



Moss and Gould Historical plants trail

A self guided walking trail

NOTE

All QR codes are also hyperlinks that can be accessed by clicking on the image in the online document. Please let us know using the contact form on the web page if any codes or links are broken.

Warning!

The park is located on a flood plain and can get very wet and slippery.

The bank is very steep in parts and can be very slippery due to fallen leaves, especially in winter.

Do not wade through flood water at any time.

Wear appropriate footwear and use walking poles / sticks to help you if necessary.

Always watch for snakes in warmer weather. Do not approach or try to handle snakes. Turn the other way and retreat.

Be aware of wombat diggings and other uneven ground.

Be aware of falling branches, especially in windy or stormy weather

Let's explore the historic plantings that established Mossvale Park

When was the Park established?

The area of South Gippsland that includes what we now know of as Mossvale Park was first known as the Great Gippsland Forest. Some remnants of this remain in the park and are the subject of our Endemic Vegetation trail. But for this walk, we will be looking at the plantings in the park that occurred after Francis Moss settled on the 1000 acres virgin forest in 1888. The land had first been selected by Bernard Farrell ten years earlier. At this stage the property was called Mossmont on the Tarwin and was to be a plant nursery, like Moss's home nursery in Buniyong, also called Mossmont.

The land was cleared by burning off which commenced in January. Then fencing, a hut and a bridge across the Tarwin River had to be built. By 1890 a house had been built for the nursery manager, Mr Bruce and Mr Moss when he visited.



Mossmont on Tarwin

In 1898 the nursery manager Mr Bruce died. Mr William Gould took over and managed both this nursery and Moss's Leongatha Nursery on the Ruby Creek. Gould had been trained at Brunning's Nursery in the 1860s, and supervised for Moss until 1917. He was a qualified nurseryman, apprenticed in the 1860s. It was William and his son 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. The Moss nurseries were also well regarded for their apple and fruit trees, with over 250,000 trees sold in 1903 from the Ruby Creek property.

In 1910

George Gould was appointed to assist his father William in both the nursery on the Ruby Creek and the property on the Tarwin River. It was decided to change the large grazing portion of the property to dairying.

The name of the property was changed at this time from Mossmont to Mossvale, the name we know it as today.



L - R Francis Moss, William Gould and George Gould

FRUIT TREES.

ALL kinds of Fruit Trees; also Oak
Elms and Planes at reduced
prices.

W. GOULD,
Manager Moss & Son's Nurseries,
Leongatha.

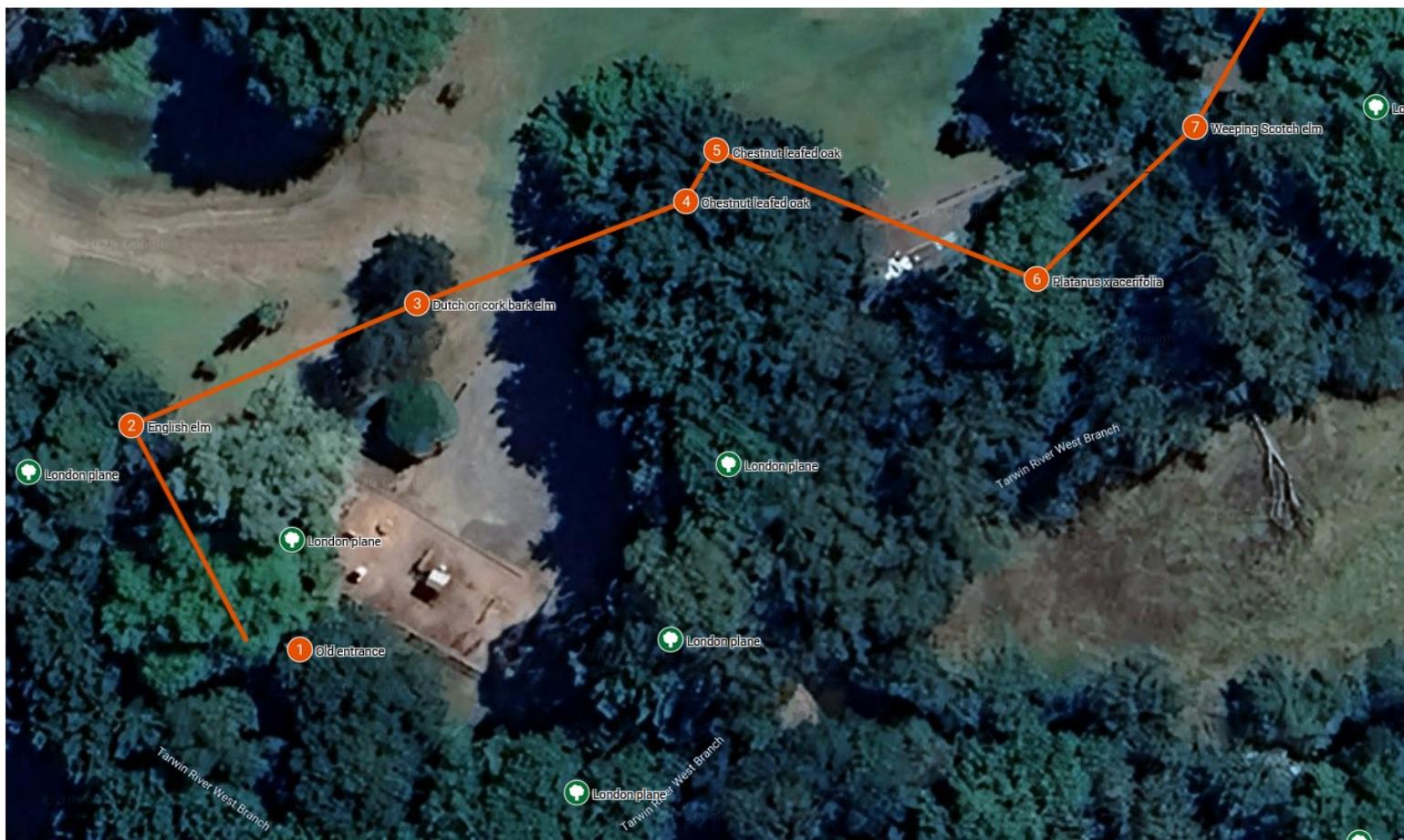
(1917, July 20). *Great Southern Star* (Leongatha, Vic. : 1914 - 1918), p. 3.

The Moss and Gould trail showcases 14 species of tree planted in the period circa 1890-1900. The actual nursery was located on the top of the hill north of the current Mossvale Park. When the Edey family bought the Mossvale farm in 1930, Terence Edey remembered in his memoir 'Moss Vale Days' that the 30 acre nursery site was 'a beautiful wilderness of untended roses, magnolias, rhododendrons, hawthorn, and assorted pines, fruit trees and exotic ornamentals. Some of these were trapped in the stunted profusion of old nursery rows, while others more fortunate had matured into magnificent specimens fit to grace a botanic garden'. We have also included Moss connected apples on the trail. Even though the plants are not very old they are clones of apple varieties that Moss either developed or popularised.

The Google map is available for your phone, and you can easily follow the trail. Each numbered tree and point of interest is clickable with a photo and information attached. Otherwise use this brochure and follow the trail using the photos to identify the historic trees. We have also provided QR codes to scan with your phone if you would like further information on any of the trees.



This QR code launches the interactive map



Our trail starts at the original entrance to the Park.

This entrance is behind the playground, and on the other side of the river the original long gone entrance track is flanked by majestic trees.

With a bit of careful viewing you can see the two rows of magnificent oaks. The post card from the turn of last century shows the old bridge. It washed away in the 1930's and was replaced with the current entrance.

If you are interested in a time line of the history of the park, you can find it on our website or using this link



The original entrance

1



A PICNIC RESORT, LEONGATHA

Once you have had a look around at the old entrance location head about 15 metres north to our English Elm. This tree is National Trust listed, and there is plenty of info about it on our National Trust trees website page. Use the QR code to go to the page if you are interested.



National Trust trees in the park

2

Ulmus procera, common name English elm. Our tree is 35.3 m tall and has a trunk circumference of 6.45 m. This specimen is the largest of its species (including canopy spread) on the National Trust Register.



Latitude	-38.4030228
Longitude	146.0530689
Catalogue no.	151.00



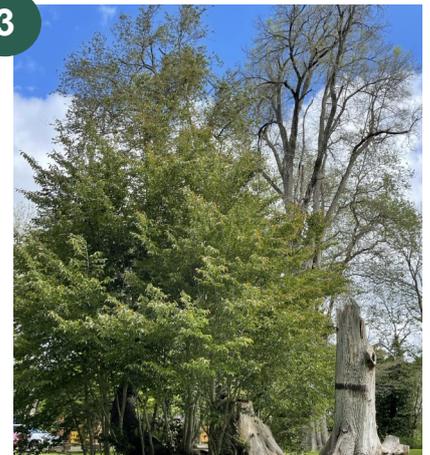
The next tree we are going to visit is our Dutch or cork bark elm. This is about 35 metres from the English elm to the east. Walk along the top of the car park and you cannot miss it. It has a somewhat unusual growth habit. This is the variant 'purpurescens'.

Ulmus x hollandica 'purpurescens', common names Dutch or cork bark elm, is usually a tree to 20m tall. *Ulmus x hollandica* 'purpurescens' has young leaves, shoots and fruits that are purplish; and many of the leaves fold upwards. Ours has fallen over at some stage, all the growth you see now is sucker regrowth. Often there are more children playing on the fallen trunk than in the playground.



Latitude	-38.4028946
Longitude	146.0534513
Catalogue no.	154.00

3



Continuing along the main track for about 40 metres still in a roughly easterly direction, we will come to a pair of Chestnut leaved oaks. One is much more spectacular than the other and is National Trust listed, although they are both the same age. They probably once lined the park entrance road.

Quercus castaneifolia, common name chestnut-leaved oak, is a species of oak native to the Caucasus and Alborz mountains of Iran. *Quercus castaneifolia* is a deciduous tree. Our National Trust listed tree (no 4) has the measurements: 04/2004
 Spread (m): E-W 35; N-S 26
 Girth (m): 6.20
 Height (m): 34.0

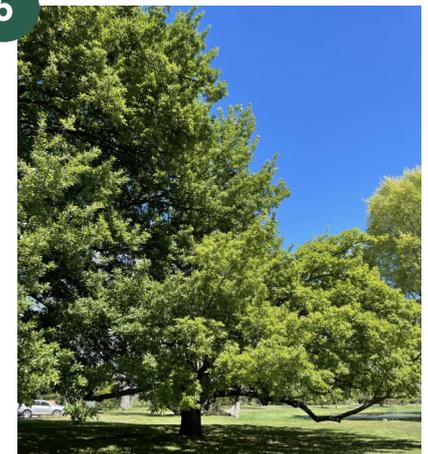


Latitude	-38.4027867
Longitude	146.0538131
Catalogue no.	128.00



Trees number 4,5,16 and 17 - our chestnut leaved oaks share the same listing

Latitude	-38.40273318
Longitude	146.0538539
Catalogue no.	128.03



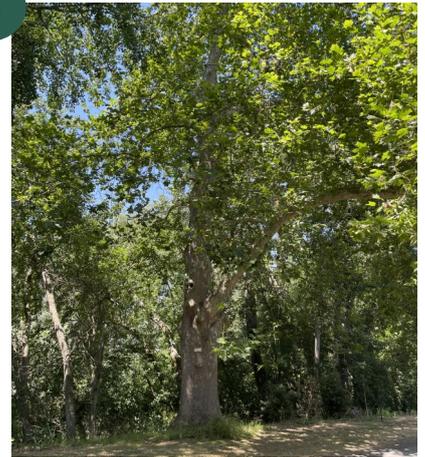
You may notice that the map (if you are using it) contains plenty of points for London Plane trees. There are 29 of these Moss era planes in the park, mostly on the riverbanks. To simplify this trail we have omitted all but one of the London planes to talk about, and we will be getting to this one next.

There will be/is a dedicated trail for the planes. These are *Platanus x acerifolia* which are the same hybrid as the London Plane which technically describes one tree found in Ely, Cambridgeshire in England. It was so spectacular the cross between *Platanus orientalis* (oriental plane) and *Platanus occidentalis* (American sycamore) became a nursery favorite. This hybrid is fertile and so many London planes have London Planes as parents. Because they are hybrids there is often considerable differences between trees.

Any way the plane tree is on the southern side of the road and is about 40 metres from the chestnut leaved oaks in a south easterly direction. It was chosen because of its mid last century enameled name plate which is interesting in its own right. A few of our trees still have these; see if you can spot some others.

Platanus × acerifolia, common name London plane, is usually thought to be a hybrid of *Platanus orientalis* (oriental plane) and *Platanus occidentalis* (American sycamore). *Platanus × acerifolia* is a large deciduous tree growing 20–30 m, tall, with a trunk up to 3 m or more in circumference. The flowers are borne in one to three (most often two) dense spherical inflorescences on a pendulous stem.

6



Latitude	-38.402869
Longitude	146.054283
Catalogue no.	110.06

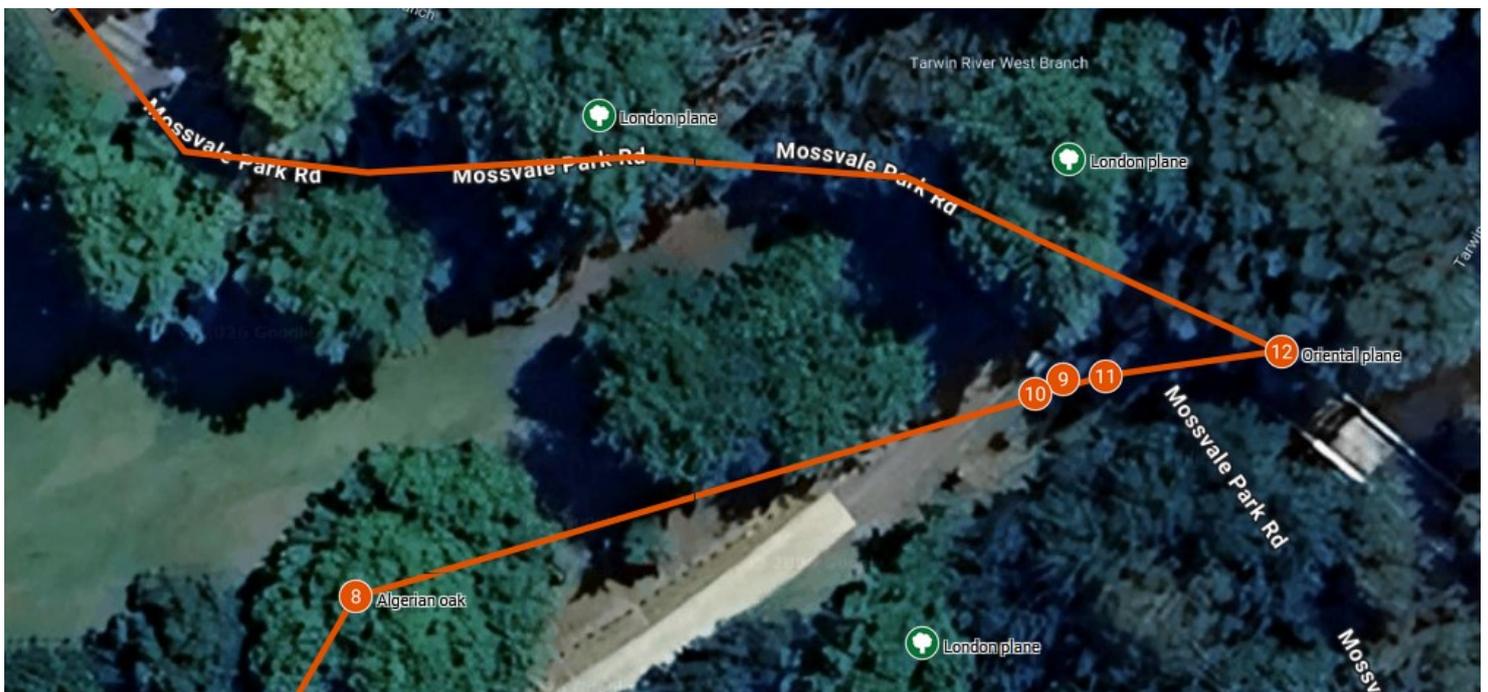
Cross back over the northern edge of the road and in about 25 metres to the east you will come to specimen no 7 on this trail, a weeping Scotch elm.

Ulmus glabra 'Horizontalis', common name Weeping Scotch elm, umbrella tree, weeping Wych Elm or Horizontal elm, was discovered in a Perth (Scotland) nursery circa 1816. 'Horizontalis' has branches that extend out horizontally with weeping branchlets. It is usually grafted onto a tall understock of *Ulmus glabra* to effectively display its weeping habit. You can easily see the graft on this very old specimen.

7



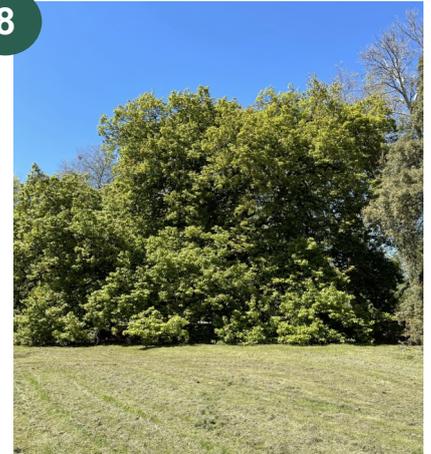
Latitude	-38.4027076
Longitude	146.054496
Catalogue no.	149.00



25 metres along the road and to the north east you will come to specimen no 8 on this trail, an Algerian oak.

Quercus canariensis, common name Algerian Oak, is native to southern Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Despite the scientific name, it does not occur naturally today in the Canary Islands. *Quercus canariensis* is a medium-sized deciduous to semi-evergreen tree growing to 20–30 m tall with a trunk up to 1.5 m diameter. The leaves are 10–15 cm long and 6–8 cm wide, with 6-12 pairs of shallow lobes. The flowers are catkins; the fruit is an acorn 2.5 cm long and 2 cm wide, in a shallow cup.

8



Latitude	-38.40250645
Longitude	146.0546457
Catalogue no.	127.02

60 metres along the road towards the corner of Mossvale Park Road and on the south side of the road you will find a group of three apple trees. These are numbered slightly out of order (sorry) but are apple varieties that were of importance to Francis Moss who considered himself a 'pomologist' or apple expert. His nurseries produced hundreds of thousands of apples over the years, many imported, trialed for Australian conditions and propagated for sale. He developed the Stewart seedling first found in Ballarat which was the most popular cooking apple available from Victorian green grocers up to the advent of supermarkets. It does not transport or keep well enough compared to the now ubiquitous 'Granny Smith' variety.

The Rokewood apple has several grafts on it from apples still growing in the Mossvale nursery area in the private property next to the park. We will try to identify them when they fruit.

Although these are not 130 year old specimens they are clones of the trees Mossvale nursery grew so have the exact genetic makeup. They may even have an unbroken line right back to Mossvale at the turn of the 20th century.

Malus domestica 'Rokewood' has fruit that are a medium size, ~55 mm; skin yellowish green with bright orange-red blush and a few streaks, russet at base; flesh firm crisp, greenish white; flavor sweet, harvest season mid to late. Developed by John Bullock at Dereel in Rokewood District in the 1870s.

10



The apple trees in the Park have been planted to honour the association between Francis Moss and fruit tree production. As the Rokewood was an apple known for its excellent transportability, it is likely that Francis Moss would have had this apple as part of his catalogue.



Latitude	-38.40234174
Longitude	146.0553385
Catalogue no.	82.00

Malus domestica 'Northern Spy' is a cultivar of apple that originated on the farm of Oliver Chapin in East Bloomfield, New York in about 1840. Northern Spy produces fairly late in the season (April and beyond). Skin color is a green ground, flushed with red stripes. The white flesh is juicy, crisp and mildly sweet. Its characteristic flavor is tarter than most popular varieties, and its flesh is harder/crunchier than most, with a thin skin. In 1903 Moss's Leongatha nursery on the banks of the Ruby Creek, produced 120,000 apple trees, mainly Northern Spy for sale each season. (Leongatha Sun 21 January 1903)



Latitude	-38.40233079
Longitude	146.0553662
Catalogue no.	84.00

9



Malus domestica 'Stewart Seedling'

Also called Ballarat Seedling. Found at Ballarat, Victoria, in the 1870s in the garden of Mrs Stewart. Known in the early 1900s. Fruits have coarse, hard flesh with a sub-acid flavour.

Francis Moss developed a great talent for budding and grafting fruit trees, after all imported stock suffered blight. He experimented with apple stocks, and with the help of Thomas Lang of Ballarat, developed a blight-free stock. Hence the Stewart's Seedling, or Ballarat Seedling, named by Francis Moss in the 1870s. A Mrs Stewart of Golden Point, Ballarat, showed the apple from a seedling, and Francis distributed it. It was a snow white apple, very acidic. Henry Bull, who was a gardener in Buninyong in the 1860s and 1870s, and who lived in Somerville St. very close to Moss's nursery, probably worked for Moss, and according to descendants was responsible for the introduction of the Ballarat apple into New Zealand, when he moved there later in the 1870s. BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter June 2013.



Latitude	-38.40232827
Longitude	146.0554111
Catalogue no.	83.00

11



The last tree in this section is on the other side of Mossvale Park Road on the corner of the bridge over the river. This Oriental plane has seen better days, but is slowly recovering.

Platanus orientalis, common name, Oriental plane, is a large, deciduous tree growing to 30 m or more, and known for its longevity and spreading crown. The native range is Eurasia from the Balkans to at least as far east as Iran. The oriental plane is found naturally in riverine settings. Like other plane trees, its leaves are borne alternately on the stem, deeply lobed, and palmate or maple-like. It usually has flaking bark, occasionally not flaking and becoming thick and rugged. Flowers and fruit are round and burr-like, borne in clusters of between 2 and 6 on a stem. Considerable variation exists among trees in the wild.

12



Latitude	-38.4023088
Longitude	146.0555888
Catalogue no.	109.01



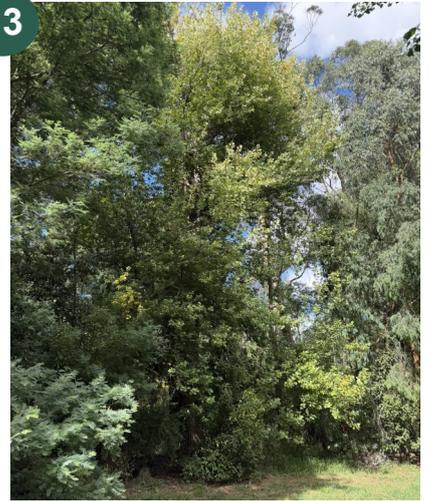
From the Oriental plane next to the bridge, turn back into the park and walk up Mossvale Park Road. Be aware of traffic as this road is surprisingly busy. Continue about 150 metres roughly north west, until you come to the Gould pavilion on the right. This structure is the site of the old pony club shed but is now a picnic area named for the father and son managers of the nursery William and George Gould. Find out more about them here



Past the pavilion and about 15 metres in the vegetation on the south bank of the river is the first of the two golden poplars in Gould's glade. The other is on the north bank of the river about 45 metres almost due north from the first. There are also 4 planes in the riverbank vegetation.

Populus × canadensis 'Aurea', common name Golden poplar, is a cultivar of a naturally occurring hybrid of *Populus nigra* and *Populus deltoides*. 'Aurea' is a vigorous, large deciduous tree to 25m or more, of broadly conical habit. Leaves ovate, bright golden-yellow in early summer, becoming greener in summer, but giving good yellow autumn colour. 'Aurea' has won the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

13



Latitude	-38.40156893
Longitude	146.0545886
Catalogue no.	114

Trees number 13 and 14 share the same listing

14



Latitude	-38.40118334
Longitude	146.0546502
Catalogue no.	114.01

Leave the glade and walk out to the road and walk north west towards the gate to Knockwood Estate (about 40 metres) and the cattle grid. On each side of the road are another pair of chestnut leafed oaks.

15



Latitude	-38.4012591
Longitude	146.0535054
Catalogue no.	128.02

Trees number 4,5,16 and 17 - our chestnut leafed oaks - share the same listing



16



Latitude	-38.40143407
Longitude	146.053295
Catalogue no.	128.01

After admiring the chestnut leafed oaks, walk up the bank in a mostly easterly direction. This part of the bank is the least steep, however please take care when navigating the slope, especially if the grass is damp. The next tree to look at is one of the four Algerian oaks on this walk. This specimen is one of our finest.



Quercus canariensis, common name Algerian Oak. This is the second of 4 on this walk. *Quercus canariensis* is a medium-sized deciduous to semi-evergreen tree growing to 20–30 m tall with a trunk up to 1.5 m diameter. The leaves are 10–15 cm long and 6–8 cm wide, with 6–12 pairs of shallow lobes. The flowers are catkins; the fruit is an acorn 2.5 cm long and 2 cm wide, in a shallow cup.

17



Latitude	-38.40150133
Longitude	146.0530357
Catalogue no.	127.04

We are now going to walk about 55 metres to the top corner of the park to see one of two English oaks planted in the Moss/Gould era.

Quercus robur, common name English oak, is a species of flowering plant native to most of Europe west of the Caucasus. *Quercus robur* is a large deciduous tree with a short stout trunk with wide-spreading branches and may grow to a height of 25m. The short-stalked leaves, are dark green above and pale green beneath and retain their colour into winter. The acorns are 2–2.5cm long with one to four acorns on each peduncle.

18



Latitude	-38.40120642
Longitude	146.0525156
Catalogue no.	132.01

We are now going to walk back about 55 metres more or less south back to the trees that ring the top of the slope. Here there are four Moss/Gould era trees. First is the weeping Golden Ash.

Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea Pendula', common name golden weeping ash, is a medium sized, deciduous tree with golden stems, black buds and bright green, pinnate foliage around 30cms long that turns shades of red and brown in autumn in colder climates. It produces rather insignificant greeny-yellow flowers in spring that turn to single seeded, winged fruits called samaras.



Latitude	-38.40160364
Longitude	146.0526857
Catalogue no.	69.00

19



To the south west and 20 metres away is the Norfolk Island pine.

Araucaria heterophylla, common name Norfolk Island pine is a slow growing tree, reaching a height of 50–65 m. It has gray-brown bark. The young leaves 1–1.5 cm long, about 1 mm thick at the base on young trees, 5–10 mm long and 2–4 mm broad on older trees. The cones are squat & round, and take about 18 months to mature. They disintegrate at maturity to release the nut-like edible seeds. The tree can be male, female or both. The scientific name heterophylla ("different leaves") derives from the variation in the leaves between young and adult plants.



Latitude	-38.4016927
Longitude	146.0525499
Catalogue no.	28.00

20



To the west and 15 metres away (basically touching the Norfolk Island pine) is the third old Algerian oak on this walk

Quercus canariensis, common name Algerian Oak. This is the third of 4 on this walk. *Quercus canariensis* is a medium-sized deciduous to semi-evergreen tree growing to 20–30 m tall with a trunk up to 1.5 m diameter. The leaves are 10–15 cm long and 6–8 cm wide, with 6-12 pairs of shallow lobes. The flowers are catkins; the fruit is an acorn 2.5 cm long and 2 cm wide, in a shallow cup.



Latitude	-38.40172578
Longitude	146.052396
Catalogue no.	127.01

21



Due south and again only 15 metres away (basically touching Algerian oak) is our venerable red oak; tree 22 on this walk. **Please be careful under these trees as slippery leaves, a slope and wombats can make your footing treacherous.**

Quercus rubra (old name *Q. borealis*), common name red oak, tree native to North America. It grows to 30m to 45m tall, with a trunk of up to 1m diameter. Bark is dark reddish gray brown and the leaves are alternate, seven to nine-lobed, 15 to 20cm long, 10 to 15cm broad. In autumn they turn a rich red, sometimes brown. The acorns are solitary or in pairs.



Latitude	-38.4018623
Longitude	146.0523239
Catalogue no.	133.00

22



100 metres north west at the top of the park is the last of the four Algerian oaks on this walk.

Quercus canariensis, common name Algerian Oak. This is the last of 4 on this walk. *Quercus canariensis* is a medium-sized deciduous to semi-evergreen tree growing to 20–30 m tall with a trunk up to 1.5 m diameter. The leaves are 10–15 cm long and 6–8 cm wide, with 6-12 pairs of shallow lobes. The flowers are catkins; the fruit is an acorn 2.5 cm long and 2 cm wide, in a shallow cup.



Latitude	-38.40140306
Longitude	146.0513932
Catalogue no.	127.00

23



Now the next bit is a bit tricky. Take lots of care. You need to walk west down the bank, over the culvert and onto the flat. In wet times this is very slippery and there can be flood water around the culvert. If you are in any doubt turn around go back the way you came and access the back of the park from the carpark near the playground.

At the bottom of the slope is tree 24, an English oak.

Quercus robur, common name English oak, is a species of flowering plant native to most of Europe west of the Caucasus. *Quercus robur* is a large deciduous tree with a short stout trunk with wide-spreading branches and may grow to a height of 25m. The short-stalked leaves, are dark green above and pale green beneath and retain their colour into winter. The acorns are 2–2.5cm long with one to four acorns on each peduncle.



Latitude	-38.401688
Longitude	146.05113
Catalogue no.	132.00

24

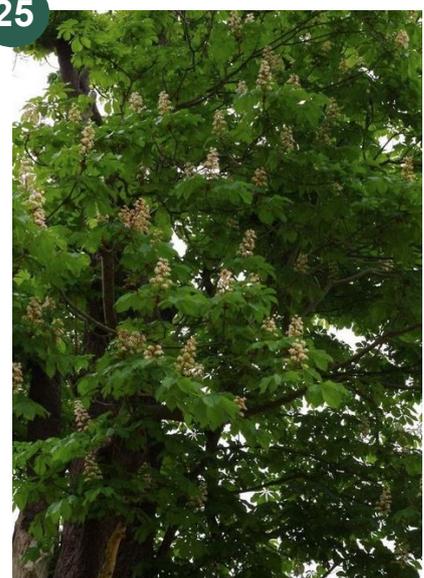




150 metres south east (almost to the elm we saw as our second stop on the tour) we come to our elderly horse chestnut. This tree is very old, but we are not really sure if it is a Moss/Gould era tree. Some say it is - and it is wonderful when in flower. Lets enjoy it and give it the benefit of the doubt.

Aesculus hippocastanum, Horse chestnut or conker is a large deciduous tree, growing to about 35 metres with a domed crown of stout branches; on old trees the outer branches are often pendulous with curled-up tips. The leaves are opposite and palmately compound. The leaf scars left on twigs after the leaves have fallen have a distinctive horseshoe shape, complete with seven "nails". The flowers are usually white with a yellow to pink blotch at the base of the petals; they are produced in spring in erect panicles 10–30 cm tall with about 20–50 flowers on each panicle. Usually only 1–5 fruits develop on each panicle; the shell is a green, spiky capsule containing one (rarely two or three) nut-like seeds called conkers or horse-chestnuts. Each conker is 2–4 cm in diameter, glossy nut-brown with a whitish scar at the base.

25



Latitude	-38.4027272
Longitude	146.0525014
Catalogue no.	19.00

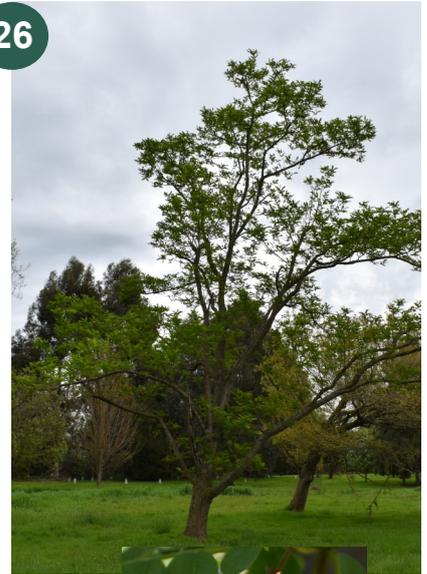
About 40 metres north east (being aware of flood waters. If it is wet go around the swamp via the purple dutch elm - specimen 3 on the tour) we come to the black locust tree. Now this is not 135 years old, but the root system is. This tree grows, has a setback and regrows suckers from the roots. So it was planted in the Moss/Gould era so it qualifies for this walk.

Robinia pseudoacacia, common name black locust, is a medium-sized hardwood deciduous tree, belonging to the tribe Robinieae of the legume family Fabaceae. It is endemic to a few small areas of the United States. This tree reaches a height of 12–30 m with a diameter of 0.5–1.5 m). It is a very upright tree with a straight trunk and narrow crown that grows scraggly with age. The dark blue-green compound leaves with a contrasting lighter underside give this tree a beautiful appearance in the wind and contribute to its grace. Black locust often spreads by underground shoots or suckers, which contributes to the weedy character of this species. In Mossvale Park, the tree that remains is a sucker of earlier Moss era plantings.



Latitude	-38.40239469
Longitude	146.0526993
Catalogue no.	136.00

26



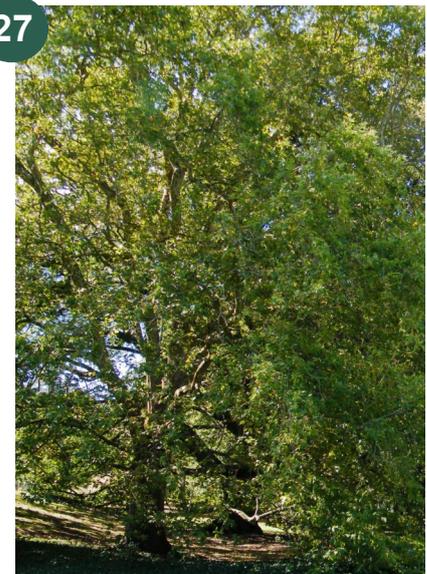
Its 100 metres from the penultimate to the last tree on our trail. With it's National Trust listing this Oriental plane has been justly judged to be a tree of importance to the people of Victoria. Whilst not officially part of this trail, you could also visit the plane next to the sound shell - our Moss/Gould era London plane. It is also National Trust registered.

Platanus orientalis, common name, Oriental plane, is a large, deciduous tree growing to 30 m or more, and known for its longevity and spreading crown. The native range is Eurasia from the Balkans to at least as far east as Iran. The oriental plane is found naturally in riverine settings. Like other plane trees, its leaves are borne alternately on the stem, deeply lobed, and palmate or maple-like. It usually has flaking bark, occasionally not flaking and becoming thick and rugged. Flowers and fruit are round and burr-like, borne in clusters of between 2 and 6 on a stem. Considerable variation exists among trees in the wild. This tree is listed by the National Trust



Latitude	-38.40164858
Longitude	146.0532385
Catalogue no.	109.00

27



You have now reached the end of our Moss and Gould Historical plant trail. We occasionally lead walks in the park, so follow our Facebook page if you are interested. We will advertise any guided walk days on this page. Thanks for your interest and we hope you enjoyed your 1.3 km walk.

Monthly Working Bee in the park



1st Thursday of the month @ 10.00am

email: mossvalepark@gmail.com for info



Contact the Friends of Mossvale Park

mossvalepark@gmail.com

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