



# FoCC Incorporated Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor  
July 2022 Issue Number 90

## Spikey News features

1. Presenting Sean Dooley "Birdman" at the Eureka Centre
2. Tree planting August 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. Past tree plantings
4. Bird of the month XI (July 2022)
5. Working bee July 24<sup>th</sup>
6. Koala sightings
7. 55 Recreation Rd Reserve
8. Park works
9. Rail Trails
10. Gold fossicking
11. Tree ID slow walk August 28<sup>th</sup>
12. Another development proposal Mt Clear
13. Antechinus in nest box
14. Indigent Asylum for Old Colonists of Victoria
15. Living Magazine
16. Request for Main Rd direction signs.
17. Parks Victoria new Volunteers Manual and rules
18. Elsworth St and Katy Ryans Rd kangaroo population
19. Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals
20. Useful information
21. Facebook and Web

## 1. Presenting Sean Dooley "Birdman" at the Eureka Centre

Sean Dooley talks about birds and life

BOOK NOW



Purchase your ticket online for only \$15 and come to the Eureka Centre at 7pm on Wednesday 17th of August. In the event of Covid cancellation, ticket price will be refunded.

Wednesday 17 August 2022 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (LITC+10)

### LOCATION

Eureka Centre  
102 Stawell St South, Ballarat VIC 3350

Proudly presented by the Friends of Canadian Corridor

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BRTBM>



The FoCC is hosting Sean Dooley "Birdman" at the Eureka Centre.

Sean is National Public Affairs Manager for BirdLife Australia, regular ABC radio guest, author of The Big Twitch, and former holder of the Australian Big Year twitching record.

He will be presenting at:

**Eureka Centre, Stawell St, Balt East  
at 7pm Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Tickets are \$15 and available from Try Booking.**

**Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BRTBM>**

For further information E. [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

## 2. Tree planting August 7<sup>th</sup>

The FoCC will hold a planting of 500 trees in the Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd intersection area on **Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 beginning at 10 am.**

This is the sixth mass tree planting by the FoCC since 2017. The trees are supplied by the wonderful people at the City of Ballarat Community Nursery. The trees are propagated using locally sourced seed.

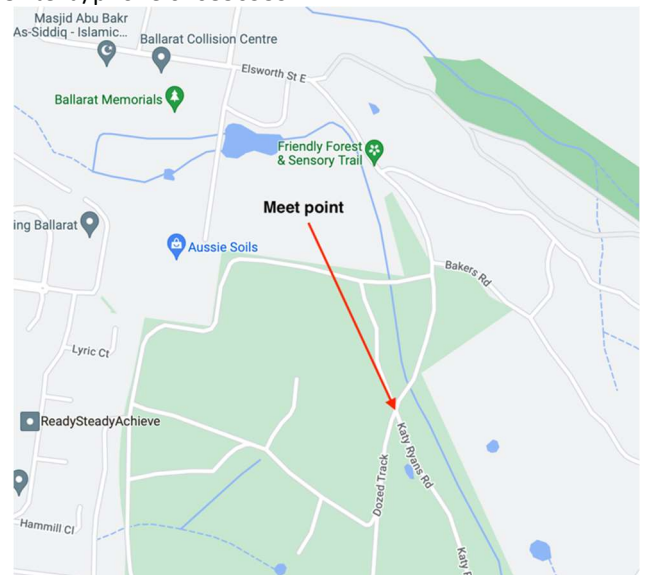
### Details:

Meet at **Cnr of Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd Mt Clear.**

Solid footwear and warm hard-wearing clothing required. It may be wet. The FoCC will supply gloves and tools.

Registration recommended: pls email [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

Or text /phone 040850959



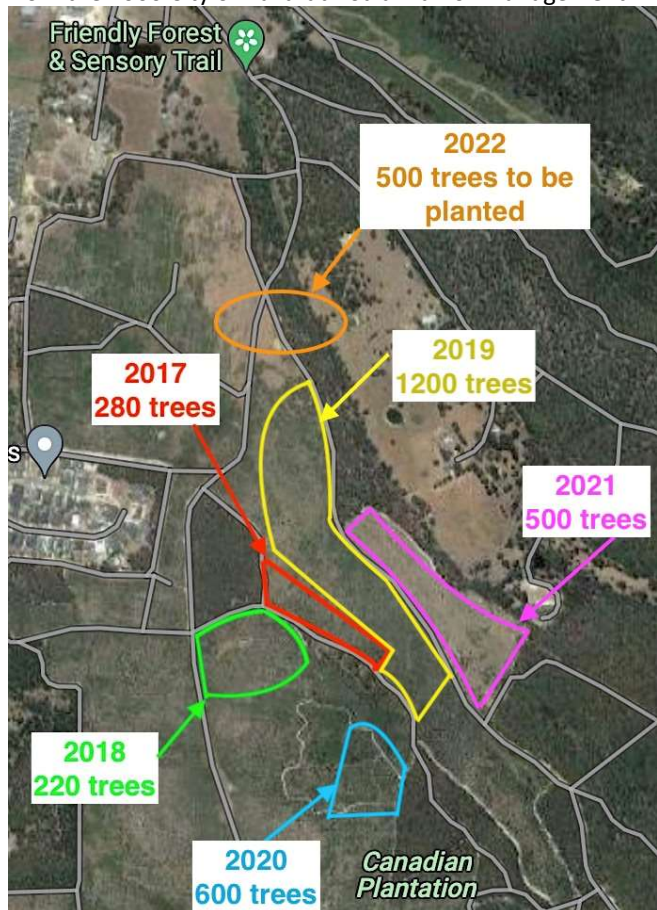
Meet Point. Signs from Elsworth St.



### 3. Past tree plantings

The FOCC began planting trees in Woowookarung RP in 2017 and so far, have planted 2800 trees, mostly eucalyptus in the area around Katy Ryans Rd. All the tree seeds were sourced within the Park and propagated by the wonderful people at the City of Ballarat Community Nursery.

The nursery was established following a recommendation from the 2006 City of Ballarat Koala Plan of Management.



The map above shows the location of the past five tree plantings. The purpose behind the plantings is to connect pockets of remnant vegetation left behind after the blue gum plantation was removed. The plantings support a North South fauna corridor running from the centre of the Park down to the existing forest on the north side of Recreation Road.

### 4. Bird of the month XI (July 2022)

#### White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanoramphos*)

I know what you're thinking. A largeish, (almost entirely) black bird that feeds on the ground, in groups. It must be a raven, right? Wrong! Don't be fooled – these busy, gregarious, forest-floor foragers are choughs (pronounced 'chuff'), and they belong to the 'Australian Mud-nesters' Corcoracidae family.

Choughs can be distinguished from ravens by their titular white wing patches (which are inconspicuous or hidden when the wing is folded, i.e. only revealed in flight), curved bill, and red eye. If they are too distant to discern finer details, some other cues to rule out a raven are a strut with back-and-forth head movement; tail bobbing (up and down); short, low flights of flapping culminating in a flat-

winged glide to a perch; and calls that range from piping whistles, to small throaty clicks, and a raspy 'hass' or 'ch-zark'.



Adult White-winged Chough perched



Chough nest and in flight. Image credits: Rob Loveband

Highly sociable, White-winged Choughs are almost invariably found in parties, ranging from 4-20 individuals, and sometimes more during non-breeding season. Flocks are territorial, and typically consist of a breeding pair, and non-breeding 'helpers' which are often offspring from previous broods.



White-winged Choughs reach sexual maturity at four years of age, which means the breeding pair would have another three years' worth of broods before their first brood possibly relinquishes helper duties (i.e. nest building, egg incubation, and feeding young) should they leave the parents' flock. Given females lay clutches of usually 3-5 eggs but as many 9 per brood (once a year) – as you can imagine that is a lot of mouths to feed, and a lot of helpers! Males and females are identical, while juveniles are dusky dark brown, and have orange eyes.

As previously alluded to, White-winged Choughs construct nests of mud. This large, deep bowl of mud may be reinforced with bark, grass, fur, and even the manure of cattle or Emus! Nests are positioned on a horizontal branch 6-15m off the ground. The availability of mud – for nest building – may influence White-winged Choughs to gravitate to wetter areas of open woodland and forest, but they are also known to frequent higher and drier areas too. Since they probe and scratch about the forest floor – often in spread-out formation – for their food of insects and seeds, an abundance of leaf litter is a requirement of any habitat selected.

Quite the cheeky rascals, White-winged Choughs may get up to such unruly antics as kidnapping young from rival chough flocks; other females laying eggs in the breeding pair's nest (way to break rank!); and indulging in dust baths and 'anting' which entails laying on an ants' nest with wings sprawled out to invite ants to eat away any bothersome parasites. Mischievous and clever!

Next time you wander through Woookarung Regional Park, or another local forest patch, keep an eye out for flocks of these busy, strutting forest floor foragers – and if you find some, won't you be chuffed!

*Author note: 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*

#### 5. **Working bee July 24<sup>th</sup>**

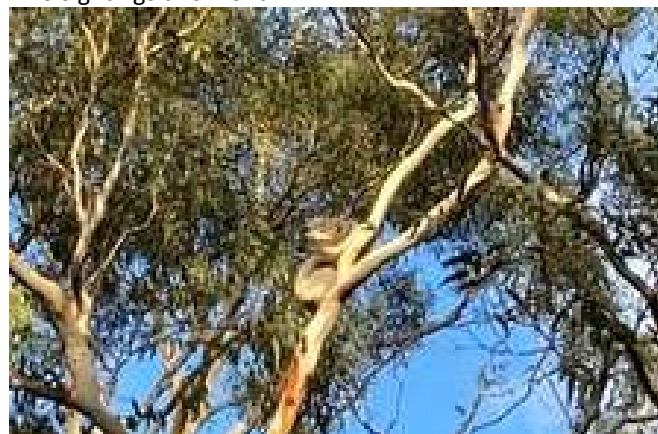
The FoCC hosted a tree stake and guard collection on Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> 2022. A dozen volunteers picked up 1800 stakes and 600 tree guards from the area planted in 2020. The stakes and guards were sorted and stored for reuse in the next planting. Observation of the 2020 planting was that about 75% of the plantings survived, which is a very good rate.



Volunteers sorting stakes and guards

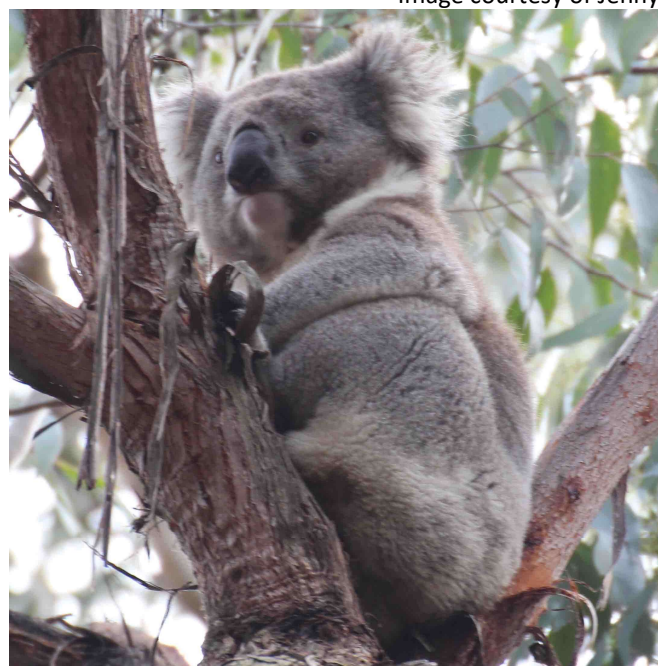
#### 6. **Koala sightings**

Koalas have been quiet and difficult to find since the end of the mating season in February. Two sightings this month.



A rather blurry Koala in Hastie St Buninyong 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Image courtesy of Jenny



Union Jack Koala 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Image courtesy Chez.

## 7. **55 Recreation Road Reserve Update**

The FoCC committee is currently working through the establishment of the trail across 55 Recreation Rd Reserve. The creation of a legal trail easement across private land to connect the reserve to the Park is underway with a survey and associated legal work.

Later in the year there will be some working bees to remove pine saplings and to prepare for revegetation.

## 8. **Park works**

### **Phytophthora cycle cleaning stations.**

- Extension of the bike wash stations to accommodate 31 inch tyres
- Improvement on the foot wash stations to have less splash (little metal ridges)

**Tree planting.** Parks Vic have completed a new tree planting near the corner of Olympic Av and Boundary Rd. 250 trees were planted by Ballarat Group Training (BGT) students over the past weeks. BGT have been involved in several tree planting and associated works in Park, beginning with plantings in the Dementia Trail area and more recently near the top of Katy Ryans Rd and the Cathie St Car Park.



Ballarat Group Training planted trees on Boundary Rd. Image 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**Pine tree removal** occurred in the Richards St block which is located between Richards St and Clayton St and runs along the northern boundary of the Rifle Range. The block contains remnants of "Quigleys Hut" and the summit of Sinclair Hill. More information on Quigleys Hut can be found in the June 2020 Issue 69 edition of Spikey News. Prior to the pine removal a gorse and broom removal spray program was applied earlier in the year. Last year Parks Vic placed bollards at each end of a track through the block to curtail rubbish dumpers and firewood thieves.



Richards St Block. Most of the pine trees and gorse were located at the Richards St end. Quigleys Hut is located by the red dot.

## 9. **Rail Trails**

The handing over of the Community Bank of Buninyong Cheque for the proposed rail trail at 55 Recreation Road has made the National Rail Trail Magazine at:

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



## **Friends group receives grant to construct new rail trail section in Ballarat**

08/07/22

**The Friends of Canadian Creek situated in Ballarat, has received a \$33,000 community bank grant. The grant is to build a...**

Lead page on the Rail Trails Australia website. 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## 10. **Gold fossicking**

Gold fossicking is an approved activity in Woowookarung Regional Park.



To fossick in the Park requires a miner's right for over 18 year olds.

Simple rules according to earth resources are:

- Drive vehicles on tracks or roads open to the public and park your vehicles on the roadside.
- Do not bury rubbish. Take it home or put it in a bin if provided.
- Minimise any damage to vegetation including the ground layer.
- Immediately restore the area to how you found it, i.e. backfill any holes you dig and replace leaf litter.

Further information:

<https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/licensing-approvals/fossicking/rules-and-responsibilities>

Most fossickers in the Park do the right thing and fill in their holes after exploration.

However, someone has been digging fossicking holes in tracks in the north end of the Park and leaving them unfilled. Some of the holes have tree roots exposed. About a dozen holes were found on and beside tracks. Thanks to the friends who have been filling them in.



Fossicking hazard left on a track in the north end of the Park. Image 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

#### 11. Tree ID slow walk August 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

A slow walk looking at the many different species of trees in the centre of the Park will be held on **August 28<sup>th</sup> 2022**. Meeting point is the Dementia Trail car park at 10 am. Good walking footwear, warm clothing and water are essential. The distance to be walked is around 6km. Knowledgeable local naturalists will lead the walk and highlight the array of species in the Park along the way. The walk will encompass the Dementia Trail, Lal Lal Drain, The Lookout and Bakers Rd on the return. Registration recommended: pls email [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com) Or text /phone 0408509591

#### 12. Another development proposal Mt Clear

There is a new two-lot subdivision development proposal at 46 Lavery Avenue.

The FoCC had been involved in a previous proposal for a two-lot subdivision in 2017. At that time the FoCC was supportive of the proposal as it involved no loss of vegetation. The subdivision did not occur.

The FoCC has some concerns about this latest proposal as it requires the destruction of 25 koala habitat trees.

Removing 25 Koala habitat trees from the land to facilitate the proposed building envelopes contravenes the purpose of the Koala Plan of Management. Removal of the vegetation means the application fails to address the Koala Plan, Clause 22.04-3 Buildings and works requirements dot point 1:

*“the removal of koala habitat may be approved for the purpose of constructing buildings and associated works within a defined building envelope/works area only if the applicant can demonstrate that:*

*“The building envelope/works area cannot be located elsewhere on-site to avoid and/or minimise the need for removal of native vegetation within areas of koala habitat”*

There is plenty of room to save the trees by reworking the building envelope.



Changing the building envelope would reduce the conflict between surrounding trees and envelope. Relocation, rotation and a change of shape could be part of the resolution.



### 13. Antechinus in nest box

Antechinus droppings (scat) have been spotted in nest boxes in the Katy Ryans and Bakers Rd area.

According to Wikipedia:

Antechinus are:

*Antechinus* (/æntɪˈkaɪnəs/ ('ant-echinus')) is a genus of small dasyurid marsupial endemic to Australia. They resemble mice with the bristly fur of shrews.



Image courtesy ABC fact sheet

Antechinus were spotted a year ago in a nearby wood heap and on a path in the Park. Antechinus are small mice-like marsupials. Fallen trees and logs provide excellent habitat for antechinus.

### 14. Indigent Asylum for Old Colonists of Victoria

Some clever work by Carlo has uncovered a planned "Indigent Asylum" for Old Colonists of Victoria. Indigent means "poor or needy." The Government Gazette of 12<sup>th</sup> October 1891 has the following notice:

#### LANDS TEMPORARILY RESERVED FROM SALE, ETC.

IN pursuance of the provisions of the *Land Act 1890* (54 Vict. No. 1106, § 10 and 13): Notice is hereby given that the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has reserved, temporarily, from sale and leasing, and from having a licence granted in respect thereof, and has also (unless where otherwise stated) excepted from occupation for mining purposes or for residence or business under any miner's right or business licence in pursuance of section 10 of the *Land Act 1890* aforesaid, the lands hereinafter described, viz.:-

Pursuant to Orders of 12 October, 1891.

**BALLAARAT (MOUNT CLEAR).**—Site for an Asylum for Indigent Members of the Old Colonists' Association of Ballaarat, also excepted from occupation for mining purposes, or for residence or business under any miner's right or business licence.—Twenty-eight acres one rood thirty-six perches, county of Grant, parish of Ballaarat: Commencing at the south-west angle of allotment 1 of section 4A<sup>1</sup>; bounded thence by that allotment bearing N. 0° 18' W. three chains seventy-four links; thence by the Railway Reserve bearing north-westerly fourteen chains sixty-one links in an arc of a circle whose centre lies forty-one chains fifty links easterly; thence by lines bearing respectively N. 79° 6' W. fourteen chains and S. 7° 20' E. twenty-one chains sixty-eight links; and thence by a road bearing S. 79° 31' E. one chain fifteen links and N. 84° 13' E. fourteen chains seventeen links to the point of commencement.—(B.126<sup>(6)</sup>) (91.A.12871).

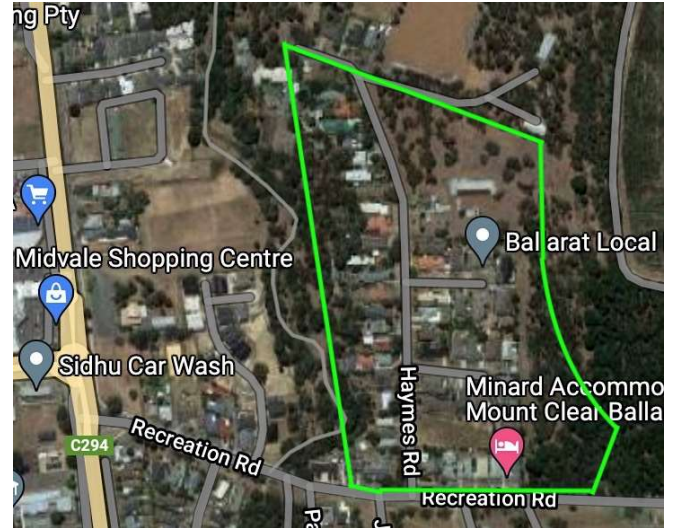
**KORUMBURRA.**—Site for a Cemetery, also excepted from occupation for mining purposes, or for residence or business under any miner's right or business licence, to a depth of 50 feet from the surface.—Nine acres two roods fifteen perches, county of Buln Buln, township of Korumburra, being part of allotment 39 of section 4: Commencing at the south-west angle of allotment 37; bounded thence by that allotment and allotment 38 bearing east eleven chains eleven links; thence by roads bearing respectively south nine chains and west nine chains eleven links; thence by lines bearing respectively north two chains and west two chains; and thence by a road bearing north seven chains to the point of commencement.—(K.172A<sup>(1)</sup>) (91.C.73876).

A. McLEAN,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey.

Lands and Survey Office,  
Melbourne, 12th October, 1891.

Gazette copy courtesy of Carlo.

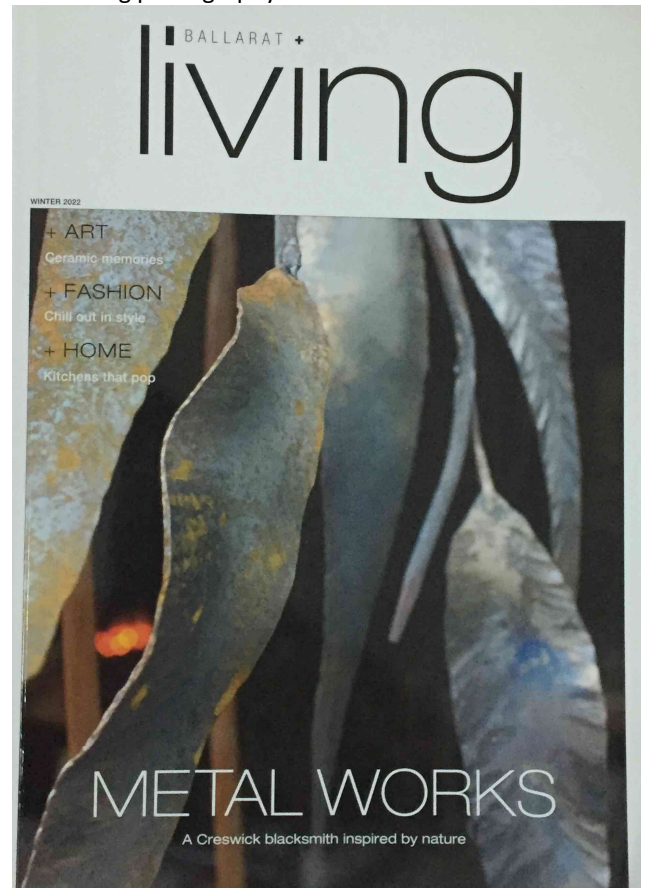
The map below is an approximation of the site. The asylum was never built.



Location of planned reserved land for the Old Colonists of Victoria Indigent Asylum 1891.

### 15. Living Magazine

Ballarat's Living Magazine winter edition featured the "Come to your senses" article on the Dementia Trail by local writer Tatiana Collier. The article outlines her visit and take on "a path offering something different" The magazine is worth collecting for its article and outstanding photography.



Cover of Ballarat Living Winter 2022

### 16. Request for Main Rd direction signs.

The FoCC has written to the City of Ballarat requesting direction signs to the Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail be placed at the Main Rd and Elsworth St roundabout and along the route to the trail car park.

## 17. Parks Victoria new Volunteers Manual and rules

Last year Parks Victoria introduced a new volunteer manual. In FoCC's opinion the manual is cumbersome and not easy to read. The manual is online at:

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Volunteer/>

One requirement is for Parks Victoria **regular** volunteers who are registered on the Park Connect volunteer portal to hold a Working with Children Check.

The FoCC committee have agreed to register as regular volunteers.

Other FoCC Members and Friends who are interested in being registered on Parks Victoria's volunteer portal may do so by accessing Park Connect at:

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Account/Login/Register>

To access a Working With Children check, log in to:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>

The application is free and may be useful to some people. The check can be made either online or at the post office. If you already have a WWC then registration on Park Connect is easy.

Volunteers not registered on Park Connect and without WWC's will continue to be most welcome as walk-up volunteers or in Parks Vic terminology "casual volunteers"

## 18. Elsworth St and Katy Ryans Rd Kangaroo population

There is resident kangaroo mob of 15 Kangaroos often can be observed in a paddock beside Elsworth St on the city side of the Dementia Trail car park according local residents. There is a need for fauna warning signs and a 40 kph speed limit along those sections of the road east of Butt St to protect the mob as well as motorists.



The local mob on the south side of Elsworth St 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Image courtesy of Jason

## 19. 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.

## 20. Useful information

- **Parks Victoria Woovookarung email address:** [woovookarung@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto: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.

## 21. 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 or email [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

## 22. FoCC Facebook and webpage

[www.facebook.com/friendsocanadiancorridor/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsocanadiancorridor/)

Rob is overseeing the webpage [webmaster@focc.asn.au](mailto:webmaster@focc.asn.au)

The FoCC has ~~936~~ 940 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.

## 23. 2022 Proposed Calendar

The calendar is prepared by the FoCC committee.

August 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>500 Tree planting</b> – Cnr of Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd. 10 am start
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birds Forum</b> with "Birdman" Sean Dooley at the Eureka Centre Stawell St. 7pm start.
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tree identification</b> slow walk. 10am start Dementia Trail car park
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 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 to 963 967 subscribers. 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.

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

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