



FoCC Incorporated Spikey News



Linking the community with Woovookarung and the Canadian Corridor
March 2022 Issue Number 86

Spikey News features

1. Exploring the Fungi of Woovookarung
2. Clean Up Australia Day
3. City of Ballarat advertises for Planners
4. Bird of the Month
5. Development proposal at Haymes Rd Mt Clear
6. Park Works – Planned burn
7. Draft Victorian Koala Strategy consultation
8. Koala sightings
9. Birds Forum date change
10. Buninyong Smart Living and Building Festival
11. Pennyweight Gully Trail works
12. The Mount Clear Bike Path Circa 1975-6
13. Trees gone
14. The Canadian Forest story, another chapter
15. Useful information
16. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals
17. Membership
18. Facebook and Web
19. Proposed calendar

1. Fungi of Woovookarung

Exploring the fungi of Woovookarung

Well known Naturalist and Fungi Expert, Alison Pouliot presented a stunning display of fungi of Woovookarung at the Eureka Centre on Wednesday March 30th 2022.

Woovookarung is home to many varieties of Fungi and Alison encouraged locals to take time and look carefully at what is growing in the Forest.

Alison explained the role of fungi in tree and plant health and how fungi are every important in keeping soil and flora healthy.

In her view the worst thing a land owner can do is to rake vegetated areas of the leaves and litter which are where the fungi thrive. If the Fungi are thriving then the trees and plants will thrive also

“Alison was a bit like a fungi rockstar and had the full house audience intrigued!” attendee Cr Coates said in a comment on Facebook.



Alison Pouliot at the Eureka Centre March 30th 2022



Stunning fungi

2. Clean up Australia Day

The FoCC hosted Clean Up Australia Day along Greenhills Rd Mt Helen on Sunday March 6th

The adjacent Park bushland around Greenhill Rd, adjacent trails and tracks all got a good clean.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers.



Clean up Australia Day volunteers and collected bags of rubbish.

3. City of Ballarat advertises for Planners

The ad below appeared in a recent Age newspaper. The City of Ballarat is looking for a range of planners for the city.

A regional lifestyle with big city possibilities.

With modern flexible working conditions, a talented and multi-faceted planning team, and unrivalled career opportunities, now is the time to consider the City of Ballarat for your next career move in urban planning.

As one of Australia's fastest growing regional cities, the City of Ballarat has several flexible positions available within its collaborative planning unit. We are offering opportunities to work across our statutory, strategic and growth areas projects, including:

- » New built form planning controls within Ballarat's CBD,
- » Settlement and housing strategies,
- » Assessments for major developments,
- » Growth Area Precinct Structure Planning,
- » Neighbourhood Character Studies,
- » A strong focus on improving heritage, urban design and ESD outcomes.

**No formal interviews
No rigorous processes**
Just open, honest discussion about you, your ambitions and Ballarat.

Interested?
Send your CV to Applications@ballarat.vic.gov.au

CITY OF BALLARAT

The Age March 2022

Featured as the backdrop to the ad is our own Woowookarung Regional Park and the Canadian Corridor. Hopefully the City will recruit some environmentally sound planners and restart the stalled "Living Corridors Plan" Also waiting for the planners to get to work, is the Ballarat East Township Plan which began with community consultation in late 2015 and was in draft form in 2018 and has been gathering dust ever since. Meanwhile the developers keep on rolling over the east.

4. Bird of the Month VII

Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*)

Not familiar with Grey Butcherbird? Visualise a bird that looks like a hybrid of Australian Magpie and Laughing Kookaburra. Firstly, Grey Butcherbird resembles Australian Magpie with its black, white and grey plumage, and bill colouration (apart from the hooked tip that magpies lack),

piping vocalisations and mimicry, and ancestry. Secondly, Grey Butcherbird resembles Laughing Kookaburra in their large, heavy bill, and predatory instincts (pouncing from a perch-start on lizards, small birds and insects). In fact, the physical similarities to kookaburras are such that the immature (i.e. adolescent) Grey Butcherbird is described as "... resembles a 'little kookaburra'" in Pizzey & Knight's 'Birds of Australia' field guide. Size-wise, Grey Butcherbirds, at 24-30cm, are roughly the length of a Rainbow Lorikeet.



Image 1 and 2 credit: Rob Loveband.

Inhabiting eucalypt forests and woodlands; parks, gardens, golf courses; and treed watercourses, roadsides and

shelterbelts; Grey Butcherbirds occur in singles, pairs and family parties. Often heard before, or rather than, seen, the vocalisations are described as “loud, mellow”, “vigorous” piping, with “varying phrases”, and also “staccato and rollicking” shrieks in aggression.

Grey Butcherbirds are aggressive near the nest, with both sexes fiercely defending a clutch of 3-5 eggs, perhaps even diving on intruders. The female incubates the eggs, and mature offspring may remain in the parents’ territory for up to a year post-maturity, to help rear the following year’s brood. Uneaten food – which, in addition to aforementioned animal prey, also includes fruits and seeds – may be wedged in a forked branch or impaled on a pointy branch, a la butcher’s hook; hence, the name ‘butcherbird’.

Next time you wander through Woookarung Regional Park, or another forest, park or garden in the Corridor, keep an ear out for the melodic piping of the kookaburra-like cousin of the magpie – and be sure to refrain from venturing too close to its nest!

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) ‘Indigenous [Species] of Southern Ballarat’ trilogy of 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).

5. Development proposal at Haymes Rd Mt Clear

A proposal to develop the property at 43 Haymes Rd was advertised in early March. The development proposed the destruction of 2.7 hectares of Koala habitat. The property contains a significant amount of mapped Koala habitat which has been ignored in the proposal.

Local residents have banded together to object to the proposed destruction and to urge the council and developer to come up with a sensible plan. Further information at: keephaymesbeautiful@gmail.com and www.facebook.com/groups/keephaymesbeautiful

The FoCC has lodged an objection based on the failure of the developer to apply the Ballarat Planning Schemes properly.

The property is zoned Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) and is available to be subdivided, however any subdivision must comply with the Ballarat Planning Schemes KOALA AND KOALA HABITAT PROTECTION 22.04 clauses. Bushfire overlay requirements also apply.

The property is well known for Koalas as shown on the map on page 5 headed 8. Koala Sightings.

The proposed development is on the west side of 55 Recreation Rd, the City of Ballarat’s new Bushland Reserve and site of the FoCC Bunny Trail.

On Saturday March 19th local residents viewed the Bunny trail site and walked through to the Woookarung Regional Park end.



Local residents at the Woookarung Regional Park end of the Bunny Trail at 55 Recreation Rd Mt Clear. Image 19th March 2022

6. Park Works – Planned burn

Forest Fire Management began the planned burn on Saturday March 13th and continued for a couple of days.



Green shoots on wallaby grass already. Image March 31st 2022



A fairly cool burn judging by this Grass tree. Image March 31st 2022

7. Draft Victorian Koala strategy consultation

The Victorian Government has released the long-awaited draft Victorian Government Koala Management Strategy in late February.

The FoCC committee has made a response to the Strategy. The FoCC view is that 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. Things that the FoCC believes would make a difference to Ballarat's Koalas are:

- *The provision of clear guidelines, and a process to apply those guidelines, to have vehicle speed limits reduced in Koala habitat areas.*
- *The provision of clear guidelines, and a process to apply those guidelines, to have dog free or dog restrictions applied as a "must do" - not as an optional matter in Koala habitat areas.*
- *By way of regulation, the involvement of DELWP in the protection of Koala habitat. DELWP should be complimenting the City of Ballarat Koala Plan of Management by recognising the importance of the City of Ballarat Koala Habitat Overlay ES05. DELWP should be keen to support any other municipal area that may in the future have such an overlay or similar overlay.*
- *Ensuring that current regulations protecting Koala habitat, such as the City of Ballarat's ES05 overlay, are complied with by making sure the planning regulations are in the "must comply" category not the weaker "should comply".*
- *Develop new state wide Koala habitat protection rules that include DELWP and Catchment Management authorities, as well as Road authorities.*

The Koala strategy is open for comment until April 3 at the Engage Victoria website: <http://engage.vic.gov.au/VKMS>

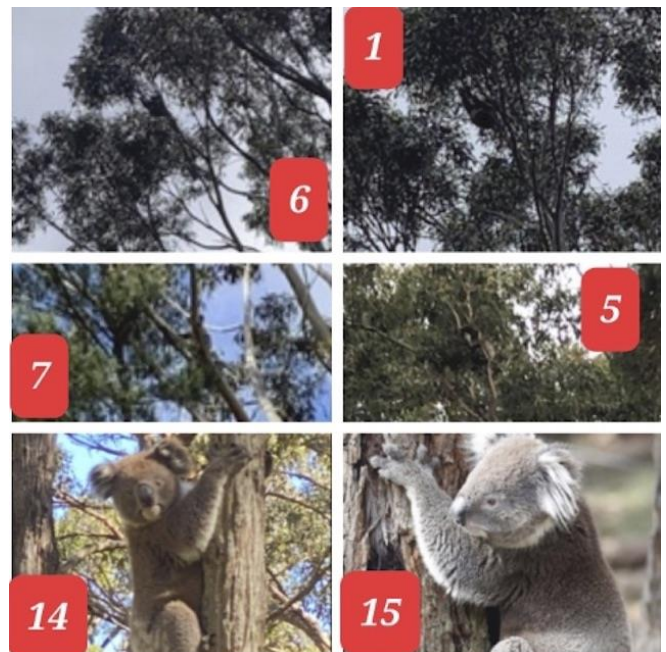
On the website you can download the draft strategy and provide feedback via the survey tool. The public consultation period will run from 21 February 2022 until 3 April 2022.

8. Koala sighting

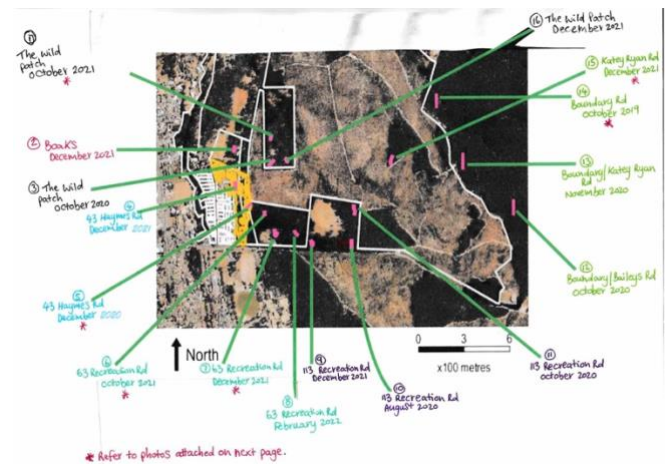
Recent Koala sightings images are below:



Koala in adjacent land at end of Kylie Court Mt Clear. Dec 2021.



Koala images from around 55 Recreation Rd and Haymes Rd area. Numbers correlate to the following map.



Map of Koala sightings since October 2019

Sighted last week, but not photographed. A koala in the recently burnt area south of Recreation Road. It was observed climbing into a tree with a lot of unburnt leaves.

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. 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

10. Buninyong Smart Living and Building Festival

The FoCC had a very busy stall at the 2022 Buninyong Smart Living and Building Festival held at Royal Park Buninyong on Sunday March 20th.



The FoCC stand

A great day out and a good chance to talk to many friends.

11. Pennyweight Gully Trail works

Bouquets to the CoB for completing another section of the Pennyweight Gully trail in Canadian.

The new section of trail runs along Pennyweight Gully from Spencer St to Kline St and completes a gap.



Pennyweight Gully Trail looking west from Kline St. Image 23rd March 2022.

12. The Mount Clear Bike Path Circa 1975-6

The origins of the Mount Clear Bike Path was a talking point with a former local resident at the Buninyong Smart Living and Building Expo

The map to the side shows the very new exposed trail in its infancy (Green arrows).

The trail was built to provide safe access for students at the new Mt Clear Technical High School campus which opened in 1976. Geelong Road was deemed too dangerous for students to cycle along and the bike path was the solution. The path began at Elsworth St and terminates on Recreation Rd. Today the path follows the original alignment except for the Canadian Lakes section.

The map clearly shows a very open path running beside a bare or gorse infested creek. The massed tree planting that

is now evident came later and today the trail is a testament to the hard work and vision of all wonderful people who worked so hard in the late 70's and 80's and beyond.



Note the lack of vegetation along the creek. Mt Clear Bike Path 1975-6

For Ballarat this trail really was a first. The first bike path had just been built along the Yarra River in Melbourne and the Cycling was just starting to become fashionable again. It is possible that this trail was the first regional bike path in Victoria. Discuss!

13. Trees Gone

One of the problems of keeping old trees in the Corridor is the constant removal of old trees because of the perception that they may fall.

This tree in Spencer St Canadian fell out with a nearby resident and the rest is history.

The FoCC understands that when faced with a claim that a tree is dangerous, the Council officers are often faced with a no-win situation.



Spencer St tree lopped already. It was gone a week later.
The FoCC lodged two letters of complaint the first in February, no official answers yet.

The FoCC is also aware of properties that are purchased with the knowledge of significant trees adjacent. But once new owners arrive, they start to agitate to remove the trees.

When the Living Corridors Strategy Plan is restated by the City, the FoCC will be strongly arguing for better tree protection for street trees particularly when people purchase a property with a big tree on the roadside.

Other trees gone over the past years

In the March 2020 Issue 64 the following tree was noted as;

An example of good planning decisions

Noted recently on a visit to Canadian Springs Drive in Canadian is an example of good neighbourhood planning by a developer and the City.

This is a great example of how the COB, the local community and an enlightened developer created a road around a tree. This was done in 2001 and stands as an example of good planning.

A neighbour described the tree as “whenever I look out my window, I am reassured that all is well by the sight of that tree”



The tree in March 2020

Alas today the tree is gone! Why!

14. The Canadian Forest story, another chapter

The story of the Canadian Forest from the Goldfields era through to the present, is often a story of vested interests wanting to use the land for gain or to solve a problem cheaply.

A timeline of major interventions is:

1860: By 1860 the forest had literally been cut out to supply timber for bracing mine shafts and for firewood. In 1865 the forest was promoted as a “State Forest”
<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/papers/govpub/VPARL1864-65No77.pdf>

During the next century the forest was repeatedly harvested for wood and many gullies sluiced in the quest for gold. Two rifle ranges, Cremorne and Commonwealth were established in the northern end of the forest. By the end of the second world war, the forest was again depleted due to wartime cutting. Sections were just stumps. In the 1950’s domestic firewood lots were available to locals and the forest was regularly “thinned”

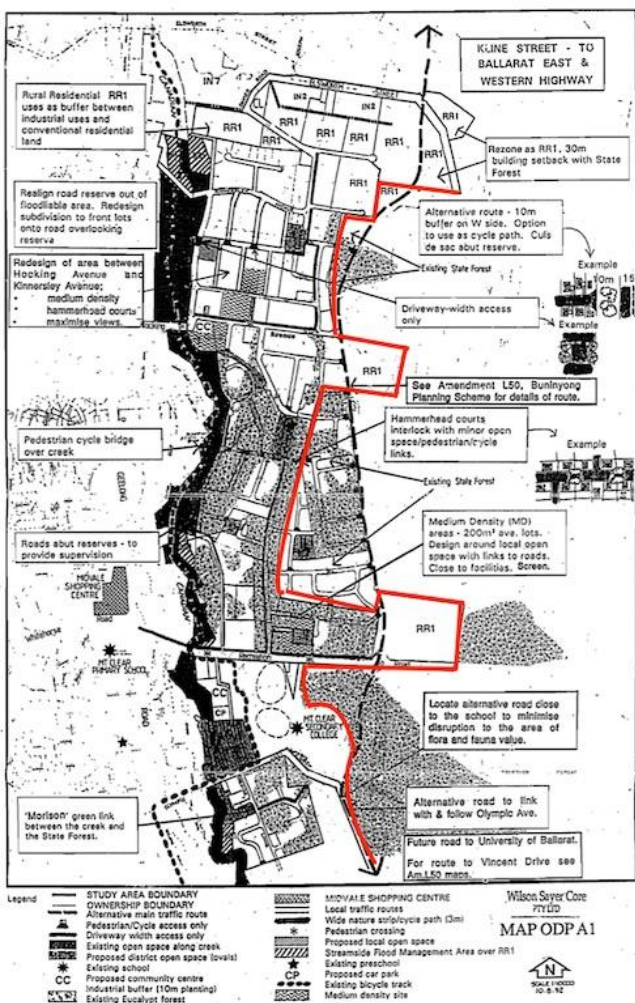
1960: Fast forward to the 1960’s and the pro development Premier Henry Bolte ,agreed to annexe 240 hectares of the forest in order to plant a large pine plantation to supply Laminex Industries.

1974: 340 Hectares of the northern end of the Forest was proposed to be annexed as a site of a food processing plant. Fast action by the Field Naturalists Club Ballarat and others saw off this land grab. See Spikey News, September 2021, issue 81

1980: The Land Conservation Council in its landmark findings saw the forest as primarily a timber production resource and secondly as a recreation area.
<https://veac.vic.gov.au/investigations-assessments/previous-investigations/investigation/ballarat-area-lcc-1982>

1994 The Mt Clear Outline Development Plan was produced for the Shire of Buninyong just prior to Council amalgamation. The ODP never made it into practice. Parts of the ODP formed the later 2005 Canadian ODP which became the basis for the Koala Plan of Management. The map below says it all. Note the black dotted **planned road** running from Kline St in the North through to Olympic Avenue in the south. And all the infill streets and court bowls in what is now the western side of Woovookarung Regional Park. The **Red line** is the Woovookarung Regional Park Boundary.

MT. CLEAR OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN



2012 In 2012 the plantation lease owners, East Gippsland Plantations, handed back the failing Blue Gum Plantation to the Naphthine Government. See the image at the end of this issue on page 8. Minister Gordon Rich Phillips wrote that the Department of Environment and Primary production was working to determine “if the land may be released for disposal” The FoCC understanding was that was code for a sell off! And FoCC was established and the winning of the case for a park is now history.

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

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.

16. 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.

17. Membership

Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each year, Membership fee is \$20 per year. Membership forms are available online or email or on the last page of Spikey News. Note change of Bank details for 2022.

Over 76 wonderful members have renewed. New members are most welcome.

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 884 900 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.

19. 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.

April 13 th	General meeting – Guest speaker. Details delayed until venue is confirmed
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
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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 Woookarung 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 867-945. 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



The cleared ex-Blue Gum plantation land after hand back to the Victorian Government in 2014. The natural regrowth on the ex-plantation land that has occurred since has been extensive and most heartening. It was as if nature was just waiting for a chance. Aerial Image looking north towards the City from above Green Hill March 2014.

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