

# The Aliens in Retreat

October 2009

A chronicle of Helderberg Hackery

Under the auspices of the Friends of the Helderberg Nature Reserve

From seed to seedling ...



... to invasion





*Kyle Oosthuizen gets to grips with a young pine.*



*A bontebok looked in during the hack.*



*Rupert Swanepoel advances in to battle.*

**A** very good turnout — Mike Carr, Annegret Gruner, Karen Hansen, Belinda Reyers, Darryl Stander, Edward Silberbauer, John McNaught-Davis, Erika Dau, Diana Borchers, Megan Ford, Lewis Silberbauer, Dawid Kriel, Marthinus Joubert, Donnie Joubert, Jan-Benjamin Kilb, Ulrike Irlich, Shaun Cox, Rupert Swanepoel, Neil Hoy, Karen Pavier, Anin Pavier, Chicain Pavier, Kyle Oosthuizen and James Silberbauer. Corey and Janis van der Laan prepared a welcome braai which a number of us enjoyed after the hack.

We are close to clearing the plantations we've been working in — except for the very smallest seedlings. We'll be back when they're a bit bigger — and easier to spot.

If anyone is not aware of just how invasive pines can be, take a look at the photograph on page one. That's not too terrible a sight within a plantation, but in fynbos this sort of spread is quite devastating as the quick-growing pines displace the natural vegetation. Of course not all pines are so vigorously invasive, but the varieties grown commercially for their wood tend to grow very quickly and consequently wreak havoc in the wild. Especially the escapees on the fringes of plantations.



*Megan Ford, Janis van der Laan, Elzanne Burger and Corey van der Laan enjoying the braai.*

## Next Hack

The next hack will be held on Saturday 14 November 2009. Starting at 7:30am.

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