



# FoCC Incorporated Spikey News



Linking the community with Woovookarung and the Canadian Corridor  
August 2021 Issue Number 80

## “Last stage of construction begins at the Dementia Trail”

### Spikey News features

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### 1. Park Works - Dementia Trail final works begin

The final stage of works on the Dementia trail has begun. The Ballarat Times says it all about tree planting by

## Budding landscapers nurture park growth

BY EDWINA WILLIAMS

WHEN Woovookarung Regional Park's ground-breaking dementia-friendly forest and sensory trail opened recently, it was in part due to the assistance and passion of up-and-coming young landscapers.

Some work on the Parks Victoria project was completed by 18 certificate II landscaping students from The Gordon Institute of TAFE's BGT's Barkly Square campus.

They helped revegetate areas including the trail entrance, the car park, the wren's rest area, and the wetland loop, where they planted 700 seedlings of 13 native species. Project supervisor, Ranger Vivienne Zivkovic, said the students were striving to improve their practical skills on the ground. "It was really impressed with their work ethic, enthusiasm and professionalism," she said.

"We discussed which species of seedlings should be planted along the dementia-friendly trail, how far apart each seedling should be placed, and why positioning is important, how deep they should dig each hole before planting, as well as how to install tree guards



Revegetation: Robi Mauder and Moshayel Richardson during a planting session at Woovookarung. Photo: SUPPLIED

the classroom into practice in the field.

"The students really enjoy being in the bush and being able to contribute to the rehabilitation of their local environment. Some of the students have enjoyed it so much that they are considering a career in the conservation and land management area."

Students will return to Woovookarung in the coming months, to assess progress, spread mulch, water, install signs, maintain paths and continue planting.

"It is so beneficial for young people to gain outdoor work experience in our beautiful parks and reserves," Ms Zivkovic said.

"It was great to see these kids being active outdoors and learning how to behave in a workplace, even if it's not in a traditional office-setting.

"Parks Victoria staff are always eager to teach the next generation, from horticultural knowledge to environmental safety and care, culture and the importance of leading country, and learning from Traditional Owners, and even what it means to be a ranger and what our work entails."

be part of this great community project," she said.

"Their teachers from The Gordon Institute of TAFE have said that the partnership with Parks Victoria has provided the students with a great opportunity to put the things that they are learning in

Page 14 Ballarat Times August 26<sup>th</sup>

Contractors have begun to install wheel chair capable board walks at selected areas along the trail. Two of the boardwalk trails are at the Car Park end of the trail whilst the third boardwalk is designed to provide a turnaround at the eastern end of the trail.



Boardwalk construction in the wetland loop. Image August 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

The Dementia trail is the result of a fabulous idea first raised in November 2017. The idea quickly gained support and literally hundreds of people have been talking, looking, planning and building the trail. Many more hours have been put into creating the support networks around people living with dementia and carers including other disability groups.

Parks Victoria worked with corporate partners CDC Victoria (busline), CMV track and bus, Volvo buses, Findex and POBOX design.

Community partners were Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance and the FoCC.

The corporate and community partners all deserve a big pat on the back.

The Dementia Trail co-operation story is a best practice exemplar of how to get things done by working together in public places such as Woovookarung Regional Park.





The car park at the Dementia trail. Parking overflowed onto the road outside. Image August 29<sup>th</sup> 2021.

## 2. Birds Forum event postponed until November 2021.

The FoCC was preparing to host a "Birds" Forum on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June featuring the 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 postponed to November 2021**

## 3. Tree Planting postponed again

Unfortunately, the tree planting scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> was postponed until August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Alas Covid lockdown has meant a further postponement. FoCC is planning to plant as soon as the lockdown lifts and the Park is open again for volunteers,



Tree planting at Katy Ryans Rd postponed. The sign says it all. Image August 25<sup>th</sup> 2021

## 4. Koala spotting

Spotted near the mine adit on the Nature Trail.



Image courtesy of Ken. July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.

And found about 100 metres north of Clayton St. The scat was quite fresh but the Koala had moved on. One interesting aspect of Koala scat is when broken in two is that it has a distinct eucalyptus smell.



Koala scats. Image August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

## 5. Koala sightings and iNaturalist records

If you see or hear a Koala, please send the information containing the when, where and an image, if possible, to: [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com).

The FoCC transfers all Koala sightings within the corridor whether visual, aural or by scat (poo) to iNaturalist.

iNaturalist Australia was launched on 2nd October 2019 as the Australian node of iNaturalist, the world's leading global social biodiversity network. It is a web-based data base that records flora and fauna across the world.

iNaturalist Australia is an excellent place to record your individual plant, animal and fungi sightings.





iNaturalist Australia is a product of a membership agreement between the iNaturalist Network and the Atlas of Living Australia and CSIRO.

Koala sightings are best with:

1. Date of sighting
2. Place of sighting (street, nearest intersection and best of all, many smart phones have GPS coordinates on images)
3. Photos or Sound recording to verify identification. These are transferrable to the data base. Photos can be of scat if no koala visible. Photos of deceased koalas are needed to make the sighting research grade.

“Research grade” input to iNaturalist requires all the above. However, reports with some information missing are still valuable because the sightings are simply logged at a lower reliability level.

For more information or to become your own iNaturalist see: <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au>

## 6. Koala Monitoring

The Koala monitoring program is close to being finished.



Ecologist Emily with Louise and Dave.

Recently ecologist Emily Hyne worked with Louise Jory and Dave Mitchel from the Australian Koala Foundation on checking all the Koala scat samples collected so far for authenticity. What better place to consider scat samples than the Lookout. And yes, some samples did not pass the inspection.

The monitoring of the last two remaining sites of the Koala monitoring program was again delayed by Covid closures. Hopefully they will be completed within the next few weeks. So far over 40 wonderful volunteers have put in over 400 hours of volunteer time.

## 7. Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) Koala Month



This September, the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is celebrating 32 years of their annual fundraising and awareness campaign, Save the Koala Month (STKM).

“Save the Koala Month is an amazing time where we get to celebrate our love for Koalas while raising imperative funds for their protection. Each day we receive amazing stories from all over the world from people who are passionate about saving Koalas”, says Chair of the AKF Deborah Tabart OAM. “When the AKF started in 1986, it was the view of the board that they must be free from government funding. Instead they rely of the public’s generosity and support to lead research and be an independent voice for the Koala.

Without the public’s enthusiasm and support we would get nowhere. Everyone who stands up to protect Koalas and participates in STKM is a hero in our eyes and this year we want to celebrate them”, Ms Tabart said.

The AKF first worked in Ballarat in the early 2000’s with the City of Ballarat and the local community in creating the Koala Plan of Management.

More recently the AKF has collaborated with Parks Victoria, The University of Melbourne and the FoCC in the Koala monitoring study in the Woowookarung and Union Jack Parks.

For more information see:

<https://www.savethekoala.com/how-to-help/save-the-koala-month/>

## 8. Bird on the Month #1

The FoCC is inaugurating a Spikey News “Bird of the Month” feature!

The fascinating Fan-tailed Cuckoo Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) is a native bird that occurs in the Corridor and has been selected for first feature as Bird of the Month.



Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Image courtesy of Rob. August 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

This month, the Fan-tailed Cuckoos, a breeding migrant has now begun to arrive in our local patch. They typically arrive from northern Australia and New Guinea to breed down south from late winter to early summer. Some 'over-winter', which means they remain present over winter, staying put all year.

The Fan-tailed Cuckoo's breeding behaviour is notable for the fact that they, are 'brood parasites' which are species that lay their eggs in the nest of other birds, deferring all parental care to the adoptive parents. The adoptive parents of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (25-27cm) offspring are usually fairywrens, thornbills, and scrub wrens, which are half the size of the cuckoo baby and have their work cut out for them sustaining big bub's insatiable appetite for insects.

Another distinctive feature of cuckoos, and indeed Fan-tailed Cuckoo, is that they have two backward-facing toes; this sets cuckoos apart from other similar-looking birds which instead have one backward-facing toe.

Of the thirteen Australian cuckoos, five regularly occur in Ballarat, with Fan-tailed Cuckoo being the most common here. Fan-tailed Cuckoo can be distinguished from other local cuckoos by its pastel cinnamon breast and yellow eye ring.

Often heard before they are seen, the conspicuous and persistent vocals of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo have been described as "vibrating", "musical", "high, thin, whistled", and a "leisurely downward trill".

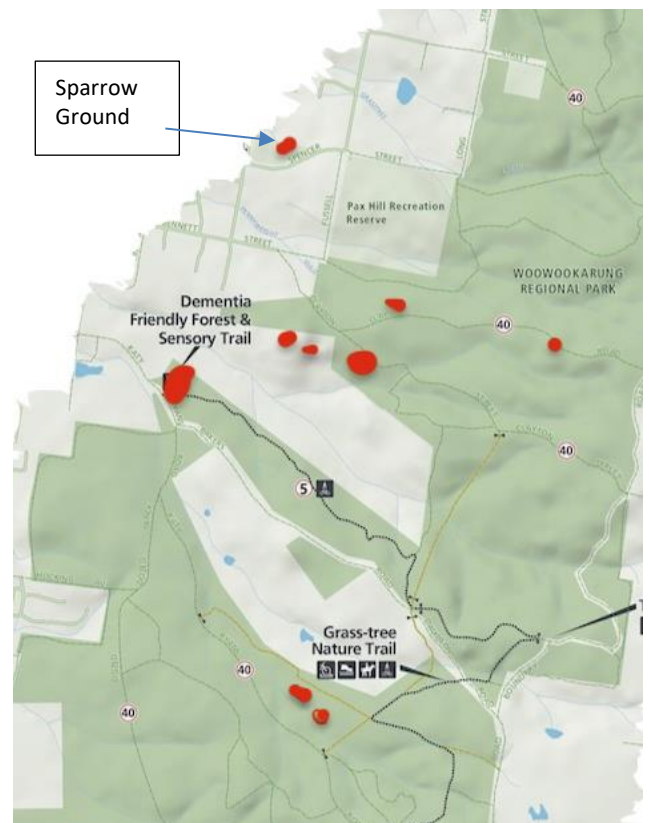
Next time you wander through Woookarung Regional Park or other open eucalypt forest in the Corridor, listen out for the pleasant calls of the fascinating Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

More info at: <https://www.focc.asn.au/birdofthemoth/>

*FoCC note: Joel Ellis is a FoCC Committee member, resident bird nerd, amateur Powerful Owl researcher, and editor of FoCC's (co-funded) flora and fauna twin brochures. Joel has studied birds up to Honours degree level, interns as an ecological consultant (ornithologist), and is a member of BirdLife Australia (Ballarat branch).*

#### 9. Little Grasstrees

Woookarung Regional Park is renowned for its two varieties of grasstrees. The larger grasstrees are spread right across the Park whilst the smaller *Xanthorrhoea minor* is found in a series of locations along the western side of the Park between Katy Ryans Rd and Clay Rd. The Wadawurrung name for a minor grasstrees is *Tooli:merin*.



Minor grasstrees locations in Woookarung and Sparrow Ground shown in red. Map courtesy Parks Victoria.



**10. Wet winter and 4WD damage**

The wet winter has been a boon for the flora and fauna of the Park. However wet weather does have some downsides. The image below shows the extensive damage 4WD vehicles leave when crossing flooded water ways.



4WD damage on the eastern side of Pax Hill. August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

This type of damage is widespread on the tracks that still remain open in the Park.

The central area of the Park is now fenced and gated and no longer suffers this sort of winter damage.

**11. Woowookarung Regional Park 5th Birthday**

On August 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 the fifth birthday of the declaration of the Canadian Regional Park (renamed in 2017 Woowookarung) was celebrated.



**Victoria Government Gazette**

No. S 239 Tuesday 2 August 2016  
By Authority of Victorian Government Printer

**Crown Land Legislation Amendment  
(Canadian Regional Park and Other Matters) Act 2016  
PROCLAMATION OF COMMENCEMENT**

I, Linda Dessau, Governor of Victoria, with the advice of the Executive Council and under section 2(1) of the **Crown Land Legislation Amendment (Canadian Regional Park and Other Matters) Act 2016**, fix 5 August 2016 as the day on which that Act (except Part 3) comes into operation.

Given under my hand and the seal of Victoria on 2 August 2016  
(L.S.)

LINDA DESSAU  
The Honourable Linda Dessau AM  
Governor  
By Her Excellency's Command  
LILY D'AMBROSIO  
Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change



Linda, Jeff, Bob, Premier Dan, Geoff Howard and Parks Victoria CEO Bradley Fauteux, August 5<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The Park was officially opened on that day by Premier Daniel Andrews in the Park after a short ceremony at Earth Ed Science centre at Mt Clear College



Friends of Canadian Corridor, Ballarat

7 August at 17:47 · 🌐

August 2nd was the 5th birthday of the declaration of the Park by Premier Dan Andrews.

The event was the culmination of an enormous community wish for the ex-plantation and Canadian Forest land to become a "multi-use forest park" which then became the Canadian Regional Park. In 2017 it was renamed Woowookarung Regional Park.

In the five years since the declaration, the Park has experienced:

1. The establishment of the mountain bike trail head at Mt Clear
  2. The construction of the Lookout
  3. The building of the Nature Trail
  4. The development of the Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail idea and its building, with only final touches to come.
  5. The planting of thousands of trees and shrubs by Dementia trail volunteers, the Friends and Parks Victoria.
  6. The removal of significant amount of woody weeds (eg gorse) across the Park
  7. Ongoing rubbish removal
  8. The provision of bollards and gates and mud hole works to reduce vehicle access to off-road areas
  9. A range of Scientific investigations including the University of Melbourne Koala habitat study, Phytophthora studies and numerous Federation University studies.
  10. The development and launching of the Park Plan in 2018. The restoration principles of the plan were exhibited at "The Australian Pavilion Biennale Architecture 2018 in Venice
  11. The ongoing celebration of the Park by annual wildflower walks, mining relic walks, backyard bird counts, the hosting of leading authors such as Bruce Pascoe and hopefully Sean Dooley in September
- Happy Birthday, Woowookarung! 🎂

FoCC facebook entry August 7<sup>th</sup> 2021



Diane

The park has improved so much in that 5 years. Well done FoCC team!

2 w



George

Great job people, thank you for your amazing work in establishing this this nature park on our doorstep for all future generations.

2 w



Rosalie

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who has helped to establish and maintain this park.

2 w



Pam

Such a wonderful place so close to our city! Congratulations to all those who have worked so hard to achieve these goals.

2 w



Rhonda

We were at the Dementia Friendly Trail on the weekend, the car park was full with cars parked on the side of the road. Families, joggers, dog walkers, wheel chair, assistance dog, so pleased that this wonderful asset is being enjoyed by many ❤️

2 w

FoCC Facebook comments

**12. Hocking Avenue in Sailors Gully estate grass restoration**

Prior to 2019 the land on the north side of Hocking Avenue in Sailors Gully estate was very degraded and heavily compacted by vehicle tracks. Parks Victoria put in fencing and sowed native grass species along the 400-metre-long section of land. This grassland strip will be mowed by Forest Fire Management Victoria on a regular basis for the fire protection of Sailors Gully.



Native grass on the previously bare land. Looking east.  
Image July 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

**13. 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](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.

**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 the end of September 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](http://webmaster@focc.asn.au)

Currently we have just over ~~804~~ 813 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.

Sept - Oct	Tree planting post lockdown
Oct 17 – 24	Woovookarung Wildflower Walk.
Oct 18 – 24	Great Aussie Backyard bird count.
Oct 20	FoCC annual meeting
November TBA	Bird forum with Sean Dooley Covid permitting
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. The FoCC has links with 65 friendly community organisations within the corridor.

Circulation this issue is ~~770~~ 785 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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<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/>

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