

Friends of Mossvale Park Executive report 2023/24

The friends of Mossvale Park group was incorporated on 27th April 2023 and the first meeting of the newly incorporated group was held on June 13th of that year. We are required to have an AGM within 18 months of incorporation, and this is that inaugural meeting.

We have been working with the Shire of South Gippsland to sign a Letter of Understanding to formalise the Friends status and outline responsibilities and terms of reference.

Initially the Friends joined Landcare Victoria as an associated group to gain insurance and support.

The insurance bill for the previous 12 months was \$370 through Landcare Victoria.

Whilst members of the Friends group were manning a display during the Leongatha Daffodil Festival we were approached by the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria to join that group. This was done by paying a \$40 membership fee. This year we have had an offer of insurance through this group of \$200 plus a \$40 membership fee. It seems to make good financial sense to take up this offer. The insurance premium is due to our inability to raise a membership fee last year we do not have enough money to cover this expense. We need to rectify this as soon as possible.

During the year we have applied for a DEECA maintenance grant of \$500 to fund the running of the group, but the results of this have not yet been released. (Application No. VLG2024-027-WG From Friends of Mossvale Park Inc Form Submitted 19 Apr 2024, 3:22PM AEST)

Speaking of funding I would like to thank the kind people who have donated a total of \$823.15 to fund the expenses of the group. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity without which we could not have proceeded.

As a very small group, albeit one that is growing slowly our capacity to fund raise is not great without putting a great deal of work onto a few people. There are a few possibilities which we will consider at a future meeting.

I would like to also acknowledge the working bee crew who each month weed, plant donated plants especially on the river banks where replacing weeds with a good cover of native plants is essential work. This core group of people under the leadership of Richard Lester have done a sterling job, with the riverbanks looking better than ever. This group also plants a small number of exotic trees in the park to support and enhance the collection.

During the year we have acquired a first aid kit to have onsite when work is taking place, and put in place a risk assessment procedure.

Future planning involves input into the Shire of South Gippsland's Mossvale Park Management Plan which is almost complete, and our collection management plan, which specifically deals with the plant collection. When we have this information in place, we will be able to join the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program

- Recognizes arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism
- Fosters professionalism of arboreta worldwide
- Enables collaboration in scientific, collections, and conservation activities
- Advances the planting, study, and conservation of trees.

I am pleased to note that the group is progressing our goals and membership slowly but positively contributing to the ongoing management of our beloved Mossvale Park. I am encouraged for the future of the Park, and its place in the historic and cultural landscape of South Gippsland.

Jill Vella

Secretary, Friends of Mossvale Park Inc.