



# FoCC Incorporated

# Spikey News



Linking the community with Woowookarung and the Canadian Corridor  
January 2022 Issue Number 84

## Spikey News features

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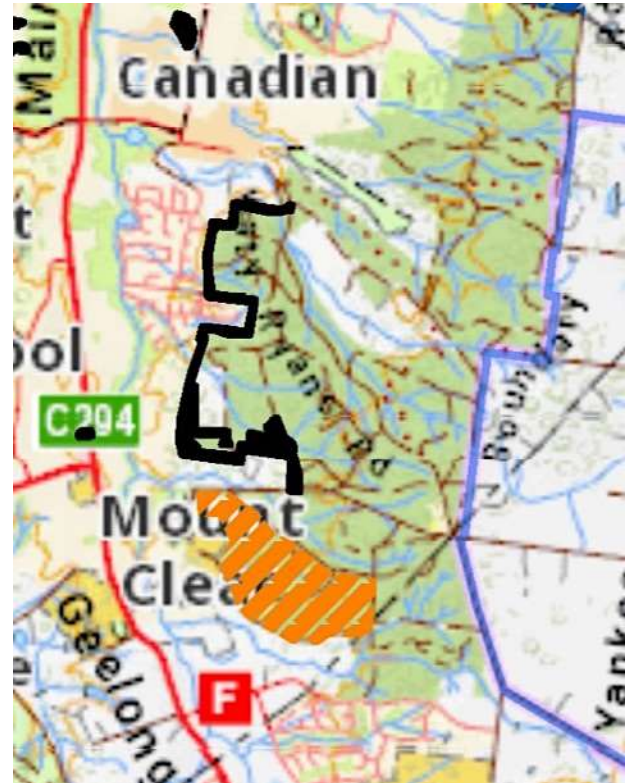
### 1. February General Meeting

The FoCC February general meeting will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> outdoors at the **Dementia Trail shelter**, Katy Ryans Rd Mt Clear.

The agenda is focuses on the FoCC's activities for the coming year with:

- Parks Victoria
- The Bunny Trail and 55 Recreation Rd
- The Ballarat to Buninyong Forest River Loop trail
- General questions and discussion

- Eco Blade Gorse removal in the Dozed Rd and Recreation Road area. (Black lines on map)

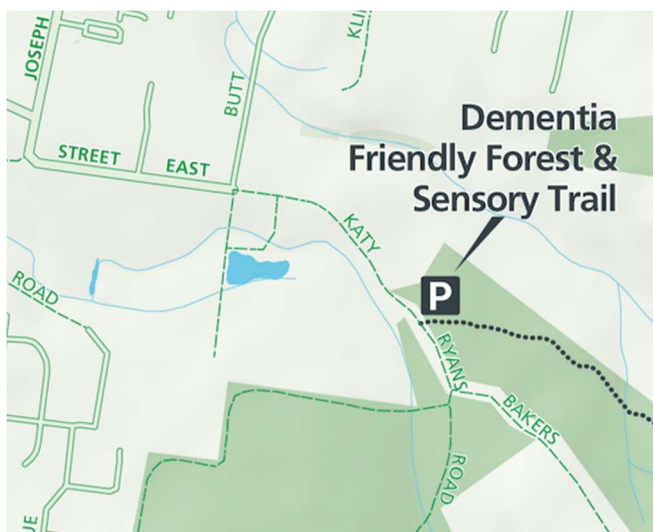


Forest Fire Management map Oct 2021

### Managed burn Preparation



This tree has had the fuel removed from around the base.  
Image 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022



### 2. Fire prevention works take top priority

Fire prevention works by Forest Fire Management Victoria are underway in the Park:

- Preparation for managed burn at the east side of Mt Clear College (Orange shaded area on map)

Around the edge of the planned burn, some trees with hollow bases which may burn and topple over have been removed

**Gorse removal**

The Park contains a significant amount of gorse and broom weeds, mostly in the ex-plantation areas.



Gorse areas 1990.

The 1990 Eureka Orienteers map shows gorse infested areas shaded in green. Thirty years later the gorse is finally getting some well-deserved Eco Blade gorse removal by Forest Fire Management Victoria.

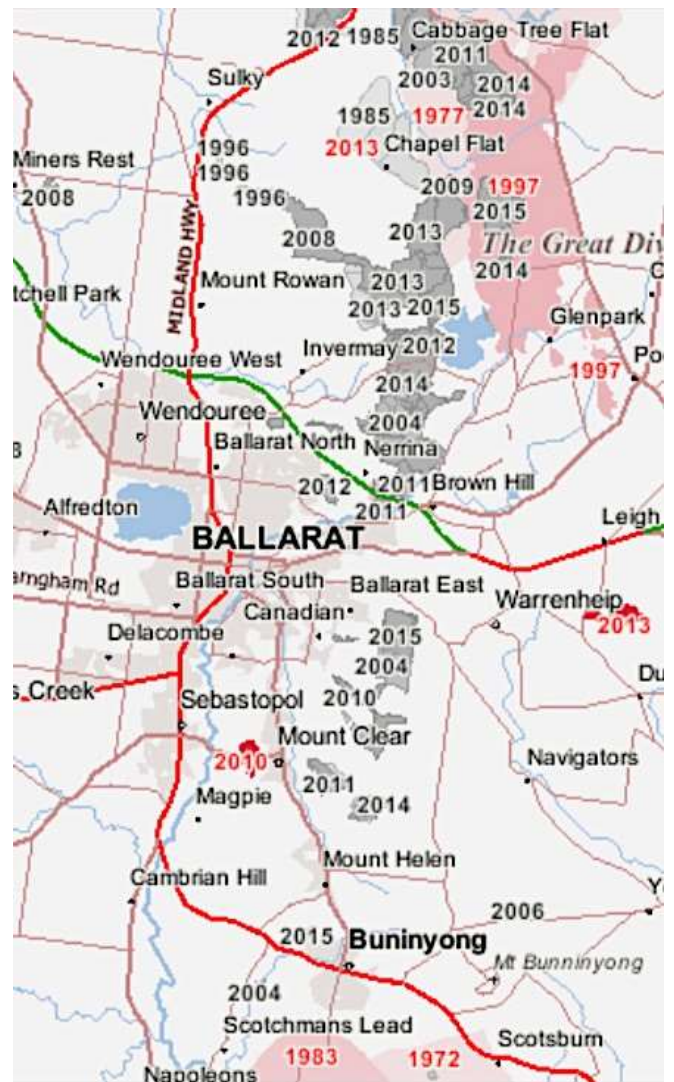


Eco blade gorse removal West of Dozed track. Image 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Eco blade gorse removal along the Parks western boundary south of Sailors Gully. Image courtesy of Rex, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**Major bush fires in Ballarat 1997 to 2019**



Fire History map

FIRE HISTORY (prescribed burns)	
[Dark Grey Box]	2006+
[Medium-Dark Grey Box]	2003-2005
[Medium-Light Grey Box]	2000-2002
[Light Grey Box]	1990-1999
[White Box]	1970-1989
FIRE HISTORY (wildfires)	
[Dark Red Box]	2006+
[Medium-Dark Red Box]	2003-2005
[Medium-Light Red Box]	2000-2002
[Light Red Box]	1990-1999
[Very Light Red Box]	1980-1989
[White Box]	1970-1979

Map of bushfires and managed (prescribed) burns 1970 on.

**3. Koala Monitoring second round**

The Koala monitoring program ran from January to October this year and Louise Jury from Uni of Melbourne will post preliminary results soon. The research requires a second round of monitoring and scat searching begin again in

November and over the summer as the article below details:



Courier article Friday January 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

Full article:

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7597662/findings-of-koala-poo-a-promising-sign-for-ballarat-regional-park/?cs=62>

4. **Bird on the Month**

**Bird of the Month**

White-eared Honeyeater (*Nesoptilotis leucotis*)



Imagine: You're a medium-sized (20-22cm) honeyeater. Spring has sprung in your local forest patch. Your usual inclination towards a solitary existence has dissipated, and you now have a mate. You want to get ahead with bringing the imminent next generation of olive-green juniors forth. How best to do that? The nest. But it can't just be any run-of-the-mill nest. It needs a secret ingredient that elevates it above the rest. Then the answer occurs to you! Wallaby fur! And what better way to obtain wallaby fur than plucking it fresh from a live wallaby. Wally the Swamp Wallaby won't mind – go ahead, help yourself! And maybe go back for seconds?

\*\*\*\*\*

This verbalised logic is an accurate depiction of what White-eared Honeyeaters truly do. But the cheeky antics don't end there. The audacity of White-eared Honeyeaters is such that, apparently, they may resort to plucking hairs off the heads of unsuspecting bushwalkers! Kangaroos, possums, and farm animals may be other targets. Once made, White-eared Honeyeaters are known to perform distraction displays near the nest, to steer predators' attention away from nestlings.



Image credit: Rob Loveband.

White-eared Honeyeater's preferred foraging method of probing insects from bark influences their gravitation towards trees the bark of which peels and flakes. Other food items include nectar gleaned from flowers of the overstorey canopy, manna (i.e. tree sap/exudate), lerp (i.e. a sweet substance, produced by aphid-like bugs called psyllids), honeydew (i.e. another insect by-product), and fruits.

The vocals of White-eared Honeyeater are characterised by 'CHOCKS', 'BEER-BRICKS', 'CHERRYWHEETS', and 'CHITTAGONGS', and one call variant has even been described as 'machine gun-like'.

Next time you wander through Woookarung Regional Park, Union Jack Reserve (Buninyong), or Mount Buninyong Scenic Reserve, look and listen out for the wallaby-grooming bird – and watch your back or maybe wear a hat if you don't wish to have your hair plucked! Better yet, hair clippings and moulted pet fur could be a fair compromise!

*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. Fungi of Woowookarung

### Unruly renegades – Exploring the fungi of Woowookarung

by Alison Pouliot  
at the Eureka Centre  
Stawell St  
Eureka.

7.00pm Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

Tickets by Try Booking. Open March 1st

#### Details



Mycena\_austrororida\_Pseudocyphellaria\_crocata\_MYC0152

Alison Pouliot is an ecologist, author and environmental photographer. Her research spans both northern and southern hemispheres where she is actively involved in fungal research and conservation. Alison lectures across a range of environmental, ecological and photographic themes, but you're most likely to find her out bush with the fungi.



Alison Pouliot

## Unruly renegades – Exploring the fungi of Woowookarung

Although little known, the roots of almost every plant in the Australian landscape are intimately entwined with fungi. These clandestine relationships extend beyond trees to include every orchid and most shrubs and grasses. Symbioses are the secret to success in our highly variable climate and nutrient-deficient soils.

Fungi not only help plants access water and nutrients, but also increase their resistance to drought and disease. They build architecture in soils, aerate them, and allow water to gently percolate to deeper horizons. Despite this, 'the third F' slips through ideas about nature and conservation that focus on flora and fauna.

Unruly fungal renegades contravene the frameworks we use to understand life. However, they might also inspire the innovative thinking needed to navigate an uncertain future.

In this illustrated and interactive seminar Alison will share insights from two decades spent in the forest with fungi, both locally and across hemispheres

## 6. Bird Count results released

### Bird count results released

BY ROCHELLE KIRKHAM

BALLARAT bird-watchers have reported increased sightings of birds in the city's newest regional park, with glimpses of more uncommon species a highlight of a week-long bird count.

Friends of Canadian Corridor completed a list of 13 locations for bird-watching in Woowookarung Regional Park during the Aussie Backyard Bird Count in October. With the release of national and state bird count results last week, leaders of the local project are reflecting on participation and exciting sightings of uncommon birds.

Friends of Canadian Corridor member and keen bird photographer Rob Loveland said he saw many people participating in the bird count at the selected Woowookarung Regional Park locations. He said he noticed an increase in the Rainbow Lorikeet and New Holland Honeyeater in the Woowookarung area.

Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2021 Victorian results show the Rainbow Lorikeet was the most sighted bird from October 12 to



LOOK OUT: Birdlife Ballarat branch secretary Roy Chester participated in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. Picture: Adam Trotter

53. Birdlife Ballarat branch secretary Roy Chester said sightings of the lorikeet were not as numerous in this area as the results suggest.

"The Rainbow Lorikeets

have a peak population in November but then usually arrive in greater numbers," he said.

The Australian Magpie

Noisy Miner, Red Wattlebird

and Scipion-crested Cuckoo were also on the list of Victoria's most common birds. The New Holland Honeyeater came in at 15.

"I was very pleased to see and photograph the Square-

tailed Kite and the Blue-winged Parrot near the new Dunderberg Trail during the count," Mr Loveland said.

There were 206 sightings of the Blue-winged Parrot across Victoria, ranking at 130 on the list of most sighted birds.

The results show there were only 16 sightings of the Square-tailed Kite in Victoria, coming in at 288.

More than 106,700 participating in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count in 2021 across Australia, including 2500 schools, counting at most five million birds and 623 species.

Friends of Canadian Corridor and Birdlife Ballarat branch member Joel Ellis said while the species recorded provided crucial insights, he believed participants' numbers in citizen science were of greatest importance.

"There are limitations in the time and space researchers can cover in surveillance of birds and other wildlife, so it is important that we fill in the gaps with opportunistic observations by amateurs on the ground," he said.

"Community participation serves to raise awareness and generate interest in the species with which we share a space. Ultimately it and when birds loom large on the public conscience, individually and collectively, we are more likely to enact more sustainable behaviours and care about our impacts on the environment."

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2021 national results showed one of Australia's least popular birds, the Common Myna dropped out of the top 10 for the first time since the count started in 2014. Bird experts at Birdlife Australia have been tabulating data and analysing results from the count.

Mr Chester said the results captured bird populations for one week of the year and it would be valuable to conduct more frequent national counts to see changes throughout the year. He said the count raised questions about bird populations in Ballarat and the movement of birds across the state. Action Plan for Australian Birds shows one in six Australian birds are threatened.

Ballarat Courier 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7557184/bird-sightings-increase-in-woowookarung-regional-park/>

## 7. Park works

Mt Clear Mountain Bike track repairs were carried at the start of December out by Parks Victoria personnel.



Erosion and short cut



Repaired trail. Images 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

**Dementia Forest and Sensory Adventure Trail**

8 THE COURIER Thursday December 14, 2021

**Park's interactive addition**

Sensory trail in Woowookarung

BY MICHELLE SMITH

**BALLARAT'S** Dementia-friendly Forest and Sensory Trail in Woowookarung Regional Park will come to life in a different dimension after Federation University IT students developed a program of interactive technology and storytelling.

Final year Bachelor of Information Technology students Seth Leslie and Kurt Horsey have developed a technology and story to help evoke positive memories, feelings and sensations for people living with dementia and other users of the trail.

The project uses QR codes, placed near life-like nature animals, which when scanned link to a website featuring information about the animals and the sounds they make.

They can also take part in an interactive story about the Nanaa Kookaburra that Mr Leslie wrote and narrated. The Nanaa Kookaburra story leads users along the path through the bush.

Nanaa Kookaburra does not know where she is and needs the help of her animal friends to find her way home.

The story draws users



TRAIL: Federation University Bachelor of IT students Kurt Horsey and Seth Leslie with Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat chair Anne Tudor. Picture supplied

along the trail as they must find all the animals to complete the story, and receive a virtual congratulation.

"Seth and Kurt have spent an enormous amount of time on this project and have produced a high quality technical, professional and valuable human interest story," said Anne Tudor, chair of the Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat.

Mr Tudor said sensory experiences like the interactive forest trail could be incredibly beneficial for people with dementia and enjoyed by children, families and people of all ages.

"They have created something special which will be enjoyed by the young and old as young and those impacted or not by dementia."

Federation University senior lecturer and program coordinator Dr Kathleen Kough said the project provided the students with an opportunity to apply the skills they developed in their degree to a real problem.

"The project is an excellent example of how the work we do in Federation makes a positive impact on the communities we serve," she said.

Both students enjoyed the chance to apply their skills as well as write and narrate a fun interactive story that will have real benefits for people living with dementia," Mr Leslie said.

"The project has helped me enhance my technical and non-technical skills while allowing me the chance to give back to the community in a positive way," Mr Horsey said.

Woowookarung Regional Park was established in 2017 in the Canadian forest corridor and within a year the pioneering dementia trail was being planned.

The opening Courtesy of the Courier. 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

collaboration with Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance and Parks Victoria.

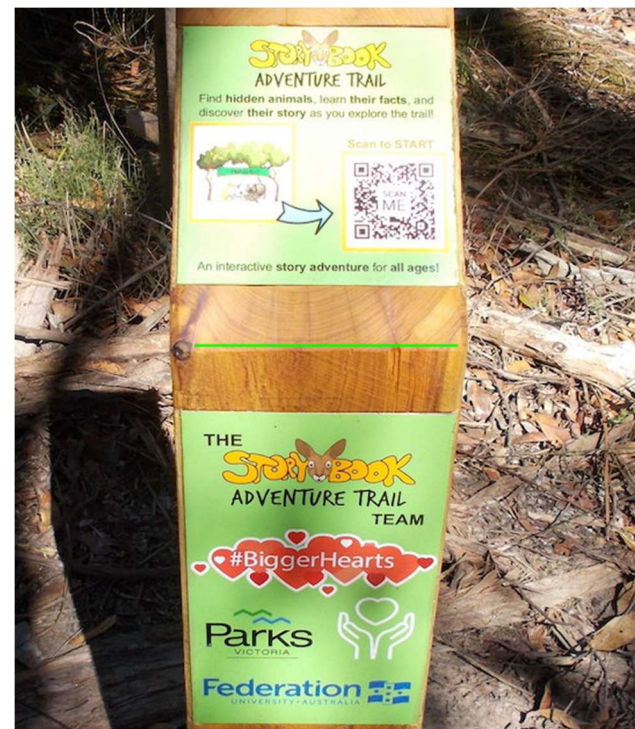
The trail has a number of posts loaded with QR codes to explore.

Read the article at:

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7546000/interactive-addition-to-sensory-trail/>



Flowering Xanthorrhoea Minor grasstrees at the Dementia Trail entrance.



The adventure trail QR code post.

A new innovative adventure trail has been developed by Federation University Students Seth and Kurt in

**8. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas at the Lookout**



A rather "cool" Christmas get together at the Lookout. Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021.

**9. Vandals attack Grasstrees**

A large number of grasstrees were vandalised in the northern part of the Park. It is hoped the grasstrees will recover.



Damaged Grass Trees: Image 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### 10. **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)

In emergency situations please call 000

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

#### 11. **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 or email

[focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

Nearly fifty wonderful members have renewed and reminder notices will follow this month's Spikey News edition.

New members are most welcome. A membership form can be found below. Note change of Bank details for 2022.

#### 12. **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)

The FoCC has ~~841~~ 880 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.

#### 13. **2022 Proposed Calendar**

The calendar was prepared by the FoCC committee. After many cancellations over the past two years it is hoped, Covid permitting, the activities will proceed.

February 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm FoCC general meeting Agenda: Park Forest River trail update and general discussion. Venue: Dementia Trail shelter Katy Ryans Rd Mt Clear.
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Clean Up Australia Day.</b> 10.00am Sunday Venue to be announced.
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Buninyong Sustainability Festival</b> at Royal Park Buninyong.
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Unruly renegades – Exploring the fungi of Woovookarung</b> , presentation with Alison Pouliot at the Eureka Centre Ballarat.
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	General meeting - Guest speaker TBA
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Heritage Week Water Race walk</b>
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birds Forum</b> with “Birdman” Sean Dooley at the Eureka Centre
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>500 Tree planting</b> – Cnr of Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting – Guest speaker TBA
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tree identification</b> slow walk.
October 17 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Great Australian Backyard Bird count</b>
October 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildflower walk</b>
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	FoCC Annual meeting
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	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 a member of the Leigh Catchment Group. Circulation this issue is 852 863. 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.

**Web -** [www.focc.asn.au](http://www.focc.asn.au) **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/>

Unsubscribe by emailing the editor [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

# Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated



Registered number A0097535

## Membership Application 2022

Individual membership of the FoCC runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:focinfo@gmail.com">focinfo@gmail.com</a> 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. <b>BSB</b> 633-000 <b>Account No</b> 184147098. Note: Please add <b>your name</b> to the bank transfer and email <a href="mailto:focinfo@gmail.com">focinfo@gmail.com</a> 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.

<b>Date Received:</b>
\$
<b>Receipt No</b>