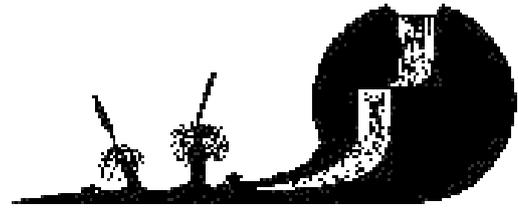


# 24 Years in the Parks

## Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.



88 Addison Ave Athelstone 5076

Number 129 Jan-Feb-Mar 2011

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### President's Report 2010

The Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc, had a vibrant and active Young Friends group for 18 years. Sadly, the last meeting was held on 21 May 2010, as the coordinator has decided to retire. The committee thanks Graham, Raelene, Joy and Bruce for their commitment to the Young Friends, and their tireless work, promoting environmental understanding and appreciation to young people. The Young Friends are as sure to miss the meetings, as the leaders will in providing this unique education programme.



Linking Adelaide with Nature seemed to be grand plan by the Department to have Horses and mountain bikes careering through the parks from one end to the other, without any regard to the pathogens that would be introduced; the erosion caused or the aggravation that would be caused to other users of shared paths.

The consultation process appeared to put gags on environmental groups, while such restrictions were not observed by other lobby groups. The mantra was the increasing population of Adelaide needed more access to recreational opportunities and people needed to be encouraged to participate in physical activity more. DEH seemed to have dropped the E and the H and had become the Dept for recreation and mountain bike riders.

Tied up with this mess was the Black Hill and Morialta Trails Plan. This seemed to be tarred with the same brush, but also included the realignment of the Banksia trail to reduce erosion and improve access to people with lower levels of mobility than is currently the case.

I am pleased to say that with the formation of the new Department of Environment and Natural Resources the brakes were put on. At least temporarily.

The positive that came out of all of this was a greater engagement of our membership, as members put their thoughts in writing to contribute to the process, which in turn helped me to better understand how our members were thinking, and how to represent their views in this forum.

The latest news is that the Community Consultation is to start over again, with a different consultant: Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis.

The process will continue with a 2 day workshop in early December (2010). I understand that

- Conservation Council,
- Friends of Parks,
- NCSSA and
- Wilderness Society along with

- “key recreation” user groups will be attending this workshop.

Outcomes from this workshop will then inform the Black Hill Morialta Trails Plan, at which Friends of Black Hill and Morialta are represented.

We said farewell to Lola at her memorial service on 2 January this year. She had a brave battle with cancer, and continued to support the project as she was able to throughout her illness. . Nothing could happen in the Garden that Lola was not aware of. I am sure she knew where every plant and weed grew!



The group continues to miss Lola Both’s direction, dedication, skills and expertise. I know I work in her memory at every working bee. Lola’s memory lives on as the groundwork she competed in the Garden bears fruit, and we progress to a much better visitor experience at this entrance to the Black Hill Conservation Park.

It has been a good year in the Garden, with new plantings responding well to the rain, as have the weeds. There is still much work to be done, with *Billardiera heterophylla* (Sollya or bluebell creeper), succulent, *Monadenia*, Bridal creeper, gladiolus and freesia needing constant attention.) We are getting positive comments from the community about the Wildflower Garden, including a message on the white board saying “Nice place, please keep same”

The Pylon Track project is one of the finest areas of habitat we look after. We continue to fine little gems there like *Persoonia juniperina* and *Sphaerolobium minus* which make working in this project even more satisfying.



Horsnell Gully site shows remarkable improvement from the broom and blackberry infested tangle from which John Mugford salvaged the walking tracks. A milestone this year was breaking through the last band of black berry directly below the Elm forest in Horsnell Gully CP.

Work needs to continue at this site to suppress the weed regrowth and protect the native plants many of which are naturally regenerating.

The Montacute Valley / Australian Retired Persons Association Project continues strongly with a small be dedicated group of volunteers. Having done so much successful work in this site, the tasks remaining are some of the more challenging ones, but this year another milestone achievement was to control the : *Salpichroa origanifolia*



4<sup>th</sup> Creek project site has been given greater priority this year as we work towards the Centenary of Morialta Conservation Park. There is still a lot of work to be done here to

get the Rice Millet under control, but the battle with the Fig tree in the creek line has been finally won! We shall continue to focus on this site, with some new plants being propagated in preparation for planting next year.

The Ambers Gully Project is one we have had to reduce our input on this year, due to our redirection of effort to Morialta, however, a couple of very troublesome and vigorous feral trees were growing in the Tufa formation, which required attention.

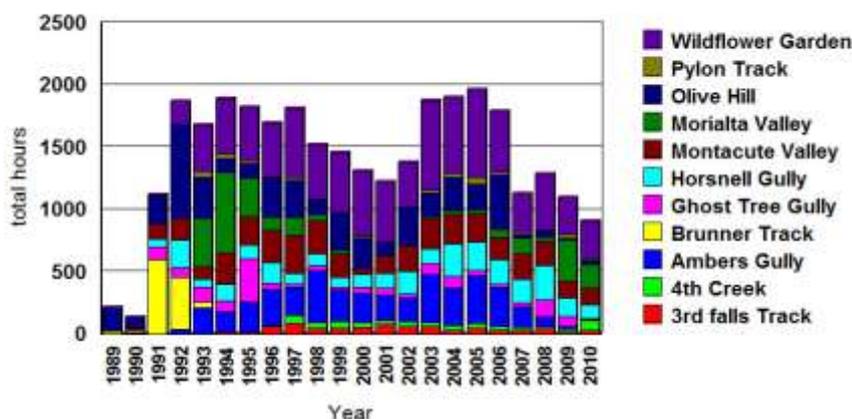


Fortunately new members Liz and Garth who give their apologies tonight are members of the Morialta rock climbing group and have the technical skills to work in these precarious situations. On Sunday, Liz and Garth, Raelene and Graham went over to Ambers Gully and dealt with the offending trees, providing a respite for the precious rock formation.

I am sure Graham will be happy to talk further about the Tufa formation and the removal of the trees over supper.

I hope that this is just the first of a new collaborative relationship between the Morialta Rock Climbers and the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.

**Volunteer hours per project site**



While we have achieved a lot this year, our volunteer hours look low. Especially when compared with the large events coordinated through the Collaborative Schools Landcare project in previous years. The 2010 number will increase a little, as final working bees are for the year are done, and work reports completed and submitted.

Again this year, Bruce and Joy have generously donated their time to set up a Christmas display featuring the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta at the Athelstone Uniting Church.

The Friends Group will be walking in the inaugural Campbelltown Christmas parade on 12 December 2010. Come and join us if you can!

Our website continues to have good traffic, with a fairly consistent number of visitors throughout the year.

77.25% of our visitors are from Australia, 14.26% from the USA, with the remainder scattered all over the globe.

About 2/3 of our website traffic comes from search engines like Google, and the remaining 1/3 is from other websites, including Wikipedia, Dept for Environment and Natural Resources.

Invitations to working bees are posted to the site, along with

Last 20 Months		Unique Visitors
Apr	118	
May	138	
Jun	133	
Jul	142	
Aug	133	
Sep	166	
Oct	157	
Nov	112	
Dec	107	
Jan	122	
Feb	101	
Mar	106	
Apr	105	
May	122	
Jun	184	
Jul	156	
Aug	96	
Sep	117	
Oct	105	
Nov	38	

photos from the working bees.

We have 45 people following the FOBHM Facebook page, with a lady in Germany regularly interacting with the site.

The Friends of Black Hill and Morialta don't have their own Twitter account, but I have identified myself as the President, and have linked my Twitter account to the Friends Facebook account. Every time I post something on Facebook, a Tweet is automatically generated to alert the world to it. I have only 17 followers, but one of them is Adelaide Retweet, who sometimes retweets to their 4,518 followers.

The Freesound project is another social networking page featuring sound. Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc have loaded two files to the Freesound project: Soundscape at Pylon track, downloaded 19 times and a soundscape of the frogs at the lake behind the Wild Flower Garden, downloaded 19 times (this has been given a 6 star rating (out of 10) rated 14 times, and a comment of "good". (since the report was presented, these files have now been downloaded 29 and 21 times respectively)

We have been nominated by a local resident to receive \$1,000 in prize money from an Arnotts Biscuits competition, and he has asked that we consider using that money in Black Hill Conservation Park.

In consultation and with assistance from our Liaison Ranger, Tammy Leggett, the Friends have applied for a substantial grant to expand and complement the work we are doing in the Main Valley in Morialta Conservation Park.

The Main Valley in Morialta is an iconic part of Adelaide, and is the only experience of the Park many visitors have.

The grant application will allow the Development of an Action Plan that provides all groups working in the Morialta Valley objectives to work towards and set small goals to achieve whilst improving the health and biodiversity of the riparian system, provide for an increase in community involvement to increase knowledge and promote DENR objectives.

We will achieve this through:

- the use of appropriate data collection methods;
- Understanding how ecosystems work;
- The use of biological control agents;
- Working with other research projects;
- Increasing visitor experiences through opportunistic guided walks, providing and promoting environmental messages.
- Targeted Blitz events, which may include social activities and the promotion of guest speakers.

The grant specifically covers

- Development of a site specific action plan
- Weed control
- Revegetation programme
- Blitz programme
- Training / Information days for the public
- Publicity.

This is a large and exciting project, subject to the grant application being accepted, but will provide a sound basis to work towards the Centenary Celebration of Morialta Conservation Park in 2015.

In support of this, it will be appropriate to continue our focus on the 4th Creek project site, and use new technologies to get our messages out in the community.

We already have an active Website, Facebook Page and Twitter connection, and I would like to explore the possibility of podcasting messages about the parks and local environmental issues, engaging with other groups to source appropriate material and audiences.

We said farewell to Rangers Peter Wyatt and Eric DeSmit, and thank them for their special support and contribution to the Parks during the time we worked with them.

Thank you to Tammy Leggett our Senior Ranger who is also the liaison Ranger for the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta, and Brendan Saers, Ranger for their support and assistance throughout the year.

A special thank you to project coordinators, and Friends and supporters of our projects, including: Athelstone Kiwanis

Athelstone Lions

The Australian Retired Persons Association and

The Schools involved with the Collaborative Schools project.

Thank you too to our committee members who have supported me throughout the year to keep everything ticking along.

And thank you to our general members and supporters, who provide the group with the community foundation which is the enabler for us to represent community concerns when lobbying on behalf of the community and our Natural Heritage for the ongoing protection and care of Black Hill, Morialta and Horsnell Gully Conservation Parks.

## Committee Contacts

President	John Fleming	Ph: 8336 5275	<a href="mailto:president@fobhm.org">president@fobhm.org</a>
Vice President	Graham Churchett	Ph: 8336 5070	
Secretary	Russell Dahms	Ph: 8336 5275	<a href="mailto:secretary@fobhm.org">secretary@fobhm.org</a>
Treasurer			
Newsletter editor	John Fleming	Ph. 8336 5275	<a href="mailto:webmaster@fobhn.org">webmaster@fobhn.org</a>
Website			

**Should you need to report a matter of concern.  
Please contact the numbers below for Dept of Environment and  
Natural Resources assistance:**

Business Hours: Ph: 8336 0901

After Hours Duty Ranger Contact:

Reporting Mountain Bike Riders, rubbish dumping or other matters:

Ph. 1300 650 411 - Leave a message for pager number 465 281

## Third Falls Project report for 2010.

Work on the project site this year involved hand pulling of broom & muralita seedlings. The work of previous years is starting to pay off with very low density (< 1 per square metre) over a lot of the patch. There has been a noticeable increase in small native plants in most areas.

In the old hedge site there is the beginnings of the establishment of larger plants such as acacia pycnantha, acacia myrtifolia, pultenaea, hakea & a couple of eucalyptus. It is expected that this will be a slow process due to the changes in soil structure in this area from the previously well established hedge.

Above the third falls the removal of the broom is allowing the establishment of dodonaea & hakea under the eucalyptus.

We look forward to continuing the removal of woody weeds from this area & watching the changes to the plant & animal communities through the seasons.

Paul & Maureen”

## Report from Horsnell Gully for 2010

Rain! What a difference it has made this year – to both endemic plants AND weeds!. “Blackberry Corner has thrived!” (corner of Rockdale Track and Main Track) The good news is that the blackberry patch has almost been eradicated – only the regrowth left!

We continue to push back on the periphery towards the creek and up the main valley removing blackberry, broom, olive, hawthorn, ash, periwinkle, arum lily and watsonia. The regeneration of eucalypts has been wondrous to behold along with other understory plants (Spyridium parvifolium, Clematis microphylla, Convolvulus erubescens), supplemented by seedlings grown by our members the Slades, Colin Sparrow and the late Lola Both. 65 plants of some 13 species were planted in May.

Due to expectations made by the Department of Environment on Project Coordinators, Horsnell Gully currently has no formal coordinator but the FOBHM team works together to ensure monthly working bees continue. A site meeting with the Rangers and FOBHM representatives earlier in the year took place to discuss future signage and track routes. The Department of Environment continue to ensure slashing of the picnic area and entrance road is regularly done.



The Horsnell Gully project originally commenced in 1992 as an initiative of the Pembroke Scout Group in conjunction with the Friends group, and has been continually supported since then by the scouts and cubs. Due to changes in leadership, 2010 is the first year that the Scout Group has not participated in the park. However, despite February and August working bees being cancelled, we still have seen some new supporters from the public, Garth and Liz and Meike as well as familiar faces of FOBHM members Reg, Jill, Claire, John, Russell, Carolyn, Dennis, Joy and Bruce.

Thanks to all for your ongoing persistence on a continuing worthwhile project area.

Bruce, on behalf of the committee.

### Track Maps for sale Black Hill, Morialta and Horsnell Gully Conservation Parks \$5.00 each plus postage.

When you are planning your next walk in one of the parks, give some thought about taking the perfect silent walking companion.

A Track map makes a great gift for the person who has everything!

All sales support the Friends Group working in the parks for you and our natural environment.

Ring 8337 9449 or write to the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.  
88 Addison Ave Athelstone 5076

## Friends of Black Hill & Morialta

88 Addison Avenue,  
Athelstone, S.A. 5076

### Balance Sheet

October 2006

21/11/2006  
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<b>Assets</b>			
Cheque Account			
Uncommitted Funds			
Uncommitted Funds	\$619.57		
Total Uncommitted Funds		\$619.57	
Grants			
FOP Group Decade 2003	\$2,985.09		
Total Grants		\$2,985.09	
Track Maps			
Track Map Sponsorship 2006	\$444.00		
Total Track Maps		\$444.00	
Total Cheque Account			\$4,048.66
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>\$4,048.66</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities			
GST Liabilities			
GST Collected	\$255.38		
GST Paid	-\$345.92		
Total GST Liabilities		-\$90.54	
Total Current Liabilities			-\$90.54
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b>-\$90.54</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>\$4,139.20</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Member's Equity			
Current Year Earnings		-\$2,445.84	
Historical Balancing		\$6,585.04	
<b>Total Equity</b>			<b>\$4,139.20</b>

## Friends of Black Hill & Morialta

88 Addison Avenue,  
Athelstone, S.A. 5076

### Profit & Loss Statement

1/11/2005 through 31/10/2006

21/11/2006  
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<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions	\$944.54		
Donations	\$92.00		
Map Sales	\$490.90		
Track Map Sponsorship	\$918.18		
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$2,445.62</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>			
<b>Gross Profit</b>			<b>\$2,445.62</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Building & Equipment	\$14.36		
Displays & Photographs	\$279.00		
FOP Group Of Decade Award 2003	\$1,574.91		
GST to Landcare	\$471.09		
Internet Charges	\$155.47		
Maps	\$460.00		
Plants & Propoogation	\$225.00		
Postage & Telstra	\$349.73		
Refreshments	\$133.96		
Stationary & Library	\$183.24		
Subscriptions	\$74.09		
Weed Control	\$1,014.82		
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$27.14		
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$4,962.81</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>			<b>-\$2,517.19</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Interest Income	\$25.35		
Collaborative GST Collected	\$46.00		
<b>Total Other Income</b>			<b>\$71.35</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>			<b>-\$2,445.84</b>

## Diary Dates!

Please note: Working bee dates may change due to weather conditions and other factors. Please wear suitable clothing, all tools provided. Remember to check our website for changes to the schedule!

### Wildflower Garden

Sunday 2 January 2011, 9:00 am  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Meet at the building at 88 Addison Avenue  
Athelstone.

### ARPA project

Monday 3 January 2011, 8:30 am  
Montacute Valley  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Collaborative project with  
Australian Retired Persons Association.

### Wildflower Garden

Sunday 16 January 2011, 9:00 am  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Meet at the building at 88 Addison Avenue  
Athelstone.

### Horsnell Gully

Saturday 22 January 2010, 2:00pm  
Horsnell Gully Conservation Park  
Seed collection  
Meet in the main car park at Horsnell Gully.

### Fourth Creek

Sunday 30 January 2011, 9:00 am  
Morialta Conservation Park  
Meet in the Resource Centre Carpark.

### Wildflower Garden

Sunday 6 February 2011, 9:00pm  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Meet at the building at 88 Addison Avenue  
Athelstone.

### ARPA project

Monday 7 February 2011, 8:30 am  
Montacute Valley  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Collaborative project with Australian Retired  
Persons Association..

### Wildflower Garden

Sunday 20 February 2011, 9:00 am  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Meet at the building at 88 Addison Avenue  
Athelstone.

### Horsnell Gully

Saturday 19 February 2010, 2:00pm  
Horsnell Gully Conservation Park  
Weed control  
Meet in the main car park at Horsnell Gully.

### Olive Hill

Sunday 27 February 2011, 9:00 am  
Morialta Conservation Park  
Meet in the Woodforde Track Gate.

### Wildflower Garden

Sunday 6 March 2011, 9.00 am  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Meet at the building at 88 Addison Avenue  
Athelstone.

### ARPA project

Monday 7 March 2011, 8:30 am  
Montacute Valley  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Collaborative project with  
Australian Retired Persons Association.

### Horsnell Gully

Saturday 19 March 2011, 2:00pm  
Horsnell Gully Conservation Park  
Weed control  
Meet in the main car park at Horsnell Gully.

### Wildflower Garden

Sunday 20 March 2011, 9.00 am  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
Meet at the building at 88 Addison Avenue  
Athelstone.

### Committee Meetings

#### Tuesday

7:30pm  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
88 Addison Ave, Athelstone.

- 18 January 2011
- 15 February 2011
- 15 March 2011

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

Sunday 27 March 2011, 9:00am  
Morialta Conservation Park  
Meet in the Resource Centre Carpark.

Visit our website: [WWW.fobhm.org](http://WWW.fobhm.org)

Next time you are on the web, remember to drop in for a look at our website. You will find the most up to date information about our working bees.