



# **Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.**

2011 Annual General Meeting



# Events!







25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Falls Track Project





# 4<sup>th</sup> Creek Project





# Blitz Days





August





# More Blitz Days!





# Ambers Gully





# Ghost Tree Gully







# Horsnell Gully Project





# Wildflower Garden



Working on Perennial Veldt Grass



*Orthroceras strictum*;

*Opercularia scabrida*



# Christmas Parade

**Friends of Black Hill  
and  
Morialta**

made by Young Friends of Black Hill and Morialta







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In March we had a great display at the Campbelltown Celebrates Day

June 2011 we were very pleased to act as hosts of a Snake Awareness Workshop at the Morialta Resource Centre. This event was well attended, and presented in a very engaging way by Geoff Coombe, Andre van Paridon and Chris Cotton.

And in July we were very pleased to be hosting a walk with the Heart Foundation in Morialta Conservation Park





Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August was a day long event of celebration starting with a working been in the 4<sup>th</sup> creek and ending with a display of wildlife from Nature Education Centre.





The 3<sup>rd</sup> Falls Track project site in Morialta Conservation Park is managed by Paul Farmer and Maureen Redfern, who have quietly and patiently worked over many years to achieve remarkable results, with previously weedy areas, now well managed.





4<sup>th</sup> Creek Project has shown out ability to again rise to the occasion. This project has been a focus of attention this year due to a significant Natural Resources Management Grant to engage the community to work in the Morialta Main Valley with a view to make some sustainable improvements to the quality of the natural habitat in this riparian zone.



## Blitz Days



The public working bees were known as Blitz Days.

We had four, the first one, a planting event, and the remaining three focused on weed control.





What the Blitz Days have amply demonstrated is the wonderful relationship we have with the Athelstone Kiwanis and the amazing support they have provided us with this project.

Thank you especially to Phil Smyth the current president of the Athelstone Kiwanis.





The September Blitz Day saw the focus on Nasturtiums, greatly reducing the spread and invasion up the creek.

October Blitz Day focuses on Tangier Pea.

November saw us clean up the plantings, and ensure regrowth of Nasturtiums and Tangier Pea was dealt with.





While we only had one working bee in Ambers Gully this year, we spent the time protecting the native Hollyhock that grows there, and met a number of park walkers.





October saw the discovery of an outbreak of Boneseed in the Ghost Tree Gully Project site, and the remarkable mobilisation of Friends to work through and hand pull all of the plants, and bag and remove the seed.

A wonderful example of mobilisation of the group with short notice to address a specific task.

Special thanks to Ann, Dennis and Reg!





Well done Joy and Bruce and Carolyn and Dennis for continuing to manage this site. We continue to see remarkable change as a site once overrun by weeds is brought back to a more natural balance.



# Wildflower Garden



*Orthroceras strictum*;



Working on Perennial Veldt Grass



*Opercularia scabrida*

A dedicated band of workers have continued to tackle the weeds and introduced plants in the Wildflower Garden. The horned orchid, *Orthroceras strictum* was rediscovered at the site, and a new plant, not previously listed as growing in Black Hill Conservation Park: *Opercularia scabrida*.

I shall make a brief mention of Occupational Health and Safety. Many members will be well aware of the challenges we have had with the department's launch of "In Safe Hands" This appeared to move responsibility for the safety of volunteers away from the Dept to the volunteers. I am very pleased to tell you that our most recent meeting with the Dept indicates that WorkCover have made it very clear that this approach is not acceptable, and that the Dept cannot delegate OH&S responsibilities outside the Dept.

I can't leave you tonight without getting you to consider the importance of our relationship with the Natural Resource Management Board. As DENR are responsible for Park Management, the NRM hold the purse strings, and set the landscape scale agenda. It is important that we understand the NRM agenda, and where our projects with those priorities so that we can attract funding for our projects.

We have been successful in getting funding for the Blitz Days and the preparation of a new Management Plan for the 4<sup>th</sup> Creek from Stradbroke Road to the First Falls. We now have a draft of this plan, which you are welcome to look at tonight.

We have also been working closely on another NRM project with Tony Ryan and 5PBA FM – the preparation of a series of radio programs on the Parks, Conservation and Volunteering - the funding for this project also comes from the NRM. Tony has completed a number of interviews with members, and he tells me that he is very happy with the material he has amassed. So much so, that he will be challenged to edit it down to meet the time constraints of the radio programme.





Looking forward to the New Year, we have still to overcome the challenge of attracting new active members, and there is a great opportunity here for a new project coordinator to work with the 4<sup>th</sup> Creek Management Plan to do some ongoing work with the community in and beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> Creek Project site.

It would also be valuable for the group to gain some new committee members, and find a member who could help us focus on outreach.

But for now, I hope you can catch the Christmas display at the Athelstone Uniting Church. I understand Joy and Bruce have set up another creative display for the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta!

On Sunday we will be at the Pylon Track Project site for the twice yearly working bee there.

Campbelltown Christmas Parade is on Sunday 11 December!

Look out for the launch of Tony Ryan's radio programmes next year.

I thank all the committee members, and volunteers who have contributed to all our projects this year. We make such a difference to restoring the natural balance in the Parks, and I dread to think what state things would be in without your contribution.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a regenerative New Year!