



FoCC Incorporated

Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor
September 2021 Issue Number 81

Wildflower walk in late October

Spikey News features

1. 6th Annual Wildflower Walk
2. Wildflowers wonderland on the W walk.
3. Tree planting finally completed
4. Bird on the month
5. Backyard Bird count
6. Koala monitoring
7. Koala spotting
8. Citizen Science Koala spotting goes research grade
9. 1970's industrial zone plan proposed in the Canadian Forest unearthed.
10. Swamp gum stand in Lal Lal drain
11. Birds Forum event – postponed again
12. Little Grasstrees found on another site
13. Another classis car
14. Annual meeting delayed
15. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals
16. Membership
17. Facebook and Web

1. 6th Annual Wildflower Walk

Yes folks, the sixth annual wildflower walk will be on **October 17th to October 24th** along the Dementia Forest and Sensory Trail.

The Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat and the FoCC have organised the self-guided pop-up wild flower trail walk in the central part of the Woookarung Regional Park beginning on Sunday Oct 17th at 10am.

The walking trail start point is from the Car Park at the Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail on Katy Ryans Rd. Direction signs will be on Elsworth St.

Signs will identify the start and the path will be marked with wildflower information signs to identify the diverse range of wildflowers.

The walking trail is a gentle walk uphill on formed track. Good footwear is recommended.

Social distancing, relevant mask and hand hygiene practices are required at all times and the walk is subject to current Regional Covid 19 regulations of up to 10 people together.

Further Parks Victoria Covid info:

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/covid-19-update>



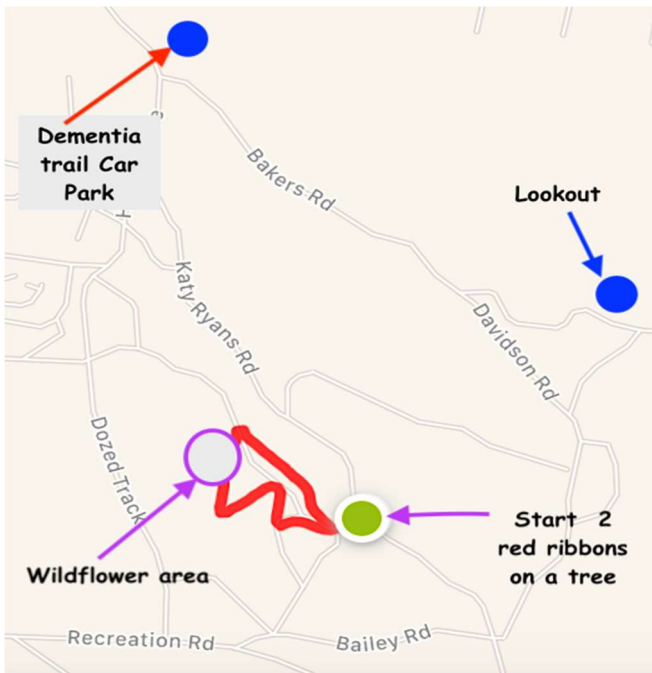
Sample wildflower sign

2. Wildflower wonderland on the W walk

The site of last year's wildflower walk in the W walk on the south side of Katy Ryans Rd is ablaze with bush pea (egg and bacon)



Bush Pea on the western edge of the W walk. Image courtesy of Jess 24 September 2021



Map of the W walk and bush pea wildflower area.



Bush pea and pink bells next to a 2020 tree planting. Image 26th September 2021

3. Tree planting finally completed

500 locally sourced trees and shrubs were planted in Woowookarung Regional Park over Sunday and Monday September 12 and 13th.



Image: Sunday morning volunteers 12th September 2021



Sunday afternoon volunteers. Special thanks to the U3A walking group volunteers.

12th September 2021



Monday morning volunteers 13th September 2021



The planting was along Katy Ryans Rd Mt Clear

The 500 trees are the fifth annual tree planting by FoCC volunteers bring the total plantings to 2820 trees. In 2017, 280 trees were planted, followed by 240 in 2018, 1200 in 2019 and 600 in 2020. In addition to the FoCC plantings, Parks Victoria and the community have planted around 2000 trees and shrubs around the Dementia trail in the centre of the Park.

4. **Bird on the Month**

Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*)

Images all courtesy of Rob Loveband



If you're inspired by the mantra that 'good things come in small packages', the Spotted Pardalote is the ultimate inspiration for you! Cute, colourful, and characterful, the Spotted Pardalote is one of Australia's smallest birds at 8-10cm and weighing 6-12g! Not to be underestimated, the huge part they play in the ecosystem well and truly belies the Spotted Pardalote's small stature. Feeding on lerp insects, which are a type of plant lice, the Spotted Pardalote's busy foraging controls these parasites of eucalypts and contributes to maintenance of gumtree health. That's a big task for such a tiny yet impressively serviceable bird!

Locals may encounter Spotted Pardalote during this time of year, as these industrious little birds may seek to drill a narrow nest tunnel into a garden sand heap, creek embankments, or roadside cuttings. Inhabiting eucalypt forests, parks and gardens, Spotted Pardalotes which occur in singles, pairs and groups of up to 20, may be hard to detect in the canopy amongst leaves that individually outsize them. However, they will occasionally venture down to lower-lying branches, and if you keep quiet and approach gently, they can be quite confiding! Vocally, Spotted Pardalotes may be very conspicuous once you familiarise yourself with their surprisingly loud 'dee-dee peep' call that has been described as "reminiscent of Crimson Rosella".



Belonging to the same taxonomic family as thornbills and scrubwrens, pardalotes are recognisable by their stubby bill, short tail, and combos of yellows, reds, black and greyish browns. The Spotted Pardalote is distinguishable from its local congener, the Striated Pardalote, by its spotted head and wing tips where Striated has stripes; red and yellow rump where Striated's is greyish brown; and indistinct white eyebrow where Striated has a bold yellow brow. Male and female Spotted Pardalotes differ in that the females are duller and lack the yellow throat, and the female's head is dotted yellow while the male's head is dotted white.

Next time you stroll through Woookarung RP or other local patch characterised by eucalyptus trees, don't forget to look and listen out for Spotted Pardalotes — and spare a thought of gratitude for their tremendous contribution to maintaining gumtree health!

Author note: A FoCC Committee member and co-admin of FoCC's Facebook and webpage, Joel Ellis is the resident bird nerd, amateur Powerful Owl researcher, and editor of FoCC's (co-funded) flora and fauna twin brochures.

5. **Backyard Bird Count**



The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is back OCTOBER 18-24 2021.

The #AussieBirdCount is a great way to connect with the birds in your backyard, no matter where your backyard might be — whether it's a suburban backyard, a local park, a patch of forest, a farm, down by the beach, or the main street of town.

All you need to take part is 20 minutes and your favourite outdoor space - you don't even have to leave home, making it the ultimate Covid-safe activity! As well as contributing to BirdLife Australia's knowledge of Aussie Birds, you will have the chance to win some great prizes! Head to the website and register as a Counter today.

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

The FoCC will provide a map in mid-October of suggested bird count sites in Woookarung Regional Park

6. **Koala Monitoring**

The last two sites of the University of Melbourne Koala monitoring program first round, has finally been completed on the last day of September 2021.

7. **Koala spotting**

Spotted last month in the Gorge near Boundary Rd.

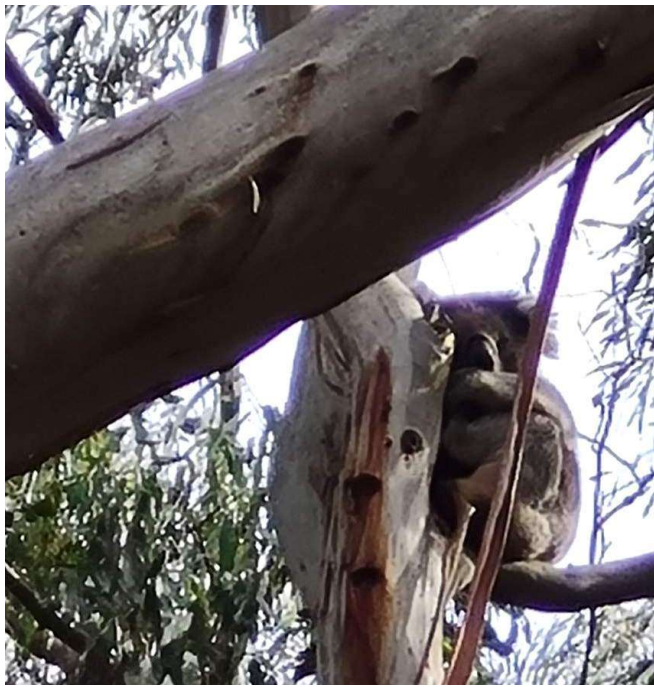
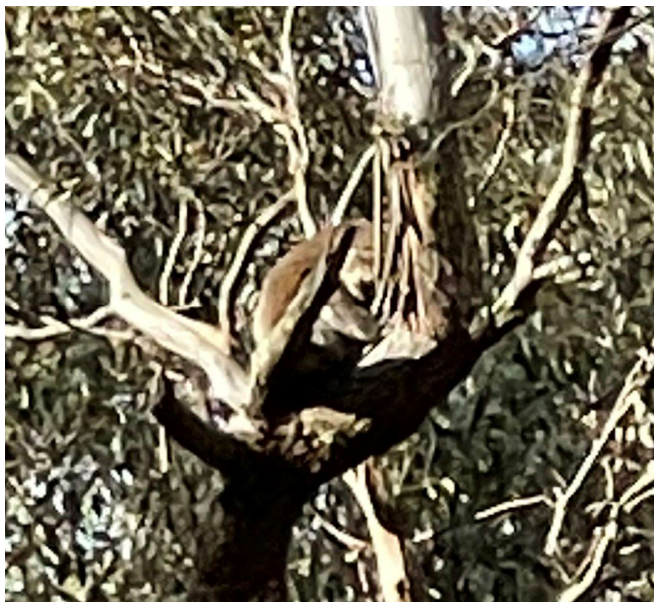


Image courtesy Peter August 8th 2021

And a female Koala and Joey together in Union Jack Reserve, Buninyong.



Image: Courtesy of Cameron 22 September 2021



Webbs Rd Buninyong. Image courtesy of Claire. September 3rd 2021



Koalas Scat. South of Fools Lane along the Parks eastern boundary. 1st September 2021.

At the Gong reservoir Park Brown Hill.



Image: Courtesy of Rob September 17th 2021

8. Citizen Science Koala spotting goes research grade

Spring is a much busier time for Koalas. It is the start of breeding season and the males in particular are much noisier. It is often the grunting that is the indicator a Koala is around.

This is the third year of our citizen science Koala count. At first the FoCC just recorded date, place and an image if possible.

This year the recording system has moved to recording sighting on the **I naturalist** online recording system.

This system has research grade observations and FoCC is now entering data on sightings at the research level.

This will enable the data to also go onto the **Victorian Bio Atlas** data base which is used by DELWP, the Flora and Fauna Guarantee and Councils.

Sightings or sounds of Koalas are very valuable and are listed as observations. Koala scat images are research grade once the scat is verified as Koala scat.

A good indicator is to put a coin near the scat to provide a size reference. The best indicator of Koala scat is the eucalyptus smell that is evident when a scat is broken in half.

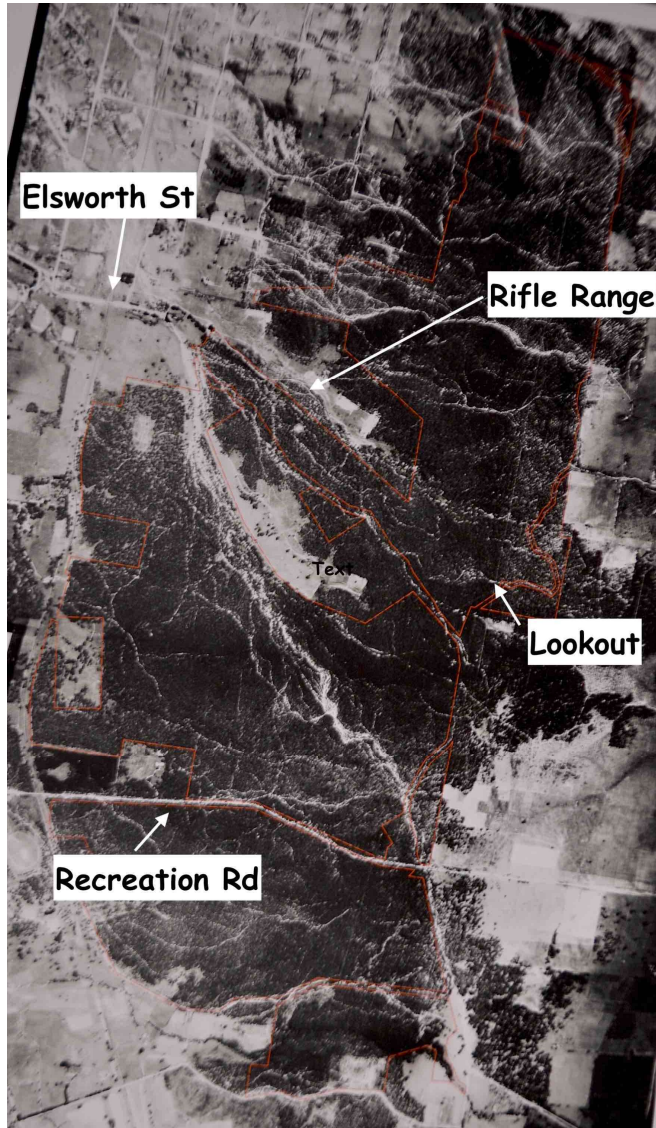
If you see or hear a Koala, please send the information containing the when where and how to:

focinfo@gmail.com. Images are gold!

9. 1970's Industrial Zone plan for the Canadian Forest unearthed.

Startling news has come to light, of plans to build an industrial site in the northern part of the Canadian Forest in 1974.

Prior to 1960, the Canadian Forest was intact with no plantations present, as shown in this 1934 image below



Aerial Survey Map 1934.

Note the forest is intact with many tracks and private property small clearings.

An industrial site proposed in the forest in 1974

The plan was to rezone 300 acres (120 Hectares) of forest from rural to industrial.

The proposal was put forward by the then City of Ballarat in partnership with the Shire of Buninyong and was supported by a large local food manufacturer.

Stiff resistance was put up the Field Naturalist Club of Ballarat and the Ballarat Environment Action group stating

“The submission explained that the forest was a multiple use area with users including ‘athletes in training, photographers, walking parties of clubs, families and individuals, bike riders, scouts, school botanical excursions’ and the Ballarat Athletic Centre’s

annual cross country run. It concluded that this was the ideal usage:

...as it is but 5 miles from the centre of Ballarat it should be reserved for public enjoyment and become a classical example of a multiple-use forest close to the city.

A comment reported at the time, was that the forest was just scrub and worthless.

Fortunately for us now, the Victorian Land Conservation Council and wiser community leaders valued the forest and worked together to head off the land grab and thus kept the remaining forest intact.

Prior to this plan, Pine Plantations had been established.

In 1960 the Bolte Government approved pine plantations in the forest in a deal with Laminex Industries. By 1970 the damage wrought by the plantation’s establishment is evident and outlined in green in the image below

Overlapping the image is the proposed 1970 industrial zone outlined in red.

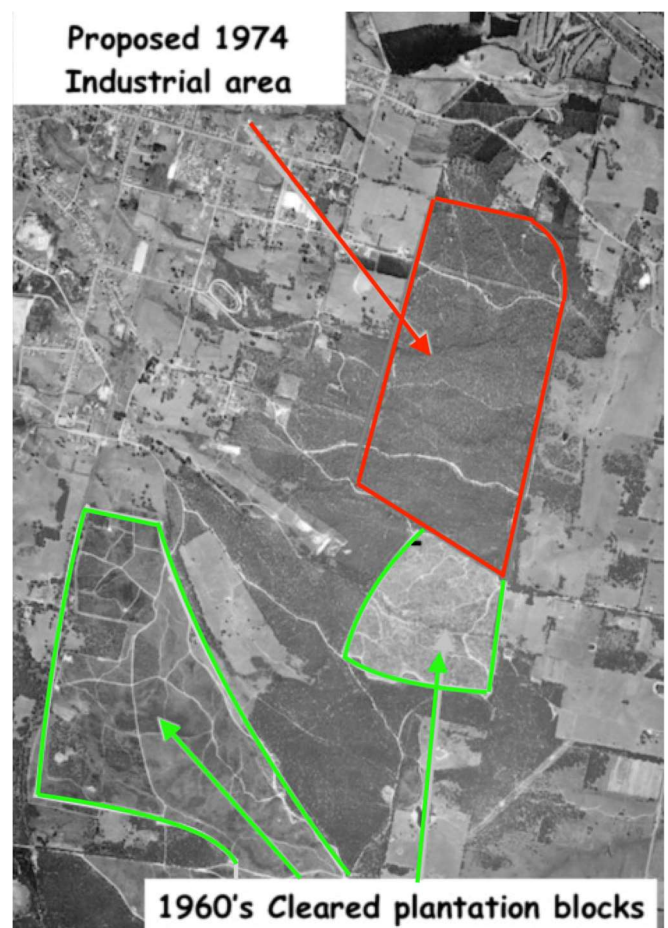


Image: 1970 aerial survey

If the industrial zone had gone ahead there would now be no forest, no Park, no wildflower walks or no Koala habitat, no forest trails, just a few remnant bits of degraded and unloved bush.

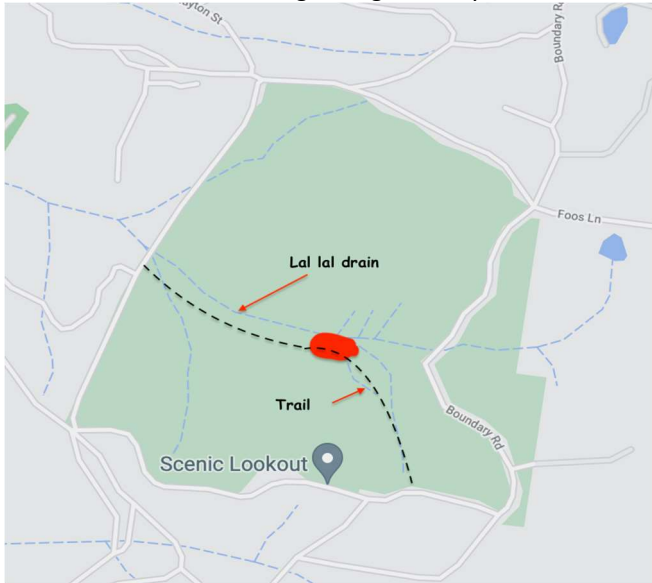
10. Swamp gum stand in Lal Lal Drain

Prior to the establishment of the pine plantations in the 1960's Lal Lal Drain below the Lookout was known locally for its tree ferns and was locally called tree fern gully.

The clearing of the forest put an end to the moist environment and the tree ferns.

What did survive was about a dozen swamp gums and today the seed from those trees has sown a new swamp gum grove on the south side of Lal Lal drain.

There is a trail that runs from near the lookout through the grove. The grove is about 140 metres long East to West and about 40 metres wide and growing healthily.



Location of swamp gum grove

11. Birds Forum event postponed until June 2022.

The FoCC was preparing to host a "Birds" Forum on Wednesday in September 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 June 2022 due to Covid

12. Little Grasstrees found on another site

Last months Spikey News contained a map of little grasstree (Xanthorrhoea minor) sites. The site just south of Sailors Gully is another small stand of little grasstrees.



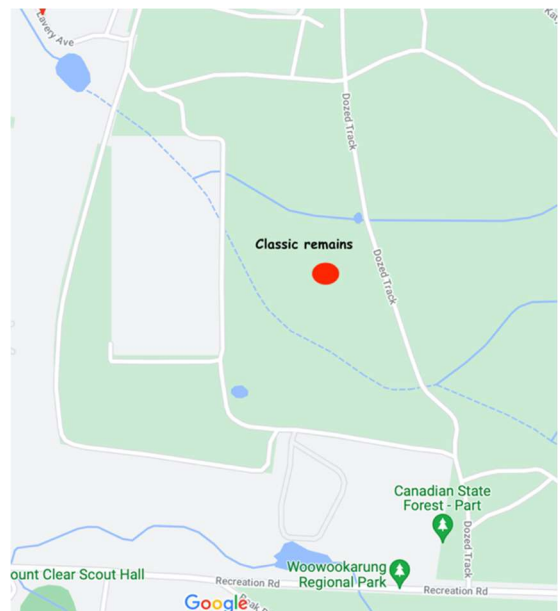
Little Grasstree: Image September 20th 2021

13. Another classis car

What is left of a 1960's holden west of Dozed Rd.



Image: September 20th 2021



14. Annual meeting delayed

Due to Covid and the possibility of a slow exit from restriction the FoCC committee has change the annual meeting from October 20 to November 17 2021.

15. 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.

16. 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

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 804 824 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.

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>

Calendar

Oct 17 – 24	Woovookarung Wildflower Walk.
Oct 18 – 24	Great Aussie Backyard bird count.
Nov 17	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 is ~~770~~ 793. 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