



2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission

Our aim for our arboretum is to add to the historic, aesthetic and social significance of South Gippsland Shire. Historically, Mossvale Park is important as an example of 19th century landscaping that demonstrates how European settlement and development of this area sought to radically modify the natural and cultural landscape. It is also notable for its development as an important regional park in the post war period and for its associations with Francis Moss and the former Moss Vale Nursery. Aesthetically, Mossvale Park is distinguished by its many fine examples of mature exotic specimen trees, which together with the remnant indigenous vegetation, create an area of exceptional landscape quality that is unique within the Shire. Socially, Mossvale Park is an important part of the identity of the Berry's Creek area and is one of most well-known and best-loved parks in the South Gippsland region.

Our vision

To promote the botanic and historic characteristics of Mossvale Park and foster the interest of members of the community in the park and in plants and flora generally through education, volunteerism and fellowship.

Our history

The collection of plants that comprises Mossvale Park has great significance to the history, cultural and botanical character of South Gippsland.

Originally part of the great Gippsland Forest and home to the Gunaikurnai people our park is situated within a one kilometre meander of the Tarwin River West branch.

The park was part of the Moss Vale plant nursery where deciduous and coniferous trees were propagated and grown for sale in the late 1800's. Left over nursery stock was planted on the Tarwin River flats adjacent to the then entrance to the property. These over 100 year old trees form the framework of the park and are beloved by the community. Since Mossvale Park became a public reserve in 1946 successive committees of management have added to and maintained the European park aesthetic.

More recently the riverbanks have been restored, with the weedy deciduous tree suckers removed and replaced with natural regeneration and careful planting of endemic riparian vegetation. Not only do the endemic plants support a range species that depend on the river for habitat, they also provide weather protection and a dense green backdrop to highlight the specimen plantings.

Park management has been supported by an advisory committee from the time the park was purchased and declared. The friends of Mossvale Park group was incorporated on 27th April 2023, and the foundation members were the advisory committee members at the time.

CONTENTS

Our mission	2
Our vision	2
Our history	2
Section 1 – An overview of the friends of Mossvale Park Inc	
About us	4
Our people	5
Section 2 – Governance	
Structure & management	7
Chairperson's report	7
Secretary's report	8
Working Bee reports	9
Section 3 – Our Finances	
Treasurer's report	10
Section 4 – Our other important information	
Acknowledgements	11
How you can help	11
Contact us	11

ABOUT US

The Friends of Mossvale Park is an incorporated association of people interested in the upkeep of Mossvale Park, in South Gippsland Shire.

The purposes of the association are

- To promote the botanic and historic characteristics of Mossvale Park (located at Mossvale Park Road in the Shire of South Gippsland) and foster the interest of members in the Park and in plants and flora generally through education, volunteerism and fellowship.
- To aid and support the maintenance of the park.
- To aid and support the documentation and dissemination of information about the collection of plants in Mossvale Park and the associated history.
- To aid and support the conservation, protection and enhancement of Mossvale Park's natural resources.
- To coordinate and support volunteer involvement in the park.
- To provide advisory committee services to South Gippsland Shire Council
- To support the ongoing development of Mossvale Park and encourage the use and enjoyment of the park by the community

The Friends group holds a working bee on the first Thursday of each month from 10.00am. Activities the friends undertake include weeding, mulching, planting and basic pruning and maintenance of the specimen plants. The working bee group under the direction of Jeremy Tuxen includes a number of regulars with others joining in from time to time.

This year we held 4 general meetings in the park, two Master planning meetings and our AGM on September 3rd 2026. Working bees were held on the first Thursday on the month.

This year we continued the actions for our two grants, the latter having been awarded in Dec 2025.

- The first a Victorian Landcare Grant for \$2,295.00 (plus GST) for a project entitled 'Sparking environmental curiosity in the Park'.
- And \$10,000.00 (plus GST) for our Mossvale Park Master Plan (Stage 1).

During the Community Consultation phase of the Master planning process volunteers visited the Music in Mossvale concert, local community markets and groups whose members may have an interest in contributing, such as the Leongatha Horticultural society, distributing surveys. Over 200 responses were received which is a huge number for a small rural community.



OUR PEOPLE

Committee of Management

Name	Position
Jeremy Curtis	President
Jill Vella	Secretary
Coral Hughes	Treasurer
Steve Lovie	Vice President and Membership Secretary
Jeremy Tuxen	Working bee coordinator
John Hawker	Patron

Shire of South Gippsland Staff with responsibility for the park

Name	Position
Nina Barry-Macaulay	Manager Open Space and Environment
Steve Missen	Open Space & Environment Coordinator
Rienna Pratten	Supervisor Open Space & Environment

Volunteers

Names		Associates
Jill V	Josephine W	Jennifer RHSV
Coral H	Robert S	Tannah L
Suzanne W	Wayne M	Jaxon L
Jeremy C	Joan M	Catherine H
Kevin H	Rohan M	KA F
Leslie H	Paul M	
Jean C	Ashleigh M	
Steve L	Jared L	
Jeremy T	Raeleigh P	
John H	Deb L	
Jan L	Steve M	



Horticulture students from Mary McKillop Regional College in the park learning about plants and weeds. 4/8/2026

Rotary concert 1/3/2006



STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

The Friends of Mossvale Park group is incorporated with Consumer Affairs Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, No. A0119658L

Our ABN is 27350554414

The friends of Mossvale Park Incorporated, is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

We are a member of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria through which we source our volunteer insurance.

We are a member of the South Gippsland Landcare Network. This affords us networking with likeminded volunteer groups, and grants us access to tax deductible gift status through the South Gippsland Landcare Fund.

The friends group meets bimonthly, with all members contributing to the meetings.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This has been a year of great progress within Mossvale Park. Due to the diligence of our secretary Jill, we were successful in gaining a shire grant of \$10,000. Some of this money will be spent on structuring a formal plan for the park to give us future direction and some will be spent on getting a full tree report from Peter Bateman of Arbozone. We look forward to his report.

The clutch of Magnolias behind the Gould Shed is becoming more evident with some beautiful colours on display. A tiny oak has been planted on the hill in recognition of the great contribution Rodney Emerson, Richard Lester and Les Hutchinson have made in the park over many years. Dick started this little tree life as an acorn and we have nurtured it at Knockwood until it was ready to plant out.

The Thursday brigade soldier on under the cheerful eye of Jeremy Tuxen and Steve Lovie, many thanks to you all. Steve Missen is retiring from the shire and he will be sorely missed from our circle. Thankyou Steve, for your co-operation, advice and support over many years.

Finally, I would like to thank our terrific committee who support their rambling president and help us move forward as a group. We all love the park, and it continues to shine whatever the weather .

Jeremy Curtis
President, Friends of Mossvale Park inc.

SECRETARYS REPORT

This year we held 4 general meetings in the park, two Master planning meetings and our AGM on September 3rd 2026. Working bees were held on the first Thursday on the month.

This year we continued work to fulfil our grants. Our Victorian Landcare Grant project entitled 'Sparking environmental curiosity in the Park' is nearly completed. We have obtained a laser engraver and many blank tags and have started our labelling project. The first twenty labels for native plants included in our new Tarwin River Trail have been placed in the park.

We are grateful for the input into this part of the project from Auntie Linda and Auntie Cheryl of the Kurnai nation. The signs are in the final stages of approval and then printing and should be installed soon.

We have continued to add to our informal plant trails in the park, with the 'The Moss and Gould historic tree trail' published in March 2026. <https://mossvalepark.rocketsparkau.com/historical-mossvale-park-a-walk-through-time/> .

We applied for and received a Landcare and Friends groups \$500 grant for group maintenance.

The Friends are always available to guide groups that wish to visit the park. In August we hosted a Mary MacKillop Regional College year 10 Horticulture class assisting in identification of some of the plants and discussing weed identification and treatment with the students.

The Friends group maintains a website www.mossvalepark.com which contains general information and a full list of plants, plus a comprehensive plant catalogue. This year, we have had 3438 sessions and 23 email enquiries using the contact form. Usage this year peaked in November 2025.

Our Facebook page has 487 followers, and the page has had 7631 views from Jul 1 to Jun 30. 77% of people viewing the page are non-followers. Our biggest time of engagement was whilst we were undertaking our community survey.

Our biggest focus over the last year has been the Master Planning project. We have completed the community consultation part of the project with Belinda Brennan our facilitator and the response of 218 submissions was huge for a rural area. It is testament to how valued the park is to the community.

Survey summary

- Mossvale Park is loved for its trees, tranquillity and sense of space.
- The community wants better amenities and information, not over-development.
- Tree protection, interpretation and history are central community values.
- There is strong support for the Friends group and a desire for sustainable funding and Shire backing.
- Carefully planned events are welcomed — provided they respect the park's character.

Jill Vella
Honorary Secretary.

Mossvale Park Working Bee Report 2025/26

July 3rd

Attendees – 8

Aug 7th

Attendees - 4

Sept 4th

Attendees – 4

Oct 2nd

Attendees - 3

Nov 6th

Attendees – 3

Dec 4th

Attendees – 4

Jeremy C held a thank you BBQ after Working Bee

Jan 1st

Attendees– 1

Feb 5th

Attendees – 6

March 5th

Attendees - 4

April 3rd

Attendees - 3

May 7th

Attendees - 4

June 4th

Attendees– 2

Cancelled due to weather, Jeremy T attended



Placing tree tags in the park. This is the Silver wattle 3/9/2026



One of our tree tags. This is a trial for durability and is not the final tag.

SECTION 3

OUR FINANCES

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Report
Friends of Mossvale Park Incorporated No. A0119658L
Financial Year ending 30/6/2026

Opening balance (July 1 2025)		\$569.05
INCOME		
Memberships	552.19	
Donations	849.73	
Grants - WGCMA	2524.50	
- South Gippsland Shire	11,000.00	
		Total \$15495.47
EXPENSES		
Membership SGLN	65.00	
Plants	467.36	
Belinda Brennan community engagement	3300.00	
Royal Horticultural Society insurance		
and membership	290.00	
Transaction Fees	2.00	
		Total -\$4124.36
Closing Balance (June 30, 2026)		\$11371.11

Coral Hughes
Honorary Treasurer

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

Donors

We are extremely grateful to our donors for helping us keep the park looking fabulous and help the friends keep up the good work.

Grants and funding

We acknowledge and thank the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority for providing the Friends group maintenance grant

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Become a member

Membership information is on our website

<https://www.mossvalepark.com/friends/>

Volunteer your time

Working bees are held in the park on the first Thursday of each month at 10.00am. Come along and join in the fun! Email us at mossvalepark@gmail.com

Make a donation

Donations of more than \$2.00 are tax deductible

<http://www.givenow.com.au/mossvalepark>

CONTACT US

C/- of the Secretary, Jill Vella

0419 382379

mossvalepark@gmail.com

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



Memorial tree planting. See President's report.

