
MOSSVALE PARK



Moss Vale Park



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image18

Location

MOSSVALE ROAD, BERRYS CREEK, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO3

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 22, 2022

What is significant?

Mossvale Park, including the original plantings by Francis Moss and later plantings and buildings established following the establishment of the Park in 1946, at Mossvale Road, Berry's Creek. The most notable elements of the Park are the mature native and exotic trees. The native trees are remnants of the original bushland and include examples of Strzelecki Gums, which are endemic to the Strzelecki Ranges and have been identified as endangered at a National Level. Among the many fine examples of exotic trees are five that have been included on the Register of Significant Trees compiled by the National Trust as outstanding examples of their species.

They are:

- Algerian Oak (*Quercus canariensis*)
- Chesnut Leafed Oak (*Quercus castaneifolia*)
- London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*)
- Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*)
- Variegated Elm (*Ulmus minor 'variegata'*)

Amenity buildings in the park include:

- a postwar toilet block of typical design, which is constructed of clinker bricks. Notable features include the curved walls that encompass the entrances to each convenience, and the skillion roof with its expressed timber beams. In aesthetic terms, these simple features raise it a little above the ordinary when compared to the usual standard of public conveniences.
- a postwar picnic shelter, which is a rectangular gabled pavilion in rustic vernacular style constructed of concrete block with a corrugated iron roof. It is open sided with low walls on three sides, and a fireplace at one end.
- a sound shell, situated near the centre of the park.

Remnants of the timber bridge across the Tarwin River that led to the nursery can still be seen on the banks to the south of the Picnic Shelter. This aligns with a row of elms on private property on the opposite side of the river that once lined the driveway leading to the nursery.

How is it significant?

Mossvale Park is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

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 Mossvale Nursery. (AHC criteria - A.4, B.2, C.2, D.2, and H.1)

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. (AHC criterion - E.1)

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. (AHC criterion - G.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1898, 1895, 1895,
Other Names	-, Mossvale Nursery,
Hermes Number	30383
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Mossvale Park is situated on flat land adjacent to the Tarwin River at Berry's Creek. The main, developed area of the Park comprises approximately 9.5 acres on the south and west side of the River, with a further 2 acres of natural bush on the northeast side.

The most notable elements of the Park are the mature native and exotic trees. The native trees are remnants of the original bushland and include examples of Strzelecki Gums, which are endemic to the Strzelecki Ranges and

have been identified as endangered at a National Level. Among the many fine examples of exotic trees are five that have been included on the Register of Significant Trees compiled by the National Trust as outstanding examples of their species in terms of size, spread and circumference. They are:

- Algerian Oak (*Quercus canariensis*) This is considered to be an outstanding example in terms of its spread and circumference and is situated near the sound shell. It has a height of over 25m, a circumference of 5.5m and a canopy spread of 28.5m.
- Chesnut Leafed Oak (*Quercus castaneifolia*) This is considered to be an outstanding example in terms of its spread and circumference and is situated near the toilet block. It has a height of just over 33m, a circumference of 6.1m and a canopy spread of 35m.
- London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) This is considered to be an outstanding example in terms of its spread and circumference and is situated adjacent to the sound shell. It has a height of over 26m, a circumference of 3.55m and a canopy spread of 32.3m.
- Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) This is considered to be an outstanding example in terms of its spread and circumference and is situated next to the rear gateway leading to the adjoining private property, which includes the site of the former Mossvale Nursery. It has a height of 23.4m, a circumference of 2.96m and a canopy spread of 24.2m.
- *Variiegated Elm* (*Ulmus minor 'variegata'*) This is considered to be an outstanding example in terms of its spread and circumference and is situated outside the Park, on the east facing slope of the private property just to the rear. It has a height of 28.8m, a circumference of 3.88m and a canopy spread of 28.5m.

Amenity buildings in the park include:

- a postwar toilet block of typical design, which is constructed of clinker bricks. Notable features include the curved walls that encompass the entrances to each convenience, and the skillion roof with its expressed timber beams. In aesthetic terms, these simple features raise it a little above the ordinary when compared to the usual standard of public conveniences.
- a postwar picnic shelter, which is a rectangular gabled pavilion in rustic vernacular style constructed of concrete block with a corrugated iron roof. It is open sided with low walls on three sides, and a fireplace at one end.
- a sound shell, situated near the centre of the park.

A small corrugated iron shed in the northern part of the park is used by the Berry's Creek Pony Club. It is situated adjacent to an internal road that gives access to the farm property at the rear.

Remnants of the timber bridge across the Tarwin River that led to the nursery can still be seen on the banks to the south of the Picnic Shelter. This aligns with a row of elms on private property on the opposite side of the river that once lined the driveway leading to the nursery.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>