweight Gully as far as Richards St then follows the south side of Pax Hill and Pennyweight Gully along established trails through the forested area in the Park. Distance 3.19 Kilometres.



Map by Map My Walk. 9th March 2021



The start of the Pennyweight Gully trail on the Bunny Trail Bridge across Grasree Creek. The Grasree Creek trail is in the foreground. Image 25th March 2021.

Recent works on the trail between Spencer St and Kline St are incomplete. The end of the granite sand trail from Spencer St along Pennyweight Gully is shown below. Hopefully Council will compete the trail topping.



Image 25th March 2021



The end of Pennyweight Gully trail on the corner of Boundary Rd and Clay Rd. Image 25th 2021.

11. Writers, editors, graphic designers and map makers wanted

The FoCC is interested in a register of Friends who have writing, editing, graphic design and map making skills and interested in working on FoCC productions.

Possible projects are:

- Walk/cycle maps of the Canadian Corridor.
- Mining heritage explanation and maps
- Koala information and sightings
- Bunny Trail story

IF interested please talk to a FoCC committee member or email focinfo@gmail.com

12. Recreation Road works

Over the past weeks the City of Ballarat has been repairing drains and the road edges along Recreation Road. Two missing 80 kph speed signs were also reinstalled.

There is a school 40 kph speed zone at the end of the bitumen section. Locals report that many drivers ignore the zone. An obscured sign may not help.



The obscured 40kph zone sign on the east end of the school zone. Image 8th March 2021

13. Membership

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

Membership forms are available online at or email focinfo@gmail.com

14. 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 726-744 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.

April 9	Koala monitoring field work
April 16	Koala monitoring field work
April 23	Koala monitoring field work
April 26 to 30	Koala monitoring field work
May 3 to 7	Koala monitoring field work
May 16 th Date TBC	Tree planting maintenance and tree guard and stake recycling working bee
May 30	Mining Heritage Walk – Water races.
June 16	Forum: Sean Dooley Birdlife Australia, 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 th – 24 th	Woookarung Wildflower Walk.
Oct 18 th – 24 th	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 Woookarung Regional Park and the Canadian Corridor.

Circulation this issue is 736 749. 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.

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