

Explore our Indigenous Heritage

MOSSVALE PARK

South Gippsland's historic arboretum

Traditional custodians

The Bratwolong people are one of the five Kurnai people who lived in the area.

Bratwolong people lived for this Country, its rivers, plants, animals and cultural places for countless generations and continue to hold cultural knowledge, responsibilities and connection to Country today.

Want to find out more about Kurnai Country? Use the QR code to visit the website



The river and the trees

The Tarwin River surrounds the Park on all four sides and in parts, runs through the property. By the early 2000's plants from the original nursery such as silver and golden poplar and the reviled and ubiquitous English ivy not to mention tutson, blackberry, ragwort and hemlock were rampant on the overgrown river banks. The Catchment Authority, the South Gippsland Shire and the Mossvale Park management committee wanted to remove the weeds and re-establish native vegetation.

The Park floods on a regular basis and these weeds washed downstream, establishing beside the river wherever they washed up. The river, despite years of weed infestation still harbours platypus and the banks bandicoots, koalas, wombats and flocks of native birds. It was time to rescue the river and protect the banks. There we still a few remnants of the Great Forest on the riverbanks and these, along with the non-weedy European trees were preserved and nurtured. Now the park is sheltered on all sides and the deep green native vegetation is a perfect backdrop to our exotic specimens. Use the QR code to see the full story.



Enjoy all our self guided walking trails

Stroll around historic Mossvale Park arboretum on one these walks or just freely wander.

There are no marked routes but we have prepared some 'trails' with downloadable directions and highlighted trees of interest.

Arboretum simply means a collection of trees, and those in the park are from our local environment, Australia and around the world.



Use the QR code to launch the trail



Naroot (Kurnai for wombat) will lead you around our 'Tarwin river walk: Plants of significance to the Kurnai people' trail. Follow the footprints.



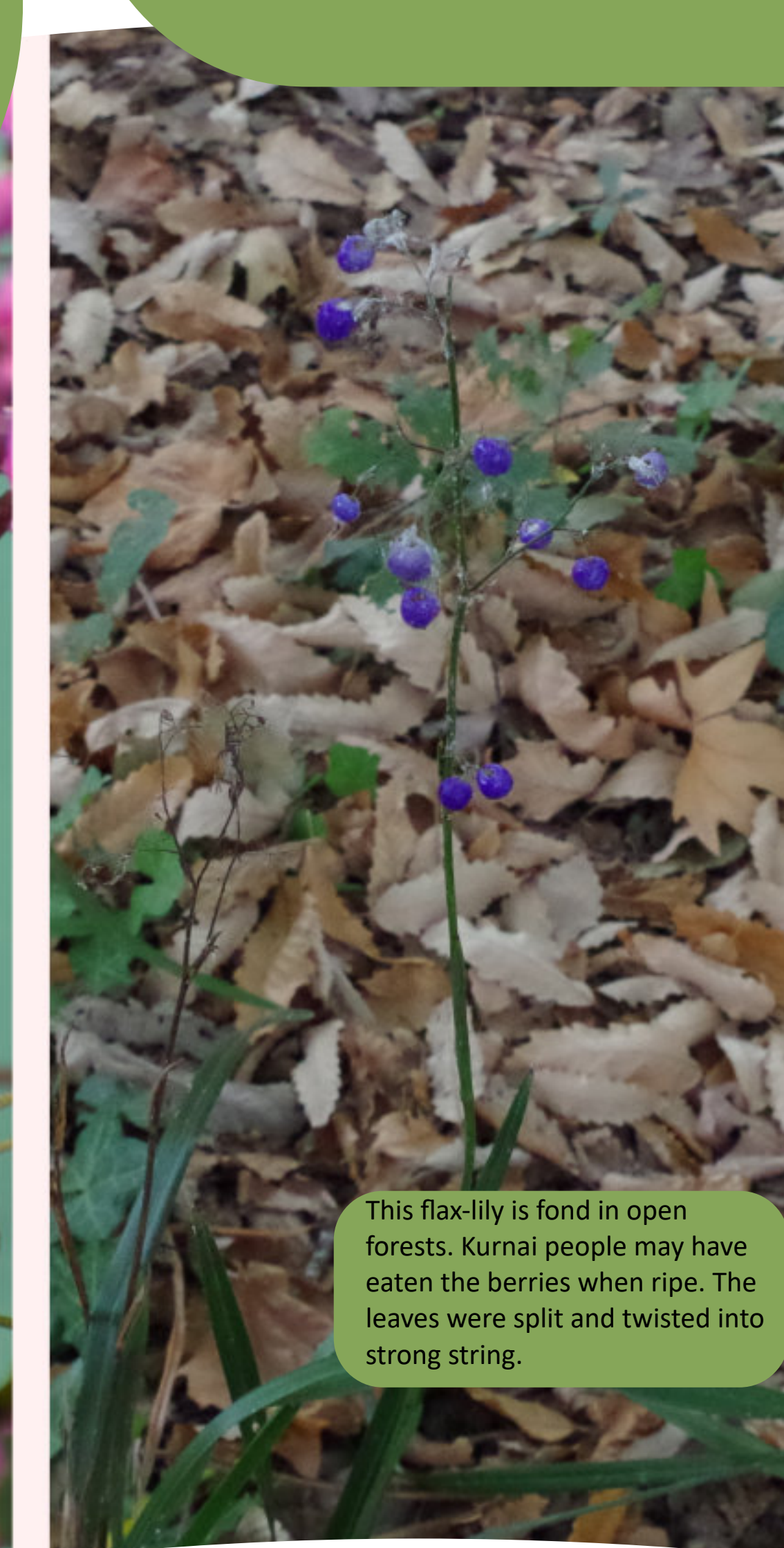
Acacia dealbata, or silver wattle known as MART in traditional language, had various uses: its seeds were made into flour or eaten whole, gum was fermented in water, bark was used medicinally, and wood was used for making tool handles and string.



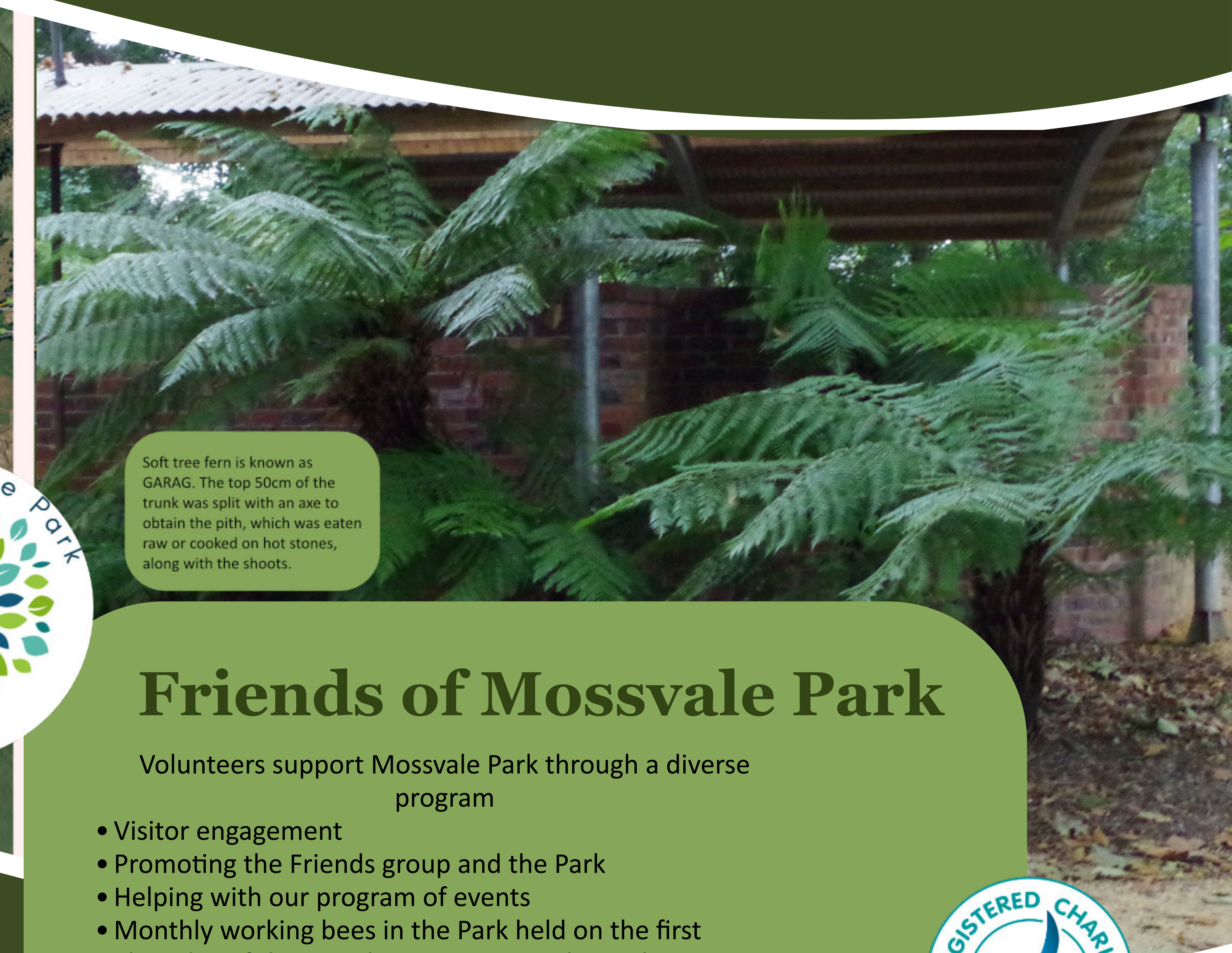
Messmate is known as KATAKATAK and is common in forests in the Mossvale Park area. The dry outer bark was used for starting fires and making fishing torches, for night fishing. The inner bark was made into coarse string and this string was used for making nets and bags. The string was also used for tying canoe ends and ceremonial clothing.



The roots of Austral Indigo were pounded to make a fish poison.



This flax-lily is found in open forests. Kurnai people may have eaten the berries when ripe. The leaves were split and twisted into strong string.



Soft tree fern is known as GARAG. The top 50cm of the trunk was split with an axe to obtain the pith, which was eaten raw or cooked on hot stones, along with the shoots.

Friends of Mossvale Park

Volunteers support Mossvale Park through a diverse program

- Visitor engagement
- Promoting the Friends group and the Park
- Helping with our program of events
- Monthly working bees in the Park held on the first Thursday of the month at 10.00am in the park
- Bimonthly meetings are held in the park. We discuss projects and planting and other issues affecting the park.



Mossvale Park is managed by South Gippsland Shire Council.

For more information about the Park - South Gippsland Shire web page

