



FoCC Incorporated

Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor
July 2021 Issue Number 79

Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail passes 1000 visitors

Spikey News features

1. Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail opened
2. Birds Forum event - postponed
3. Tree planting
4. Koala spotting
5. Koala monitoring
6. Wildlife rescue and caring advice
7. Flora and Fauna Guarantee 2021.
8. Another Orienteering marker found Z13
9. 55 Recreation Rd Bushland Reserve
10. Wet weather and uncontrolled access to tracks.
11. Park works
12. Park planned burns
13. Hoon behavior
14. Handling lockdown with a little bit of Park help
15. Walking and Cycling trail
16. Spotted in the Park
17. New signs in the sanctuary Mt Helen
18. Recreation Rd review
19. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals
20. Membership Facebook and Web

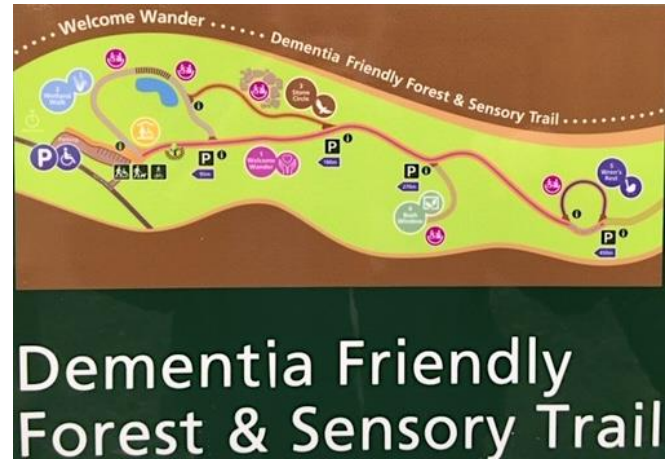
1. Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail

Over 1000 visitors have walked the Dementia Trail in the first three weeks since the opening on June 25.

Whilst the trail is open and visitors are enjoying the thoughtful features, the stopping points and the clever ways of seeing the adjacent forest, there are still some works yet to be completed.

At the east end of the trail a Board Walk is to be constructed. Once winter is over a final surface will be applied to the pathways.

Finally, the provision of a better formed path to connect the end of the trail to the Lookout trail will hopefully be on the works list soon.



The Dementia Trail map at the Car Park end.



The rough end of the Dementia trail. July 23 2021



"Ringtail Plasticus" on Dementia Trail. Image courtesy of Rob July 3 2021

One little feature of the trail is the locating of several realistic replica birds and animals along the trail.

2. Birds Forum event postponed until September 15th 2021 again.

The FoCC was preparing to host a “Birds” Forum on Wednesday 16th June then August 18th featuring guest speaker.

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.

This event is now scheduled for September 15th 2021

3. Tree Planting August 8th

The FoCC will hold a planting of 500 trees in the Katy Ryans Rd area on Sunday and Monday August 9th 2021.

The trees are supplied by the wonderful people at the City of Ballarat Community Nursery. The trees are propagated using locally sourced seed.

The tree planting will be held over three sessions to allow for Covid restrictions (The easing of lockdown now allows 10 participants per session).

Details:

Covid permitting.

Session 1: 10 to midday Sunday August 8th 2021

Session 2: 2pm to 4pm Sunday August 8th 2021

Session 3: 10am to midday Monday August 9th 2021

To register pls email focinfo@gmail.com

Or text /phone 0408509591

4. Koala spotting

Dementia trail: This koala was spotted just past the lizard lounge chairs on the trail.



Image: Courtesy of Emma July 10th 2021

Mt Clear Koala rescue. A very helpful taxi driver with assistance from Victorian Police was able to rescue an injured Koala at Mt clear two weeks ago. The Koala was taken to the Ballarat wildlife Park and is recovering.

July 25th 2021. A koala was spotted crossing Scotchmans Lead Rd about a 100m from the Midlands Highway during early evening. First Koala observed in the area for a couple of years. Many thanks to Christine.

If you see or hear a Koala, please send the information containing the when where and how to:

focinfo@gmail.com. Images are fabulous.

5. Koala Monitoring

The checking of the last two sites of the Koala monitoring program has been disrupted again by Covid closures. Hopefully they will be completed within the next weeks. So far over 40 wonderful volunteers have put in over 400 hours of volunteer time. More information when possible.

6. Wildlife Rescue and Caring advice

Coming across injured wildlife is always a possibility in the Park and Corridor.

If an injured animal is found the advice below is the good advice for the rescue and care of injured animals.

Injured Wildlife in the Canadian Corridor

Who to contact?

Wildlife Victoria

03 8400 7300

Or

<https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/wildlife-information/report-a-wildlife-emergency>

Wildlife Victoria hosts the wildlife call centre with connections to the Ballarat based Wildlife Rescuers and Carers.

Wildlife Victoria receives the call and connects the injured wildlife with appropriate rescuers and or carers

More info:

<https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/about/about-us>

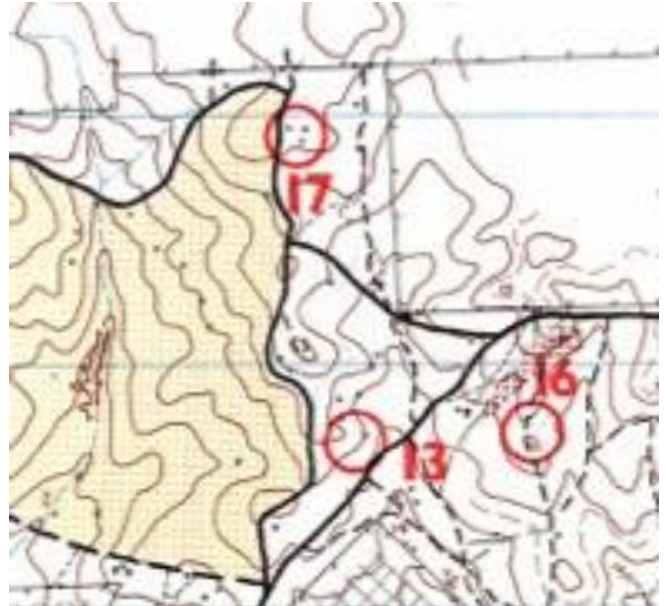
7. Flora and Fauna Guarantee 2021

The 2021 Flora and Fauna Guarantee list recently released has identified three Woowookarung species as critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable. An additional species Brookers Gum exists in the Corridor.

1. **Yarra gum** (*Eucalyptus yarraensis*) **critically endangered** species. It is a poorly known species whose distribution appears to have been much fragmented by the clearing of the natural habitat. It is distinguished from *E. ovata* by the completely rough bark and smaller leaves, buds and fruits. Yarra Gums may be found in the Park at the end of Lavery Avenue and near the corner of Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd.
2. **Penny – leaf flat pea** (*Platylobium rotundum*) is **endangered**. There are just four locations of this pea in the Park.



FoCC file image



Location of Z13 adjacent to Davidsons Rd.

3. **Powerful Owl** (*Ninox strenua*) is listed as **vulnerable**. There is a breeding pair adjacent to the Park.
4. **Brookers Gum** (*Eucalyptus brookeriana*) which is **endangered**. There are isolated specimens of Brookers Gum near the railway line on Warrenheip Bank and behind the Brewery Tap hotel in Warrenheip.

More information:

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-list>

8. **Another Orienteering Marker Found Z13**

Last year in the August 2020 Issue 69 edition of Spikey News a 1975 era map was shown of 24 markers placed around the Forest for orienteering purposes.



Damaged gully on Baileys Rd. July 22nd 202

11. **Park Works**

Bit by bit Parks Victoria personnel are restoring, protecting and managing the Park. Recently understory plantings were made along the Nature Trail. The plantings shown below are on an old downhill

eroded section of track which was in use before the nature trail was built. The new trail has a gentler slope and water runoffs. Plantings complete the repair works. Now it is up to nature!!






Parks Vic plantings image July 22nd 2021

12. Park planned burns 2021 -2023

Forest Fire Management Victoria has published the schedule of planned burns for 2021 through to 2023.

Legend:

	Fuel reduction 2021/2	60 hectares
	Fuel Reduction 2023	28 hectares
	Grass and shrub slashing	6.5 km



FFV map 2021 -23

The planned fuel reduction south of Recreation Rd is on a mixture of forest and ex plantation land. The re growth on the ex-plantation land is here is now nine years old and includes a lot of weeds. Recently FFV have used the Eco blade machine to remove broom from the regrowth area.

13. Hoon behavior

Hoon behaviour is an all too often occurrence in the Park. Recently friends have been reporting number of trees pushed over along the Parks roads. Most appear to be deliberate as the image below illustrates.



Wheels ruts and the bullbar mark on the tree tell the story. Image: Near corner of Katy Ryans Rd and Dozed Rd July 23rd 2021

14. Handling lockdown with a little bit of help from the Park

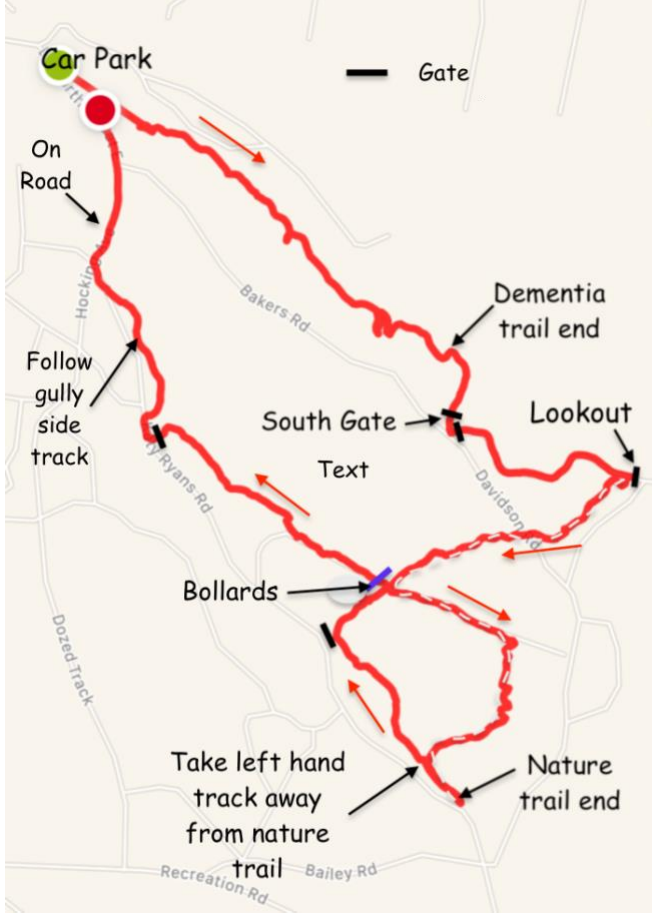
The alarm went this morning and I began to query my sanity. Look at the weather, you kidding, a bike ride! Oh well my cycling mate will be waiting . . . oh, we have a 5km restriction as well! Hmmm, the W. Park may just be in our limits. 8.30 and away we cycle and the drizzle starts. The dementia shelter is probably a good spot to shelter, which we did, and then rode the trail and became part of the wonderful surrounds, first the red Robins came to our notice, then the amazing pair of lounge chairs (apologies to the weather) we did not stay long. Then another robin and while observing this two kangaroos were observing us. Well, just all this was worth the early start. We then crossed onto the new bike trail and rode on to Katie Ryan's Rd. and then down Bailey's Rd. (track). Pretty well half way along this freeway some polite ??? has offloaded their worldly belongings in the centre of the freeway. Oh dear, I have just mucked up my little report. If I possessed a vehicle capable of negotiating this mess I would clean it up, alas, my bike is not capable.

Well we did enjoy our outing, even if the end was not as we would have liked.

Many thanks to John and Edith

15. Walking/cycling trail loop

There are around 200 km of roads, tracks and trails in the Park. The new Dementia and the Nature Trail provide the basis of an easy walk/cycle through the centre of the Park.



The trail is 7.31 kilometres long, starting and finishing at the Dementia Trail car park. Part of the trail from the end of the Nature Trail to the car park is along unmade bush tracks. Good footwear and clothing are recommended.

16. Spotted in the Park

The post gold story of the Park involves a lot of wood cutting with the forest cut many times over, beginning with mine props in the 1860's to household firewood lots in the 1950's. The axe head relic tells a story!



Axe head. Image courtesy of Julie. July 25th 2021

Quiet walking in the Park can bring many different things into observation. Julie spotted a very interesting fungus. And Kate on FoCC facebook reported "It's a club fungus. it's genus is Clavaria. Either Clavaria sulcata or Clavaria corallinorosea courtesy of my mycology friend Chrissy"



Fungi image courtesy of Julie. July 25th 2021.

17. New signs in the Sanctuary Mt Helen.

Start on Signage

"Ballarat City Council has installed the first of three signs delineating the Sanctuary Bushland Reserve at Mt Helen.

The Sanctuary reserve was developed as a result of a VCAT determination that, while permitting housing in the 'estate' area, a bushland corridor had to be retained as safe koala habitat. The estate is covered by four environmental overlays, and VCAT further mandated that there were to be no cats or dogs kept on any lot.

Nearby residents are urged not to throw any garden refuse (including grass clippings) into the Sanctuary. There is already evidence of gorse, broom and blackberry problems. Council has received a request for regular weed eradication to follow up on work started late last year.

The Sanctuary reserve is a peaceful and significantly vegetated piece of retained bush. There have been 56 species of plants identified within its boundaries”

Article courtesy of August 2021 Edition Buninyong and District News



Image courtesy of Jo

18. Recreation Rd Review

The City of Ballarat has installed traffic counters on Recreation Rd Mt Clear. Hopefully this will lead to better traffic management on the road. Recreation Rd is one of Ballarat’s dangerous roads, narrow, rough and dangerous for cyclist and motorists as well as for wildlife. The Council regularly grades the road but it goes back to corrugations within days!



Traffic recorders on Recreation Rd Mt Clear Image July 29th 2021.

19. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals

The FoCC encourages Park friends to report track vandals, rubbish dumpers, wood thieves and other suspicious activity to Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or email: 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.

20. Membership

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

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

21. 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 ~~802~~ 806 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.

Aug 8 and 9 th	Koala tree planting x 500 trees
Sept 15 th	Forum: Sean Dooley, National Public affairs Manager Birdlife Australia
Oct 17 – 24	Woovookarung Wildflower Walk.
Oct 18 – 24	Great Aussie Backyard bird count.
Oct 20	FoCC 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.

The FoCC is a registered Landcare Group with Landcare Victoria Inc and is a member of the Leigh Catchment Network.

Circulation this issue ~~770~~ 778. 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