

COMPLETION OF THE PLANNED SEAFORD PARK ARBORETUM AS A TRIBUTE TO THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION OF KCA LEGENDS ALAN AND YVONNE SISSON

SUMMARY

We seek your commitment to the completion of the planned arboretum on the old caravan site at Seaford Park and have this named in honour of KCA Legends Alan and Yvonne Sisson in recognition of their enormous contribution for over 20 years in the high-quality restoration of the Kananook Creek natural reserves and the walking paths.

The two-decade restoration project was led by Allan Sisson, a retired Engineer with a degree in Horticulture was co-ordinated with Frankston Council and Melbourne Water and was based on National Parks standards.

DEFINITION OF ARBORETUM. A place where trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

1998. After a major fire in November 1988 destroyed the natural reserves from the rail bridge in North Seaford down to the Seaford RSL in Station Street, KCA's Alan and Yvonne Sisson set out to plan and execute an ambitious project to restore all of Kananook Creeks natural reserves (including walking and access tracks) down to the Beach Street in the town centre.

1992. The first integrated Kananook Creek Corridor Management Plan between Melbourne Water, Frankston City Council and KCA in 1992 recommended the establishment of an arboretum on the disused Caravan site in Seaford Park. This recommendation was approved by all three parties to the Management Plan.

1998 Frankston Council commissioned a Landscape Masterplan which recognised the Arboretum and proposed funding in Council Budget for its design and completion over three years.

2009 The land acquisition and the missing links in the Kananook Creek Corridor walking trails (south of the Mile Bridge) had been completed but the health of both Alan and Yvonne Sisson was starting to fail (Yvonne was already in care).

2009-2011 Andrew Cooper headed a KCA reserves subcommittee to deliver on the long outstanding Seaford Park Arboretum Project. Despite support from successive mayors and council landscape architects and even budget inclusion the project was never completed. Both Alan and Yvonne Sisson had retired from KCA Committee as inspirational Legends of KCA, officially recognised at a meeting with Frankston Council and by peers in the Frankston Environmental Friends Network.

2018 Community friends meet on the passing of Yvonne Sisson and commit themselves to having the work of the Sissons recognised in the Seaford Park Arboretum.

Level Crossing Removal Authority, Government of Victoria seeks submissions on plans to restore Seaford Park.

23 July 2018 Allan Sisson passed away.