

Mossvale's claim to Aussie fame

MOSSVALE Park is famous across South Gippsland for its stunning collection of deciduous trees, offering a hint of England in South Gippsland.

Now the park is even more famous further afield, with a chestnut leaved oak believed to be the biggest tree in Australia at 33m tall.

The tree was nominated by Alan Deumer of Harcourt, central Victoria, who has found and nominated 15 trees in Victoria that are on the National Register, which records the biggest of every species of tree in Australia.

There are more than 720 trees

on the register, with the height, circumference and crown spread of each tree measured, and the resultant formula creating a points system that enables trees to be compared with others.

The Mossvale oak is 105 years old, and has a circumference of 7.18m, stands 33m tall and has a crown spread of 42m, accumulating 425 points. The tree can be found at the coordinates 38 24 10.44 S, 146 3 13.68 E, or just at the edge of the end of the car park, near the toilets and playground.

"We were at Berrys Creek looking at family history because one side my family had a farm at Berrys

Creek and another side had a farm at Fairbank," Mr Deumer said.

His father Norm Deumer was born at Leongatha and his aunty Nancy Deumer was born at Mirboo North.

"I had seen the tree registered on the National Trust website, on the trust's register of significant trees, which is only a state register. However I noticed it was not on the national register," Mr Deumer said.

He and his family measured the tree and submitted the statistics to the national register, to which it was added.

To find out more, see www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au



How's this?: Alan Deumer (left) and his son Daniel with the magnificent chestnut leaved oak at Mossvale Park at Berrys Creek that is believed to be the biggest of its kind in Australia.



Changing lives: Barbara Look of South Gippsland Shire Council discusses the success of men's sheds with Graeme Green, secretary of the Corner Inlet Men's Shed.

Men build opportunities

KORUMBURRA'S men's shed is closer to moving to the town's railway station precinct, after securing a lease for the site.

The shed will relocate from its original base at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.

The news was announced by Barbara Look of South Gippsland Shire Council when she updated councillors about men's shed activities in the region last Wednesday.

"Men's sheds are growing in Victoria by about 30 sheds a year," she said.

There are now also men's sheds at Corner Inlet (Foster Station Park), Leongatha, Meeniyan, Mirboo North, Nyora, Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower, and Sandy Point, which opened last year.

The sheds are places for men to share

their skills and experiences, socialise, improve their health and wellbeing, and undertake projects to benefit the community.

Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower Men's Shed president John Hyett said he moved to Venus Bay five years ago.

"The men's shed has given me an opportunity to meet people, not just in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower, but people in Leongatha, Foster and around the area," he said.

Graeme Green, secretary of the Corner Inlet Men's Shed, said the group expects to receive a licence to the shed site from the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee.

Men also meet other men from across the region through the Gippsland Cluster of Sheds.

An annual brochure listing men's sheds and contact details in Gippsland is now available.