

Volunteer guide Information sheet for dates of significance

1851 Francis Moss migrated to Victoria, aged 18 and settled at Buninyong, near Ballarat.

1888 Francis Moss and wife Augusta settled at Mossvale Park, on his 1,000 acres of virgin forest and begins nursery development. Part of the property was originally selected by Mr Bernard Farrell, via the 1878 Land Board. Mr Bruce is the first nursery manager.

1898 On the death of Mr Bruce manager of Mossvale Nursery, Mr William Gould managed both nurseries. Gould had been trained at Brunning's Nursery in the 1860s, and supervised for Moss until 1917, with his son George assisting him from 1910 to 1917. He was a qualified nurseryman, apprenticed in the 1860s. It was William George who planted the trees in the area that is now Mossvale Park. These may have been surplus nursery stock, which, for various reasons did not sell.

1916 Francis Moss died, aged 84, buried at Buninyong. The Buninyong nursery sold, but the Leongatha property (Mossvale) failed to sell.

1916 – 23 Thomas Weir, appointed by the estate administrators commenced dairy farming, however as the property deteriorated, it was leased for grazing.

1931 Farm leased to Les Edey.

1933 The front paddock became a venue for school sports and public picnics.

1930's Farm leased to Mr J Hayes. He first suggested Woorayl Shire Council, purchase the front paddock for public use.

1946 Woorayl and Mirboo North Shires jointly purchase 10 Acres, which is declared a public reserve. A public meeting was convened in the Berrys Creek Hall and the first Committee of Management was elected. Mr G M Hayes, owner of Mossvale farm was appointed caretaker.

1949 Proposed park open space developed, ploughed, graded and sown down.

1950 Mr Archie Mason purchased Mossvale farm. He assisted in park development.

1950s First public facilities established - a fireplace, water tank, and playground.

1969 First 'Music for the People' concert, with the Victorian State Orchestra.

1980 The music soundshell completed.

2010 – 11 West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and Council complete first stage in South West location. Weed species were removed and indigenous endemic species were planted on Tarwin River easement.

Proposed walk in the park not all the trees but pointing out the ones of note.

Start behind the playground with a view of the old entrance across the river and the rows of trees beside it.

Talk about the river being the west branch of the Tarwin River. The WGCMA cleared the mess of poplars and revegetated 2010-11

Mossvale park is an arboretum, a concept loved by the Egyptians but really brought into its own by the Victorian English, who first coined the term in 1833. Plants in arboretums have labels, and if you look carefully you can see some of ours. Given our arboretum was established in 1890, it was definitely following the fashion for tree parks. The current MVP was not part of the nursery – that's above Knockwood, but was specifically planted. Our trees are probably rejects but we love them anyway.

We have over 260 species (including the riverside species) represented by over 430 individual specimens plus the riverside plantings (another 1000 or so plants).

Now we can observe the plane on the banks and the elms

The English elm which John Hawker suggests is the tallest specimen in Victoria. (Moss planting)

The variegated elm and the

Purple elm (that is the bent tree) (moss planting)

Now walk down the road and look at the Chesnut leaved oak – national trust tree

On the other side of the road is why the bank needs clearing with poplars cherry plums weeds and ivy

(if the piles of prunings are still there you could mention that the Mirboo north secondary Landcare cadets did the work)

Walking along the red oak has been cabled to stop it splitting. We would not do this today, it is not helping the tree.

The second weeping elm is a moss planting. The small first one was transplanted from the hospital

The Algerian oak is a moss planting (get excited about the canopy to the ground making a cave)

The cork oak is here somewhere. Its obvious.

The conifer is *Afrocarpus falcatus* which is a South African species that can live to 1000 years old

The next tree going up the road toward Julie and Jeremy's of note is a pin oak from USA

Then the *Plantanus racemosa* or Californian plane, possibly the only one in Victoria.

The *Gleditsia sunburst* is next on the left. It is a legume. Next to it is a beech

Going in towards the sound shell is the national trust London plane the blue atlas cedar (nth Africa) and the tulip trees.

Back along the road is an American ash and a *picea orientalis aurea* (the conifer)

Then a golden spruce.

Now cross the road.

Look towards the river and the Manna gum. This is original forest.

There are golden poplars here beside the river. The riverside plantings here are lovely so you could briefly talk about the natives.

On the left as you are walking into the isthmus is the ginko.

Turning round and walking back towards the road on the right is a blanket leaf in the riverside plantings, a claret ash, which is an Australian variety, first seen in the Adelaide ranges in SA in 1910 where a random seedling had the lovely red colouring.

There is a Himalayan birch on the left and a lipstick maple. The pink horse chestnut is beautiful when flowering.

The purple or copper beech is quite obvious on the left.

Across the road is the ghost maple or *acer negundo variagatum*.

Then a Yunnan poplar which is great in wet areas. Of which we have a few, given the regular flooding.

There are chestnut leafed oaks on each side of the road looking up to the Curtis's.

In the park and up the hill is the national trust oriental plane tree.

Walk between the oaks, the golden on the right and an Algerian on the left.

Doing a bit of a loop in this area you can see a weeping elm, a linden (or lime tree- a European lime not a citrus)

Norfolk island pine from the 1890s, a variegated elm, and indian deodar cedars.

Now go to the break in the slope planting where there are flowering cherries, a flowering white lilac and the judas trees. The slope is steep but can be carefully walked down.

Turn towards the swamp. The taxodiums are ahead and to the left. On the right is the Chinese quince, which is generally flowering or carrying fruit (it has lovely leopard spotted bark).

Mosses white birch is here too.

The Nyssa is ahead. It has lovely autumn foliage.

Across the wetlands and to the right are the river sheoak plantings. Listen for the breeze in the needles.

The grey leafed little tree is a rowan.

Walking along towards the north, there is a sycamore (these are weeds) and our lindens. The boffins had fun working out which was which. The one up the bank has an old enamel sign. There is an English elm here.

Northmost is new plantings including several upright liquid ambers. This is a difficult area to grow plants in and establishment levels are low. It is a priority area. On the right of this area is the tricolour beech (it is shades of red)

Coming back there is an euc strzleckii, lipstick maples on the left, a dawn redwood (metasequoia) and a variegated maple with a plaque.

More moss white birches. Then the Kowhai and the moptop.

Relax. It is over. Begin again with a new group. Send the old group down the glade.



Start here