



FoCC Incorporated

Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor
November 2021 Issue Number 83

Spikey News features

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1. Wildlife advice now on City of Ballarat Web page

There is now a “wildlife” page on the City of Ballarat Website at: <https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/me/pets-and-animals/wildlife>

The FoCC wrote to the City in August this year requesting “the possibility of wildlife information being put on the City of Ballarat website”. This request was formed after discussions with local wildlife carers about the paucity of official information.

After a discussion with the City and within a few short weeks, the information is now part of the Cities website. Many thanks to the Council’s Director and Officers for making this possible.

Help for injured, sick or orphaned wildlife

If you find injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife, you will need to contact a wildlife rehabilitation organisation who is authorised under the *Wildlife Act 1975* to care for wildlife.

You can contact:

- The [Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning \(DELWP\)](#) on [136 186](#)
- [Wildlife Victoria](#) on [8400 7300](#)
- [BADGER Wildlife Rescue](#) on [1300 223 427](#)

[You can also use DELWP’s online help for wildlife finder to find a wildlife carer near you.](#)

Image from the wildlife page on the City of Ballarat Website.

Topics covered are:

- Help for injured, sick or orphaned wildlife
- Australian wildlife is protected
- I think someone is hurting or killing wildlife near me
- Possums
- Swooping birds
- Native rats
- What can City of Ballarat do?
- Pests and pest control

2. Xmas at the Lookout

The 5th annual FoCC drinks and nibbles at the Lookout will be held beginning around 7pm on Friday December 3rd. Please bring nibbles, drinks and chairs. Only the view is provided by the FoCC.

This is a good excuse for a get together.

Forecast for Friday is cool with a southerly wind. Bring jackets!

3. Missing Link now in City hands

The 7000 sq metre property at 55 Recreation Rd is now safely in the Cities hands and the FoCC is now preparing to work with the City to get the Bunny Trial project underway.



Bunny Trail “Missing link” article. Courtesy of Ballarat Times
11th November 2021.

4. Green Scripts project launched on the Trail

2 THE COURIER Friday November 26, 2021
NEWS



NEW INITIATIVE: Anne Tudor, Caroline Gibson, Mark Yates, Michaela Settle and Siobhan Rogan. Picture: Luke Heuer

Improving wellbeing

BY HAYLEY ELG

A NEW initiative will see healthcare workers connect people living with dementia to community activities around Ballarat in an effort to improve their health and wellbeing.

The Green Scripts project, an initiative of the Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance in Ballarat, aims to connect people with established and emerging dementia-inclusive activities across the region.

Through a practice known as 'social prescribing', a free online resource will be promoted to primary healthcare practitioners to illustrate the health benefits of spending time in nature for people living with dementia, along with their carers. The project will involve promotion of the Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail, located in the Woowookarung Regional Park, and how visiting it can address physical, mental and social needs.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) reports that 79 per cent of GPs believe referring patients to community activities, groups or services helps to improve health outcomes. The information has led the body to recommend social prescribing to be incorporated into routine health-care in Australia. Members of the alliance, including founding member Anne Tudor and Green Scripts project leads, Caroline Gibson and Dr Mark Yates, joined Buninyong MP Michaela Settle to launch the project on Thursday.

Ms Tudor said seeing the project come to life was 'very exciting' as establishing Green Scripts was part of her original vision when planning the dementia-friendly trail. 'The physical, social, and psychological benefit derived from Green Scripts has been widely known for a very long time,' she said.

Ms Tudor said it would 'change the way prescribing doctors and practice nurses interact with patients recently diagnosed with dementia as they now have something concrete and positive to offer their patients'. Ms Settle said the passion and integrity of the alliance and the community in championing dementia-friendly spaces was 'incredibly impressive'. Visit <https://www.greenscripts.org.au/>

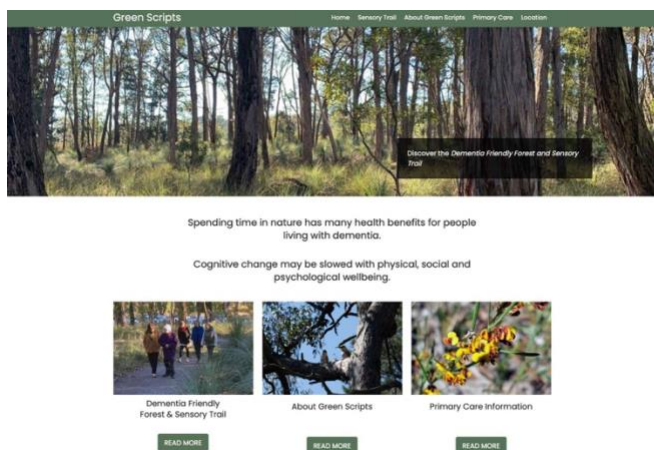
Article courtesy Ballarat Courier 26th November 2021

The Green Scripts Project is a project of the Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance and is designed to connect people with living with dementia to friendly activities including accessing the Dementia trail at Woowookarung Regional Park and how visiting can address physical, mental and social needs.

As Anne Tudor said at the launch "Green Scripts was part of her original vision when planning the dementia friendly trail." and "The physical, social and psychological benefit derived from green scripts has been widely known for a very long time"

To access the Green Scripts project website:

<https://www.greenscripts.org.au>



Green scripts web page.

9011 visitors to the Dementia trail as at November 29th 2021

5. FoCC Annual meeting

The FoCC annual meeting was held at the Buninyong Community House on Wednesday November 17th. The election of office bearers was held with the following positions filled.

President	Bob Hartmann
Vice President	Caroline Barrie
Secretary	Jeff Rootes
Treasurer	Peter Darveniza

Committee members

Joel Ellis
Rob Loveband
Jo Kelly
Tracie Currie
Joan Brick

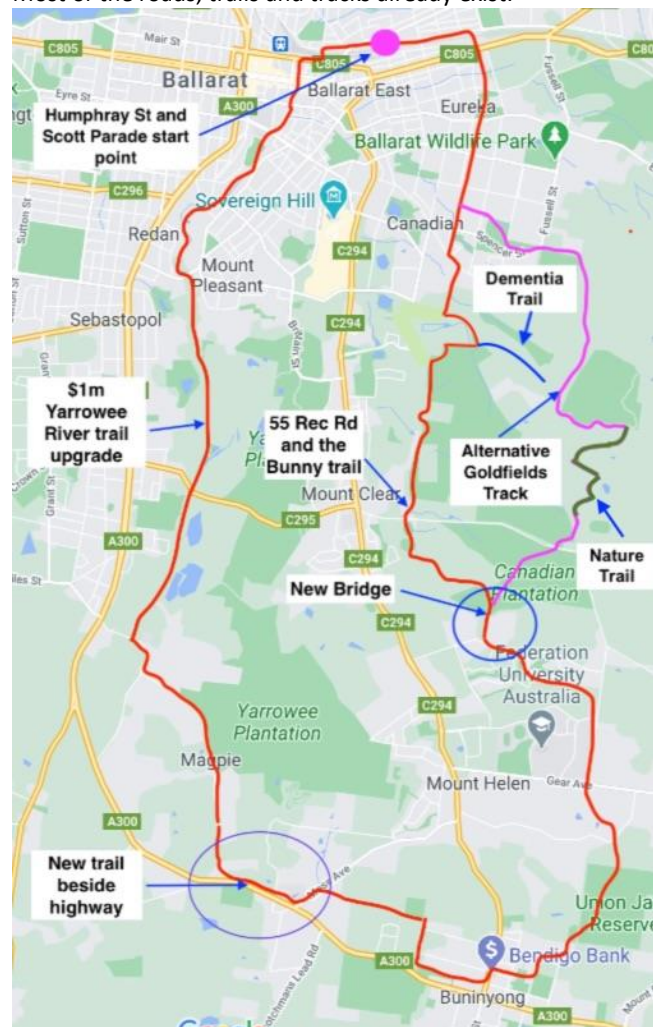
The membership fee was maintained at \$20 per year.

A copy of "Spikeys 2021 by the numbers as at November 17th" is attached at the end of this News.

6. Annual Meeting Presentation – "Forest River Loop"

The FoCC already has the Bunny trail project which includes a trail along the old rail line at 55 Recreation Rd Mt Clear. The FoCC has been looking at how to connect the "Bunny Trail" through to Buninyong with a return loop to Ballarat. The map below shows how the Ballarat to Buninyong Forest River Loop could be organised.

Most of the roads, trails and tracks already exist.



The proposed FoCC Ballarat to Buninyong Forest River Loop.

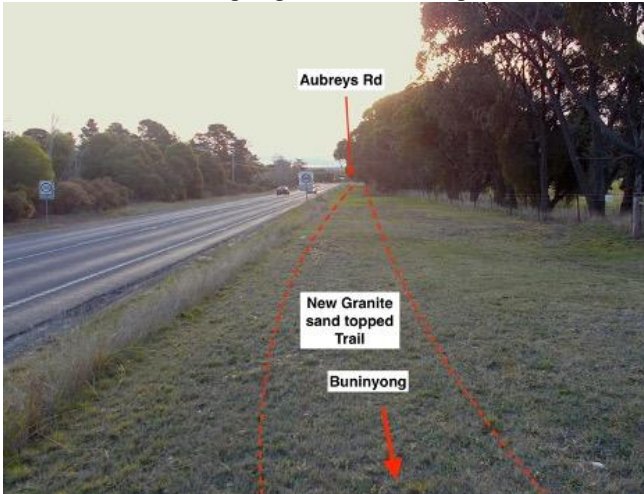
There are three pinch points:

- The trail link across 55 Recreation Rd which will be achieved over the next year or so, by the City of Ballarat and FoCC trail construction works on the old bunny rail embankment.
- A bridge across the Gorge from Olympic Avenue to Greenhill Rd as envisaged in the Park Plan. (See artist image below)
- A cycle path beside the Midland Highway between Moss Avenue and Aubreys Rd west of Buninyong. (See image below)

A bridge across the Gorge is the key to a trail through the Southern part of Woowookarung Regional Park.



Artists view of possible bridge. Ref: P72 and 73
Woowookarung Regional Park Strategic Directions Plan.



Site of possible cycle trail beside Midlands Highway west of
Moss Avenue.

The FoCC has had informal discussions with Regional Development Victoria, City of Ballarat, Parks Victoria, and other interested parties such as Goldfields Track. The Forest River Loop is very much in the thinking through stage. Hopefully early next year a FoCC general meeting can be held to further develop the idea.

7. Koala spotting



Mt Buninyong. Image courtesy of Coral 1st November 2021



Mt Helen. Image courtesy of Joan 4th November 2021



2 Koalas in Blackberry Lane mt Buninyong. Images courtesy of
Cheryl. 7th November 2021



Union Jack Reserve. Image courtesy of Jodie 10th November
2021



Nerrina. Image courtesy of Jenny 14th November 2021



Bakers Rd Mt Clear. Image courtesy of Rachel 15th November 2021.



Webbs Hill Rd Buninyong. Image courtesy of Andrew 18th November 2021

The FoCC koala spotting since 2018 has observed:

168 koala sightings from August 2018

73 sightings for 2021 so far

18 sightings in October /November 2021

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

focinfo@gmail.com

Images are gold!

8. Koala Monitoring second round

The Koala monitoring program ran from January to October this year. The research is now into a second round of monitoring and scat searching and has begun in earnest.

Koala Scat searching will be held on:

Thursday and Friday December 2nd and 3rd

Thursday and Friday December 9th and 10th

Thursday and Friday December 16th and 17th

Weather permitting. For more information or to join the search contact Louise at ljory@student.unimelb.edu.au

So far 59 wonderful volunteers have been involved, all on their knees. Reports are that the search is much easier a second time around as most searchers now know what they are looking for!

Usual start time is 8.30 at a selected site and lunch is provided.

9. Phytophthora information

Phytophthora, cinnamon fungus or simply dieback: What is it, where is it and how long has it been there and how long has it been the Park?



A dead grasstree on Boundary Rd Canadian 2018.



Possible Phytophthora infected area near Recreation Rd Mt Clear. Image 29th November 2021.

The above pictured phytophthora area has no ground cover. In the background above the infected area, healthy grasstrees and ground cover is thriving. The downhill side has many dead grasstrees and ground cover. Phytophthora is spread by water action which means an infection usually travels downhill from a site. The other way it travels is by way of infected mud on boots, tires and machinery. Avoiding muddy areas and boot and tire washing is one of a numbers ways of reducing the spread

According to the Victoria's "Public Land Phytophthora cinnamomi Management Strategy" *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is an introduced water mould that attacks the root systems of susceptible native plants thereby threatening some plant species, the ecosystems of which they form part and the animals that depend on them.

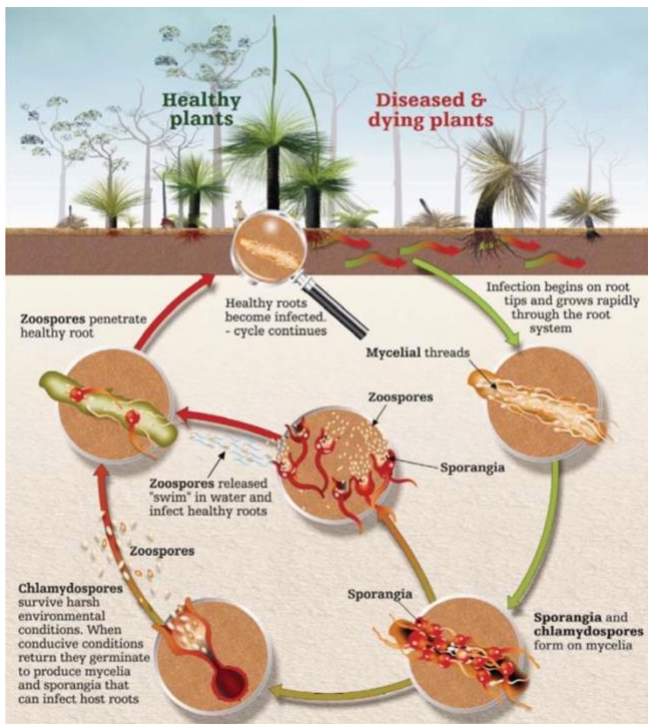
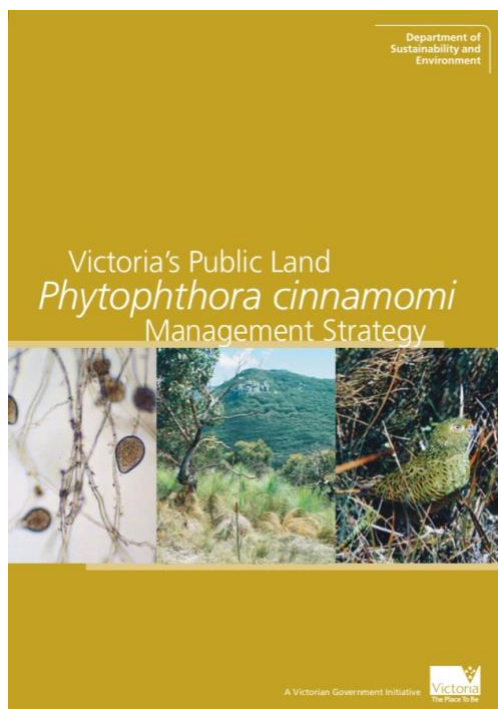


Image from Victoria's Public Land Phytophthora cinnamomi Management Strategy 2004



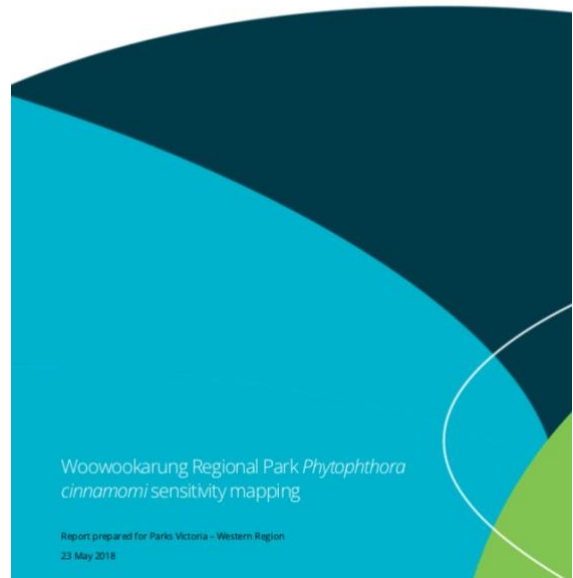
Report courtesy of: http://lakeshub.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Phytophthora_cinnamomi_Strategy_-1.pdf

The strategy provides a management guide for Phytophthora. First step is to map accurately where Phytophthora exists. Then manage access to infected areas with signage, elevated paths or by a rerouting path away from known areas. Restricting access (quarantining) of infected areas is a simple and effective method.

In the recent construction planning phase of the Dementia Friendly Forest Sensory Trail, a side walkway was dropped to avoid a Phytophthora (die back) area.

Phytophthora timeline for Woowookarung Regional Park

- 1974: A report of Phytophthora in the Canadian Forest has surfaced in the Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat records. The report was produced during a push to build an industrial complex on the north end of the Park (see Spikey News Issue 81 September 2021) stating "There was also concern with 'die-back' of Austral grass-trees" and "Mr Brisbane of the Forests Commission was investigating the cause"
- 1996: The Midlands Forest Management Report states that "serious outbreaks of cinnamon fungus have occurred in the southwest of the FMA.... Isolated parts of state forest around Daylesford and Ballarat have small areas of infection"
- 2000's: Local residents noticed ongoing die back of grasstrees in different areas of the forest. One area of concern was die back within Pax Hill.
- 2012: Die back of grasstrees and other flora at the corner of Boundary Rd and Wilson St was noted as a priority item at the first meeting of the FoCC in November 2012. Local enquiries with the Department of Sustainability and Environment went nowhere.
- 2017: Biosis undertook a survey of Phytophthora within the Park for Parks Victoria. The survey identified around 50 dieback sites in the Park with a concentration in the forested area south of the Lookout. Biosis Report



Woowookarung Regional Park Phytophthora cinnamomi sensitivity mapping 2017.

The report can be accessed at: <https://www.focc.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Final-Phytophthora-cinnamomi-report-biosis-Woowookarung-Regional-Park.pdf>

- 2018: Mr David Smith, Forest Biosecurity Officer, Forest Pathologist, Entomologist and Chief Plant Health Officer Unit for Biosecurity, Agriculture, Food and Fibre in the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources was guest presenter at the FoCC forum on Phytophthora on 18th April 2018. See Issue 43 of News Update.

<http://www.focc.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Issue-43-FoCC-April-2018-news-update.pdf>

- 2020/2021: Parks Victoria have been collecting samples of earth from likely sites for phytophthora fungus testing. The test results for 2020 found 5 sites out of twenty infected and the 2021 results are yet to be completed.

10. Bird on the Month

Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Caligavis chrysops*)

You may not have realised it, but chances are you have probably heard the beautiful song of the Yellow-faced Honeyeater. Partly migratory, the Yellow-faced Honeyeater is very vocally conspicuous at this time of year. Like many birds in spring, influxes of Yellow-faced Honeyeater arrive down south to breed, before returning to northern Australia upon autumn. Migratory flocks can number over a thousand, and they intermingle in mixed-species flocks with White-naped Honeyeater.



Image credit: Rob Loveband.

The Yellow-faced Honeyeater is a small—medium-sized (16–18cm) honeyeater that has a similar general body structure to Red Wattlebird, only it's half the size. It has an understated greyish-brown colouration, with a cyanide yellow tint to the primary feathers (i.e., 'finger' feathers), and an eye mask of a bright yellow stripe, bordered by black, running horizontally through the eye. Their call is described as a brisk 'chickup' or 'chip chip', while their song is a rollicking, descending 'WHIT-chiwit-chiwickup'. In flight, they emit a soft 'clip clip' or 'dep' call.

Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, like most honeyeaters, are primarily nectarivores (nectar-eaters) and insectivores (insect-eaters) by diet. These birds may forage solitarily or in small flocks, as they probe flowers for nectar and pollen, and glean insects from foliage of shrubs or the overstorey canopy. Cheeky and resourceful, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters may even adopt the foraging strategy of picking insects out of spiderwebs. Fruits (frugivory) and seeds (granivory), including those of native mistletoes, may also make up a small component of the diet.

Yellow-faced Honeyeaters inhabit forests, woodlands, gardens, and streetscapes through much of eastern Australia. They nest in hedges, vines, and shrubs, and the nest is a finely woven cup of moss. Females, which are slighter smaller than males but

otherwise look identical, construct the nest and incubate the eggs. Males defend the breeding territory, and both parents feed the dependent young. Up to five different cuckoo species may parasitise Yellow-faced Honeyeaters' nests, leaving the surrogate parent duties of cuckoo chicks to the honeyeaters.



Image credit: Rob Loveband

Next time you stroll through Woookarung Regional Park or other local forest patch, garden or streetscape, keep an ear out for the 'chip chip' call of the charming Yellow-faced Honeyeater. And if you're new to birding, perhaps the Yellow-faced Honeyeater can be a starting point into many other obscure honeyeaters that take on a diverse array of sizes, shapes and colours.

Bird on the month is authored by Joel, FoCC resident birder.

11. Park works

Dementia Trail walkways are now open and popular. A record 31 cars were at the entrance car park on Thursday 25th 2021. Up until Monday November 29th 9011 visitors have been on the trail.

In the final work at the beginning of the month, three elevated walkways were opened. Granite sand was placed on the first two loops of the trail which is a better surface for visitors with wheelchairs or wheely walkers



Granite sand path and walkway near the Dementia trail entrance. Image 30th October 2021.

12. Wildflower Guide

Copies of the guide may be obtained from:

- Community Bank at Buninyong (Bendigo Bank).
- Buninyong Information Centre
- Leigh Catchment Group
- Friends of Canadian Corridor

13. Disa removal by Ballarat U3A Orchid Group

Recently members of the native orchid class from the Ballarat U3A spent time learning how to identify and remove the highly invasive South African orchid (Disa bracteata) with minimal disturbance to the native flora, especially the native orchids.



The South African orchid is assumed to have been accidentally introduced to WA in the 1940's, spread to South Australia in the 1980's, and to Victoria about 1995. In Woowookarung it was probably brought in on heavy equipment used in the pine plantations.

It's a challenge to remove this invader as it self-pollinates, spreads easily, and the corms tend to separate underground. Because it grows amongst the native vegetation, its removal also requires careful stepping to ensure natives are not trampled in the process.



U3A members hard at work!

14. FoCC response to the Council question time changes.

The FoCC joined other groups in voicing their concern about question time at Council meetings being reduced to "officer read questions only". The FoCC made an online presentation to the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday 20th October arguing: *Questions and presentations should be made in person and that the opportunity for Councillors to engage with presenters was hallmark of an open and democratic Council.* Fortunately, the Councillors and officers realised that closing off access to Council was not a good move and have now returned to the original question time procedures. The only change, is to give notice of attendance the day before and provide a written version of the question or presentation to be made. This is a reasonable and sensible change. The submission by the FoCC to Council on November 24th said: "The Friends believe the proposed changes will maintain the question time as an opportunity for questioners to engage directly with Council whilst the submitting of written questions before the meeting will allow time for the Council to gather a response."

15. Planting Day at Greenhill Rd

Recently a group of residents met to revegetate/regenerate a little-known council reserve of 500 sq m on the corner of Greenhill Rd and Timbertop Drive, Mt Helen. The process began three months ago with the removal of Cape Broom which council transported off site. Then an employee from noxious weeds arrived to spray the gorse and the next day he delivered 15 tubes. Council responded to a request for another 50 tubes and FoCC provided the stakes and bags. A letterbox drop explained the project and invited residents to participate. On Sunday morning 21 November in glorious weather 14 willing workers began the transformation which took less than 2 hours. Most people had not met before and some did not know the reserve existed.

All it took was some initiative, a bit of digging and a few phone calls to BCC. Every person at Council made contact and visited the site. Perhaps it was the combination of who was asked and how they were approached that added up to a win-win for the environment and a sense of community for us.



Working tree planters James, Sam and Michael. Image courtesy Joan 21st November 2021.

16. 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:

woowookarung@parks.vic.gov.au

In emergency situations please call 000

If an offender is spotted, please note vehicle registration as vehicle identification is most helpful, plus location and details.

17. Membership

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

Membership forms are available online at or email

focinfo@gmail.com

Current members will receive a membership reminder in the next few days. Those who have already paid will also receive their receipts.

18. 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

The FoCC has ~~841~~ 853 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.

Calendar

Dec 2,3,9,10,16 and 17	Koala monitoring scat search
Dec 3 rd	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 Woowookarung Regional Park and the Canadian Corridor.

The FoCC is a registered Landcare Group with Landcare Victoria Inc and a member of the Leigh Catchment Group. Circulation this issue is ~~810~~ 852. 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



Spikeys 2021 by the numbers at November 17th

Echidnas are prolific diggers. Long-term monitoring at Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Scotia Sanctuary, in southwest New South Wales, suggests one echidna moves about seven tonnes – **about eight trailer loads** – of soil every year. Soil depressions left by echidnas can be up to 50cm wide and 15cm deep. 4 Mar 2021 <https://theconversation.com/dig-this- a-tiny-echidna-moves-8-trailer-loads- of-soil-a-year-helping-tackle-climate- change-155947>

8290 Visitors on the Dementia trail since June 25th 2021

6303 Visitors on the Nature Trail since April 21st 2021

1610 Hours of formal FoCC volunteer time logged. Informal unmeasurable!

1250 Visitors on the Wildflower Walk (750 wildflower guides given out)

851 Facebook friends

818 FoCC Spikey News readers

802 Backyard Bird Count checklists submitted

500 Trees planted in 2021

168 Koalas sighted since 2018, 73 in 2021, 18 since October 1st.

85 FoCC financial members

65 Community organisations involved in the Park/Corridor

62 Spikey News pages circulated

59 Koala scat search volunteers with the University of Melbourne

45 Sample bags supplied to guests at Dementia Trail opening

30 Tree planting volunteers

29 Kilometres of mining water races and 5 sluice fields mapped,

20 Articles across TV, Radio, Ballarat Courier and Ballarat Times and 1000's on social media.

18 Volunteers recycled 1500 stakes and 500 tree guards

15 Meetings with local MP's Councillors, State and Local Govt Department Managers.

12 Powerful Owls recorded. Two breeding pairs

12 Classic cars were located in the park.

9 FoCC committee members

6 Inappropriate development/tree removal objections lodged with the City of Ballarat Statutory Planners (CoB)

4 Postponed Bird Forums and Water Race walks.

3 Detailed submissions to the CoB, on CoB Council question time, Dog Management Plan and dog and cat free Section 173 agreements.

3 City of Ballarat Council meeting presentation/question time

3 Grants: \$5000 from Community Bank Buninyong, \$1500 from Metro Trains Melbourne and \$500 from Landcare.

2 FoCC requested wildlife aerial walkways installed by Regional Roads Victoria on the Midlands Hwy at Mt Buninyong

2 Walk/cycle maps prepared. Grasstree Creek and Pennyweight Gully.

2 City of Ballarat development application planning objection mediation meetings

1 Submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Enquiry into Growth.

1 FoCC General meeting. March 17th 2021 at the Mt Xavier Golf Club. 53 attendees

1 New land acquisition request undertaken by the City of Ballarat. 55 Recreation Road Bushland Reserve

1 Wildflower Brochure with Leigh Catchment Group and Field Naturalist Club of Ballarat & proudly sponsored by Community Bank Buninyong!

1 Inclusion of Wildlife Information on the City of Ballarat web page. <https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/me/pets-and-animals/wildlife>

Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated

Registered number A0097535



Membership Application 2022

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: Bendigo Bank: Friends of Canadian Corridor Inc. BSB 633-000 Account No 184147098. 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