



FoCC Incorporated

Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor
February 2022 Issue Number 85

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1. February General Meeting

The FoCC's first general meeting for almost a year occurred when a good gathering of Friends met on Wednesday evening Feb 16th at the Dementia Trail shelter.

Guest Speaker, Parks Victoria Ranger Alex Schipperen outlined the successes achieved in the Park over the past year and what is planned for this year:

- Successful construction of the Grasstree Nature Trail and the Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail in 2021
- Ongoing woody weed removal, such as gorse and broom beginning in 2017. Expenditure so far is \$200k.
- Further Phytophthora (die back) testing has been undertaken over the past months. Preliminary results are showing some expansion of phytophthora sites in the Park. Die back of Grasstrees is occurring in new areas.
- This year the "Ten Thousand step trail" will be completed. This trail extension will begin at the end of the Nature Trail at Katy Ryans Rd and run via Baileys Rd and west of Dozed Rd back to the Dementia Trail car park, thus completing a complete loop. The Ten Thousand step trail was identified in the Park's 2018 Strategic Directions plan.
- Parks Vic are advertising for a Project Officer to work with the community and agencies in the Woookarung Regional Park for the purpose of the delivery of activities including Healthy Parks Healthy People, Citizen Science projects, the Ten Thousand step

trail, and a vision impaired speciality loop trail are amongst the duties.

Info at www.careers.vic.gov.au

- Also discussed at the meeting was an update of the proposed Bunny Trail project at 55 Recreation Rd and the Ballarat to Buninyong Forest River Loop which runs via the Bunny Trail.



Socially distanced friends hearing the latest from Parks Victoria's Alex Schipperen.

2. Clean up Australia Day



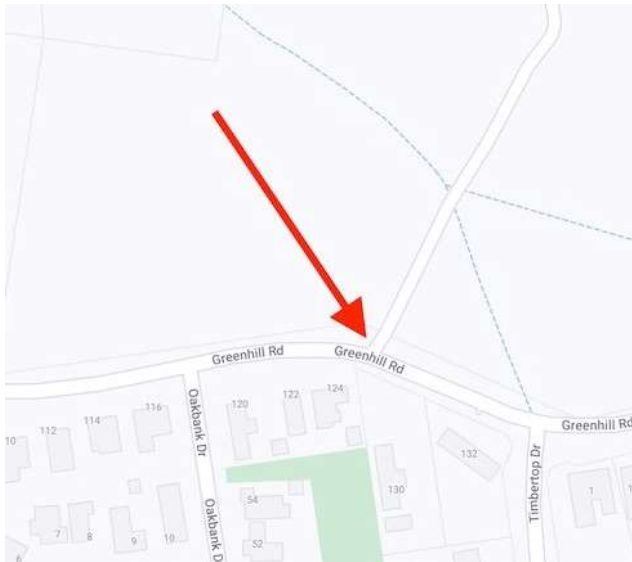
The FoCC is hosting Clean Up Australia Day on Greenhills Rd Mt Helen. Meeting at the water easement gate. Map below and signs from Geelong Rd and Bell Avenue.

The clean-up will be on Sunday March 6th and begin at 10 am and conclude at midday. All welcome.

Hopefully the bushland and roadsides around Greenhill Rd, adjacent trails and tracks will get a good clean. Wear solid footwear and long trousers. Gloves and bags provided.

Other nearby Clean Up Australia day sites are:
<https://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/join-a-clean-up>

- Barkly Square
- Mullawallah Wetlands
- Palentino Place Brown Hill
- The Chase Alfredton
- Victoria Park
- White Flat Oval
- Woovookarung Regional Park FoCC
- Yarrowee River Redan
- Yarrowee Creek Alfredton
- Yarrowee Creek White Flat



Map of FoCC Greenhill Rd Mt Helen meeting point for the FoCC Clean Up Australia event

Info focinfo@gmail.com

3. City Councillors and Executives tour the Dementia Trail

On February 3rd Parks Victoria hosted a visit by City of Ballarat Councillors and Executive Officers to the Dementia Trail.

The purpose of the hosting was to provide a first-hand look at the Dementia Trail and to be appraised of the soon to start 10000 step trail construction by Parks Victoria. Discussion also covered improving the connections between the City and the Park.



Mayor Dam Moloney, Area Ranger Siobhan Rogan, CEO Evan King, Parks Victoria and CoB officers at the Stone Circle. Image February 3rd 2022.

4. Fungi of Woovookarung

Unruly renegades – Exploring the fungi of Woovookarung

by Alison Pouliot
at the Eureka Centre
Stawell St
Eureka.

7.00pm Wednesday March 30th 2022

Tickets by Try Booking. Open March 1st

at

<https://www.trybooking.com/BXHOS>



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

5. Bird of the Month

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*)

“Welcome Swallow dip and swing... take their cue from the slightest thing...!” So remarkable are the aerobatics of these long-winged, fork-tailed swallows as they energetically ‘hawk’ insects out of the sky – that they would achieve the high honour of lyrical inspiration in iconic Australian musician Bernard Fanning’s “Wish You Well”. Quite a feather in the cap of Welcome Swallows!



Image credit: Rob Loveband.

With metallic blue-black upperparts, and an orangey chestnut face, throat and breast, the Welcome Swallow (15cm) is cute, common and unmistakable in much of its geographic range (including here in the Corridor). An inhabitant of farmlands, grasslands, open woodlands, forests, watercourses, and even cities, Welcome Swallows are quite adaptable. So adaptable that it is commonplace

for them to nest in the eaves/rafters of verandas, sheds, and bridges, while they also regularly perch on powerlines and barbed wire fences. Cavernous trees, overhanging banks, and cliff cavities are alternative nest/roost sites. The nest is an open cup of mud and grass, lined with feathers and fur. Mated pairs often have two broods per breeding season, with clutch sizes of 2-5 eggs.

Interestingly, to help funnel aerial insects into their wide, gaping mouths, Welcome Swallows possess short bristles surrounding the bill – these bristles also doubling up as a mechanism for protecting their eyes during flight. And that name? The ‘Welcome’ is derived from the delight early sailors would feel when the sight of the swallows signalled land nearby.

Next time you wander through parts of Woowookarung Regional Park, bordered farmland, or a clearing/open expanse, keep an eye out and maybe you will be in the right place at the right time to witness the aerobatics of Welcome Swallows – and be grateful that you didn’t have to endure months of seasickness to see them!

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. Joel has studied birds up to Honours degree level, interns as an ecological consultant (ornithologist), and is a member of BirdLife Australia (Ballarat branch).

6. Development proposal at Haymes Rd Mt Clear

A proposal to develop the property at 43 Haymes Rd has been added to the City of Ballarat planning applications eservices website.

<https://eservices.ballarat.vic.gov.au/ePathway/Production/Web/GeneralEnquiry/EnquiryDetailView.aspx?id=1492379>

The application has been expected for some time. What was not expected was a plan that proposes to remove 2.7 Hectares of Koala Habitat as identified under the ES05 overlay on the land. Local residents have until March 10th to lodge objections. A group of concerned Haymes Rd residents can be contacted at:

keephaymesbeautiful@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/keephaymesbeautiful

7. Draft Victorian Koala strategy released

The Victorian Government has released the long-awaited draft Victorian Government Koala Management Strategy as follows:

“The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change has released the draft Victorian Koala Management Strategy for public consultation via the

Engage Victoria website

at: <http://engage.vic.gov.au/VKMS>

On the website you can download the draft strategy and provide feedback on it through the survey tool.

The public consultation period will run from 21 February 2022 until 3 April 2022.

Please share the link with your koala network as you see fit, we are keen to get feedback from as many people as possible.

Initial reading of the strategy has some very good intentions, particularly the proposal to undertake Genetic testing of Koala because of the concern many of Victoria's Koalas all originate from a very small gene pool.

However, the strategy does not consider:

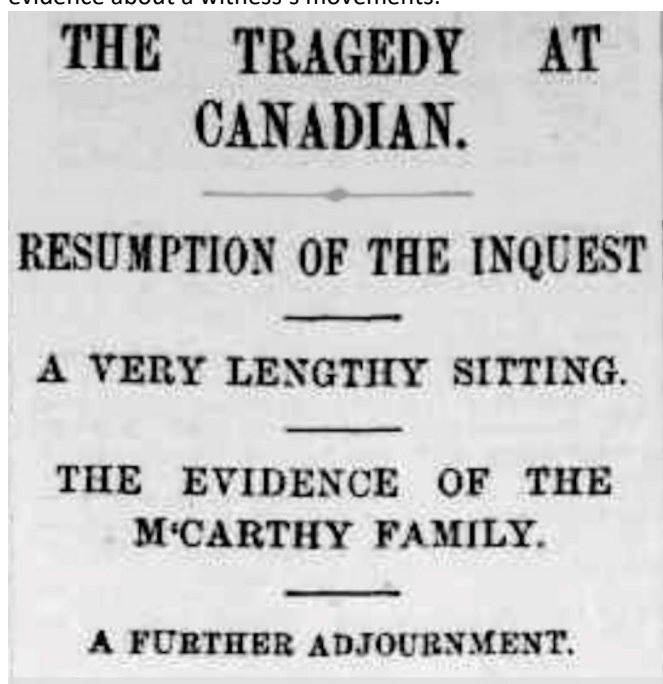
- the lessons learnt from Ballarat's Koala Plan of Management strategy
- the encroachment of peri urban growth into Koala habitat
- the number of the injuries to Koalas on peri urban roads.

Responses are due by April 3rd. The FoCC will consider an appropriate reply. Stay tuned.

8. Has the Katy Ryan mystery been solved?

The origins of the name Katy Ryans Rd has always had a bit of mystery about who was Katy Ryan. In the 1880's Ryans owned the lot on the corner of Elsworth St and Katy Ryans Rd just before the Dementia trail.

In 1940 Ryans wood yard burnt down at the same site. Clever sleuthing by Colin uncovered the possible identity of Katy Ryan. According to the Ballarat Star on March 31st 1896, "The tragedy at Canadian" was the headline for an "Inquest concerning the death of the woman Johanna McCarthy who was brutally murdered at Canadian " And "Katy Ryan a spinster residing at Canadian" gave evidence about a witness's movements.



<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/207483416>

9. Koala Gallery

Recent Koala sightings images are below. Ten images out of the twenty sightings for the period over Christmas to now..

If you see or hear a Koala, please send the information containing the when where and how to: focinfo@gmail.com. Images are gold!



Dec 1 2021at Scotsburn
Courtesy of Sue



Dec 24 2021 Katy Ryans
Rd Courtesy of Rob



Dec 24 2021 Boundary Rd.
An unusual stance, courtesy
of Peter.



Dec 27 2021. Hard to see
Sailors Gully. Courtesy of
Rob



Jan 7th Timbertop Mt Helen.
Courtesy Geoff



Jan 8th Greenhill Rd Mt
Helen. Courtesy of Calvin



Jan 12th Dementia Trail.
Courtesy of Mikaela



Jan 20th Katy Ryans Rd
Courtesy of Rob.



Jan 24th 2022 Grevillea Drive Enfield. Courtesy of Hayley.



28 Jan 2022 Koala trapped beside an unfriendly colorbond fence. The Koala escaped in another direction. Courtesy of Rob.



This is the time of maximum clearing. 1970 image

10. Bird Forum date change

The FoCC is hosting a “Birds” Forum on **Wednesday 17th August 2022** 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.

More details soon

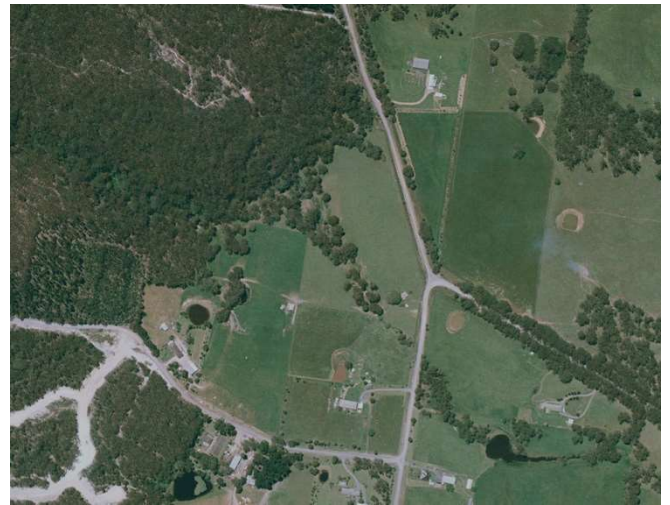
11. Habitat changes over the years

The story of the forest over the years has been denuding and upending of the forest land during the Goldrush, the constant cutting, the adding of plantations and constant firewood collection over the years.

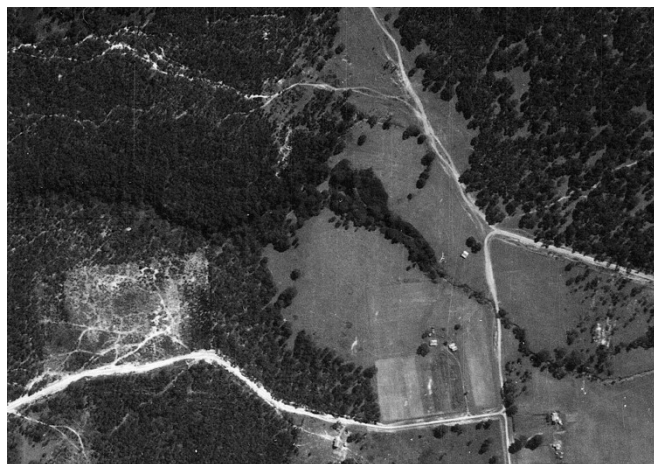
In spite of the earlier denuding, logging and clearing, since the 1970’s there has been a renaissance of the forest.

The four images below show the steady changes of habitat since 1934, 1970, 1990 and 2021.

Of course, the forest edges are still under attack, as the development proposal to remove 2.7 hectares of forest at Haymes Rd earlier in this edition shows.



The clearing has stopped and so has the firewood and logging extraction. 1990 image



1934 image of Greenhill Rd and Boundary Rd
The bare site of the left hand lower is the old Greenhill School plantation site. The forest on the upper right-hand side was cleared before 1970 as the following image shows.

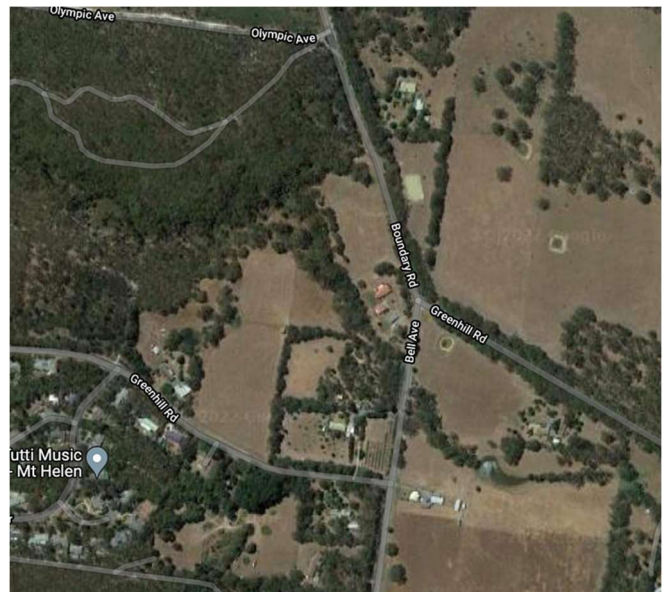


Image courtesy Google 2021

Today private residences have created new revegetation sites and the forest has thickened considerably. A rough rule says that trees with hollows are likely to be over 100 years old. Apart from the plantation removal in 2012 the sections of the old forest were last logged around

the mid 1970's. The non-plantation forest has now had forty years of relatively undisturbed regrowth. There are now parts of the Park with more older trees with habitat hollows such as sections of the forest adjacent to the Gorge, south of the Lookout, and the northern block north of Clayton St. These forest sections have significant areas of older growth and good tree hollow habitat, particularly along little watercourses.

12. 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

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.

13. Useful information

- **Parks Victoria Woovookarung email address:**
woovookarung@parks.vic.gov.au

- **City of Ballarat wildlife information:**

<https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/me/pets-and-animals/wildlife>

- **DELWP wildlife issues reporting information**

Report wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers Victoria on **1800 333 000**.

Report any wildlife at immediate risk of deliberate harm or neglect to **136 186**. Other matters relating to wildlife and wildlife management should use the **136 186** too.

The Help for Injured Wildlife tool will help you locate and contact the closest relevant wildlife carers and rescue and rehabilitation organisations to help the injured wildlife. The main point to reiterate is for any matters related to wildlife crime, to call Crime Stoppers.

14. 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

Over 60 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.

15. FoCC facebook and webpage

Joel is at now overseeing the FoCC Facebook page. www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/

Rob is overseeing the webpage webmaster@focc.asn.au

The FoCC has 884 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.

16. 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.

March 6 th	Clean Up Australia Day. 10.00am Sunday March 6 th at Greenhill Rd Mt Helen.
March 20 th	Buninyong Sustainability Festival at Royal Park Buninyong.
March 30 th	Unruly renegades – Exploring the fungi of Woovookarung , presentation with Alison Pouliot at the Eureka Centre Ballarat. https://www.trybooking.com/BXHOS
April 20 th	General meeting – Guest speaker TBA
April late	Sky gazing event in conjunction with Ballarat Observatory
May 22 nd	Heritage Week Water Race walk
June 15 th	General Meeting – Guest speaker TBA
August 7 th	500 Tree planting – Cnr of Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd
August 17 th	Birds Forum with “Birdman” Sean Dooley at the Eureka Centre
August 27 th	Tree identification slow walk.
October 17 th to 23 rd	Great Australian Backyard Bird count
October 23 rd to 30 th	7th Annual Wildflower walk
November 16 th	FoCC Annual meeting
December 2 nd	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 863 867. 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

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