



GRAFFITI ACTION DAY 2011

Altona Park South Tamworth

Friends of Altona Park, supported by
Tamworth Tidy Towns, Tamworth Regional
Council and Keep Australia Beautiful



On Sunday May 15th 2011, volunteers and keen community members across the state woke early to hit the streets and public spaces of their towns to fight the battle against graffiti. The community of Tamworth was no different. Destination, Altona Park!

Tamworth Regional Council, in conjunction with the Tamworth Tidy Towns Committee worked on the day with the 'Friends of Altona Park' group to undertake a graffiti removal blitz. Tamworth Regional Council had been working with the Friends of Altona Park group on a new park masterplan, due to commence in July/August 2011 and Graffiti Action Day presented the perfect opportunity to undertake a cleanup and responsive planting as baseline preparatory works for the wider park planting strategy.

Tamworth Regional Council was pleased to be part of the Keep Australia Beautiful – Graffiti Action Day Initiative for 2011, whereby LGA's with high reporting of Graffiti were offered the opportunity to benefit from grant funding of up to \$500.00 for painting and planting as a design measure to minimise graffiti. Volunteers on the day also made use of SoSafe Graffiti Removal products on surfaces at the nominated site.

The Tamworth Regional Community is responsive to incidences of graffiti and report incidents of vandalism regularly to Council and the Police. The profile of graffiti management is currently high given reporting, removing and prevention of graffiti remains a priority of the Crime Prevention Working Group, a partnership of community, business and government led by Tamworth Regional Council, and also as a result of Council adopting its Graffiti Management Plan 2010 – 2014 in December 2010.

On GAD, approximately 15 people were on hand to undertake painting, removal and planting. The site audit demonstrates the following statistics:

Team Leader: Petria Jukes (TRC), Paul Ying (Tamworth Tidy Towns)

Site Location: Altona Park

Volunteers: 15 (including 5 TRC staff)

Meters Cleaned: 80

Meters Painted 200

Lineal Meters Painted: 200

Graffiti Action Day 2011 marked the commencement of a Council led Graffiti Removal Blitz across the LGA to be undertaken in months following. It was also considered, by community, Council

and the media to be a successful day, not only with the physical removal of graffiti, but also, through the social capital generated in the steps towards the overall development and community ownership of Altona Park.

Before Graffiti Action Day: Alton Park South Tamworth

Altona Park has two bounded by Florida and Begonia Street and also two boundary aluminium and colourbond. Both fences had been vandalised across all surfaces as shown in the images below.





Site preparation for planting works had occurred over days leading up to Graffiti Action Day to ensure planting beds, on the periphery of the park were ready to be planted by volunteers.

Volunteers on the day were provided options of painting, planting and removal with SoSafe removal products.



Paul Ying of Tamworth Tidy Towns paints a clear message.



Deputy Mayor, Russell Webb lends a hand planting trees, and below, removal with SoSafe products and high pressure water cleaner.



Some pictures of Altona Park after GAD 2011.

Fully cleaned and planted fence.



Fully painted and planted fence.



Seedlings planted along the lifts of both boundary fences:

Bursaria Spinosa



Volunteers at the end of a dedicated morning of work.

Graffiti Action Day 2011 was a great success, both in terms of community involvement, the physical removal of graffiti and the implementation of design measures to stop incidents of graffiti occurring at the park in the future.

At the end of the day, the Friends of Altona Park were left with SoSafe products, paint and brushes to match that used on the day and hose with fittings to keep plants watered between TRC watering schedule should it be necessary.

Tamworth Regional Council would like to thank the Friends of Altona Park for their efforts on the day and also Paul Ying and the Tamworth Tidy Towns committee for their continued hard work and dedication to keeping the Tamworth Region beautiful. Further to the support of the Keep Australia Beautiful Initiative for guidance and partnership in the management of graffiti.

Petria Jukes
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