



FoCC Incorporated Spikey News



Linking the community with Woookarung and the Canadian Corridor
November 2022 Issue Number 94

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1. Friends celebrate the tenth birthday

The Friends celebrated the tenth birthday in style at the 2022 annual meeting on Nov 9th 2022 at Earth Ed Mt Clear. After the official duties were completed, three speakers related their stories of the Parks establishment.

Orienteer legend Blake Gordon spoke about the early days of the 1970's when the forest changed from timber production to the recreational uses. The orienteers mapped the area and ever since have been running local and championship events in the forest and the now Park.

Geoff Howard outlined the initial request for "something to be done" about protecting the forest in 2012 and how the development of the "Regional Park" made it into policy, then into legislation in the Victoria Parliament and finally establishment.



Uncle Bryon Powell addressing the meeting

Wadawurrung Elder Uncle Bryon Powell told the audience about the discussions, negotiations and the opportunity that came out of imagining a Park. He related the story about "securing the land" as being the most important item when the future of the Canadian Forest was in doubt in the 2012 to 2014 period. For without secure land, no progress could be made.

He said the Wadawurrung saw the Park as a return of land to the community and a place where everyone could be made welcome. It provides an opportunity for Wadawurrung people to have a special connection to land adjacent to Ballarat.

Uncle Bryon told of the relationship between Buninyong, Ballarat and Woookarung. Ballarat is in a basin surrounded by low hills. In Wadawurrung times it was aboriginal food area. Today it is still a food area in the form of supermarkets located on top of the three lakes which were in Central Ballarat.

Buninyong is central to Wadawurrung dreamtime stories as the crater on the side of Mt Buninyong was made in a battle with Derrinallum. The story is that Derrinallum speared Buninyong in the side, thus the crater. Buninyong cleaved his axe into Derrinallum's head, thus the split on top of Mt Derrinallum.

Insect Brochure released:

The FoCC and Leigh Catchment Group have produced the "Indigenous Insects of Southern Ballarat", the third nature brochure in the current series.

The new publication was launched by President Bob Hartmann and the brochure Editor Joel Ellis.



Bob with brochure editor Joel with the Insect brochure

The Brochure will be sent to all 2023 members upon membership renewal.



Infrastructure Category at the recent Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation awards 2022 in Melbourne.

The latest award is the third award now won by the trail: Previous awards were:

Victorian Landscape Architecture Award "Health and Education Landscape" was won June 2022 by Ballarat's Thomson Hay Landscape Architects for the engagement and design work undertaken with the Ballarat community to realise the wonderful Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail within Woookarung Regional Park.

2022 AILA National Landscape Architecture Award for Health and Education Landscape. The prestigious award was won Thomson Hay, the Landscape Architects for the Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail. The National Landscape Architecture Award was presented at the 2022 AILA Awards in Brisbane to Thomson Hay on Friday October 14th 2022.



BY TIM BOTTAMS

THE first dementia-friendly sensory trail in Australia has been recognised in the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards 2022. The Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail at Woookarung Regional Park won in the Polytan Inclusive Sport, recreation or Open Space Infrastructure category. Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance founder Anne Tudor, who spearheaded the project, said everyone involved was "absolutely thrilled" to receive the accolade. "It's fantastic because up until about eight years ago, dementia wasn't really

considered to be a disability," she said. "The trail is probably the most important thing I've ever been involved in, and no one person is responsible for it." "It's been so well-loved, valued and utilised since it opened by our local Ballarat community. We've had 400 people go through regularly, some every day, some once a week. "It's inclusive to everyone which is so important." The trail previously garnered awards honours when its designers, Thomson Hay Landscape Architects, took home an AILA Victoria Landscape Architecture Award earlier this year. The project was delivered in

partnership with members of Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance, Friends of Canadian Corridor and Parks Victoria with funding from Dementia Australia. Ms Tudor said the collaborative design of the trail has been the key to its success. "It's the single most important factor because people with dementia co-designed the entire project," she said. "The landscape designers... were very involved with getting feedback and ideas and listening to people with dementia in terms of what was going to work." "That's the one thing I'm most proud of, that we had so much engagement with people living with dementia."

Finally, a tenth birthday cake completed the evening in style.



President Bob blowing out the candles.

2. Election of FoCC committee for 2023

The election of the committee members for 2023 was undertaken and the positions elected were:

- President: Bob Hartmann
 - Vice President: Carolyn Barry
 - Secretary: Jeff Rootes
 - Treasurer: Peter Darveniza
 - Committee members: Jo Kelly, Joel Ellis, Tarn Kruger, Rob Loveband, Tracie Currie, Joan Brick and Hayley Ingles
- No further nominations were received and all were declared elected by the Chairperson Blake Gordon.

3. Dementia Trail wins third award

Dementia Trail wins third award in a row!

The Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail has won the Polytan Inclusive Sport, recreation or Open Space

Article courtesy Ballarat Times 18th Nov 2022

4. New Ballarat Biodiversity Policy adopted by Council

The City of Ballarat has adopted a new "Biodiversity Vision and Commitment" Policy as the first step to preparing, adopting and implementing a new "Biodiversity Strategy". The new policy can be accessed at:

<https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/City%20of%20Ballarat%20Biodiversity%20Vision%20and%20Commitment.pdf>

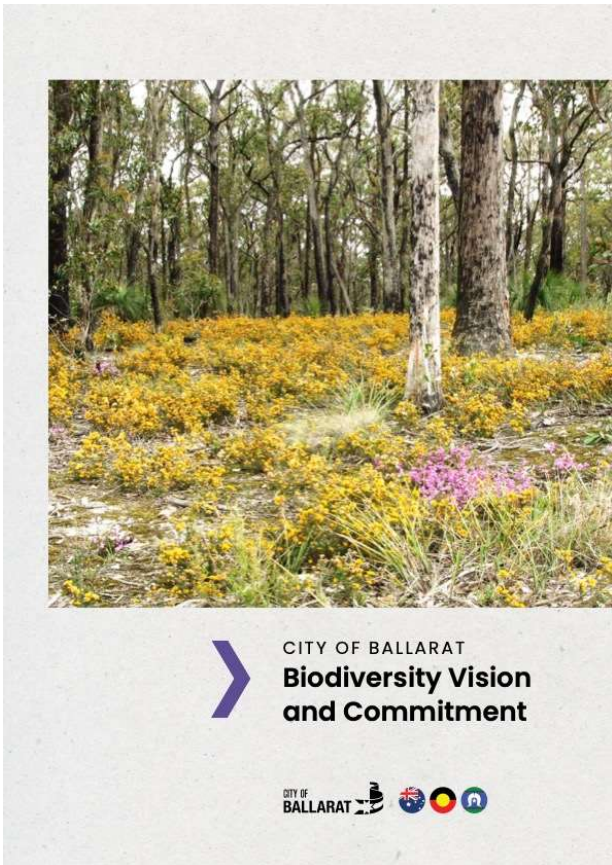


Image: courtesy CoB policy document

The policy passed Council unanimously on Wednesday November 23 2022.

The FoCC addressed Council in support of the new Policy noting:

- The original Ballarat Regional Conservation Strategy was launched in 1991.
- Ballarat's and Victoria's first and only "Koala Plan of Management" with its Koala Habitat Overlays was introduced in 2006.
- Eric Brasilis, then CoB Director of Growth and Development in 2011, telling a Ballarat East Community Forum that the next big job was to formulate an overarching Biodiversity Strategy.
- The 2014 Imagining Ballarat which resulted in the Ballarat 2040 Strategy. This strategy outlined biodiversity, living corridors, urban tree cover and biolinks.
- The 2015 Ballarat East township plan. Completed but not yet released
- The 2019 start of the Living Corridors Strategy, in which the community worked hard to provide high quality input into its ambitions until it was suspended.

The FoCC welcomes the opportunity to work with the Council to develop a workable, proper and comprehensive Biodiversity Strategy for Ballarat during 2023.

Over the past years we have through the laborious and unrewarding objection process as the community has

struggled to protect the Koala habitat, old trees and the little creeks from the pressures of too many developers who have often only a profit motive in their sights. The current Ballarat Planning Scheme has too many anomalies and loose ends to get consistent good biodiverse outcomes.

The new Policy has one particular line that stands out:

In section 4 development: 4.3 Requiring the City of Ballarat and new private development proposals to plan biodiversity into the proposal.

The new strategy if worded strongly, would bring the "cut it down" approach to an end. It would stop the ambit applications which begin with seeking a "permit to remove all vegetation".

The FoCC is looking forward to the new strategy which should provide our Community, Council planners and Developers with clear and unambiguous rules and requirements. All designed to allow good sustainable development whilst protecting the natural values that so many in the Ballarat community identify with.

5. Bird of the month XV

Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) Colourful. Talkative. Mischievous and tenacious. Sweet-tooth and occasional tame visitor (i; ii) to the back balcony. If any of these qualities resonate, then the Rainbow Lorikeet could be your spirit bird! Once evoking Queensland-holiday vibes, Rainbow Lorikeets have in recent decades become a common Ballarat local. When you can't go to Queensland, Rainbow Lorikeets bring the Queensland to you!



Adult Rainbow Lorikeet on banksia above and pair at the hollow entrance below. Images by Rob Loveband.



With its scarlet bill, blue head and belly, breast of sunrise orange and yellow, and vibrant emerald green upperparts, this familiar, large (25-32cm) lorikeet's plumage is unmistakable from any other local species.

Not quite so unmistakable is its voice, which is similar to but deeper than fellow local, the Musk Lorikeet. Vocals have been described as "frequent, quite pleasant, softly rasping or vibrating musical screeches".

Primarily nectarivorous (i.e., nectar-eaters), Rainbow Lorikeets also feed on pollen, fruits, seeds, and insects – and have even been known to get drunk on fermented mangoes (iii)!

Rainbow Lorikeets are locally nomadic, often exploiting the freshly blossoming street trees in cities, suburbs, and regional towns; indeed, sweet nectar and pollen may render a single gumtree abuzz with multitudes of hungry Rainbow Lorikeets. Rainbow Lorikeets inhabit rainforests, eucalypt forests and woodlands, and gardens in southeast Australia, with non-native populations (iv) in Perth and Tasmania.

Occurring in pairs and flocks, Rainbow Lorikeets breed from June to January. Nesting is done in a hollow limb of a eucalypt, where decayed wood from the hollow's walls provides a cushioned lining. Both sexes (which are indistinguishable) prepare the nest, and incubation of the clutch of 1-3 eggs is done mostly by the female.

Four important lessons to learn from Rainbow Lorikeets

i.	If you insist on feeding Rainbow Lorikeets (or any wildlife), please ensure feeding times are irregular; food items are targeted and appropriately nutritious; and portions are small
ii.	Please keep any bird baths or feeders well-maintained
iii.	Responsibly enjoy fermented fruits in moderation!
iv.	Attention aviary keepers, pet bird owners: please ensure your birds don't escape!

Next time you wander through Woookoaring Regional Park, or any local park or garden, look out for the noisy flyovers by darting, twisting Rainbow Lorikeets – and if you see them take a moment to savour their eclectic colours!

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

6. Koala Reports

October to March is Koala breeding season and peak reporting season.

This is the time when it becomes obvious with their noisy grunting that a male Koala is the area.

Females are generally quiet and therefore hard to see.

If you see, hear or find scat from a Koala, please send the information containing the when, where, and how to:

focinfo@gmail.com. Images are gold!

All koala sightings are recorded and put onto the Victorian Bio Atlas as permanent record which is the authoritative source of biodiverse records and is often cited by developers. Every Koala sighting refutes those developers that claim "no Koalas were sighted or have been reported".



Male Koala Mt Buninyong 30th Oct 2022. Image courtesy

Jessica



A mum and joey were hit by a car on Mt Buninyong. The fate of the mum is unknown. Wildlife carers rescued the Joey, unfortunately, he did not survive. 30th Oct 2022.

Image courtesy Jessica.

Another Koala was observed on 4th November 2022 in a backyard in Zoe Court Mt Helen, which is adjacent to the “Sanctuary” area. The Sanctuary is the name for a large development in Mt Helen which was created in 2004. The “Sanctuary Bushland Reserve” is part of the Koala habitat protection measures instituted when the area was developed.

7. Broom removal working bee

An English Broom removal working bee removed hundreds of the feral weedy plants from the corner of York St and Long St in the northern part of the Park on Saturday morning 26th November.

Organised by Nina, the volunteers cut the broom and painted the stems with roundup to stop regrowth. The area on the corner has a very bad infestation of broom and invasive bluebell creeper.



After broom removal.



Volunteer briefing by Parks Vic Rangers. 26th Nov 2022.



Several loads of broom were removed for disposal.



The track overgrown with broom before removal. Image: Courtesy Nina 26th Nov 2022

8. Field Naturalist Club of Ballarat walk (FNCB)

The FoCC hosted a FNCB “little creeks” walk in Ballarat East on Sunday 4th September 2022. The walk looked at three different creeks.



FNCB Members at the start of the Gorge walk. Image 4th September 2022

1. The Gorge on the unnamed Forest Creek between Olympic Av and Greenhill Rd
2. The Sailors Gully creek restoration, wetlands, heritage horse puddler and Harry Lavery Bushland Reserve.
3. A loop starting and finishing at Sparrow Ground, walking down Pennyweight Gully and returning via Grasstree Creek.

The walk was termed the good, the bad and the ugly. The creeks visited contain sections of very good biodiversity and excellent examples of restoration works particularly in Sailors Gully. However, one section of Pennyweight Gully is a bad and ugly example of poorly designed creek work in Ballarat.



The Pennyweight Gully "Ugly" creek development. No biodiversity here!

The Field Naturalist Club of Ballarat is probably the oldest naturalist organisation in the Ballarat area. The Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat (FNCB) has origins in 'Ballarat Field Science' groups formed in 1880 that later included members of the Antarctic expeditions of Shackleton in 1907 and of Mawson in 1911-14.

Field Naturalists study plants, birds, animals, fungi, geology, soils etc. and are concerned with protection of nature. Individual members tend to have special interests in particular aspects of nature, including nature photography, and historical and Aboriginal cultural features of the bush. FNCB meets for a Speaker and discussion on the first Friday evening monthly and holds Field Excursions on the following Sunday.

Community Nature Conservation Projects are a feature of Club activity. This allows young members to work with other groups and Agencies across the region - for example in revegetation of Woookarung Regional Park, a Grevillea conservation program in Enfield, tree planting and studies of bush heritage near Creswick. Some work with a community nursery and vegetation sampling by University students.

For information / membership contact: The Secretary, Emily Noble. Phone: **0433 344 287**

Email: ballaratfnc@gmail.com Club Website: <https://fieldnatballarat.wordpress.com/>
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/Field-Naturalists-Club-Ballarat-360518894049441/>



9. **XMAS Drinks at the Lookout**

The 6th annual FoCC drinks and nibbles at the **Lookout** will be held beginning around 7pm on Friday December 2nd. Please BYO nibbles, drinks, chairs and a jacket/coat. Only the view is provided by the FoCC. This is a good excuse for a get together. Forecast for Friday is mostly sunny.

10. **Haymes Rd development proposal recommended to be knocked back by Council Planners.**

The development application at 43 Haymes Rd which proposed to remove most of the Koala vegetation on site has been refused by the CoB planners. The FoCC believes the site could be suitable for a sensitive residential development if the surrounding Koala vegetation and the two creeks are taken into account.



Image: Courtesy FoCC CoB objection submission Nov 2022.

- Blue dotted line is possible fire access lane.
- Green line is the possible building envelope area.
- Purple line is 55 Rec Rd Bushland Reserve and Bunny rail trail.

11. **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.

12. Useful contacts

- **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.

13. Membership

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

New members after July are credited to the next year.

Membership forms are available online or email focinfo@gmail.com

Membership renewal

Membership may be renewed by paying the membership fee via bank transfer or alternative.

Payment may be made by

1. Bank transfer to details: Bendigo Bank Buninyong.
BSB 633-000 Account No 184147098. Friends of Canadian Corridor Inc.
Note: Please add **your name** to the bank transfer and email focinfo@gmail.com 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.

14. FoCC Information

Facebook and webpage

www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/

Rob is overseeing the webpage webmaster@foc.asn.au
The FoCC has ~~972~~ 997 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.

2022 Calendar

The calendar is prepared by the FoCC committee.

December 2 nd	Xmas Drinks at the Lookout. 7pm start
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2023 Calendar of Events

The 2023 calendar of events will be published early in 2023.

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 to ~~1013~~ 1037 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
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 made in by the editors in good faith and do not officially represent Parks Victoria or the FoCC.

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