

# The Aliens in Retreat

September 2009

A chronicle of Helderberg Hackery

Under the auspices of the Friends of the Helderberg Nature Reserve

## Finding the wood in the trees



**W**hat a pleasure it was to come across a number of young Yellowwood trees tucked away inside a pine plantation. This made a welcome change from the usual gang of invasive alien trees we've been working on. There are a small number of Yellowwoods scattered about within the plantation. They look especially attractive with their haloes of light green new Spring growth.

The tree-admirers included Annegret Gruner, Karen Hansen, Edward Silberbauer, John McNaught-Davis, Diana Borchers, Dave Weber, Ian Weber, Craig Weber, Leandri Gerber, Ulrike Irllich, Shaun Cox, Rupert Swanepoel and James Silberbauer.



*Popping trees: from left, Ulrike Irlich, Leandri Gerber and Karen Hansen.*

**W**e're slowly (but surely) working our way through the plantations at the southern end of the Reserve. A lot of young pine was cleared as well as pockets of Eucalypts and Acacias. A fine sweep has taken place in this area.

Just before this hack, the Friends of the Helderberg Nature Reserve bought two new large Tree Poppers. When I collected them from Terry Negus he very kindly donated a small one to us. Terry is the local inventor of these wonderful tools. Thank you, Terry. This is not the first time he has been so generous and we really appreciate his support over the years. There are two great things about Tree Poppers. One - you do not need to use herbicide. Two - they just work. And a bonus point - they're immensely satisfying and fun to use!

## The Green Team gets involved



*A victorious Nicci White in a cleared patch during a hack by the Beaumont Primary School's "Green Team".*

*The hack, organised by Nicci's mom - regular hacker Lisa White - took place early in September. It was attended by six pupils and a number of parents. A really enthusiastic team tackled a pretty large area of young pines to great effect.*

## Next Hack

The next hack will be held on Saturday 10 October 2009. Starting at 8:00am.

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