

# The Aliens in Retreat

December 2009

A chronicle of Helderberg Hackery

Under the auspices of the Friends of the Helderberg Nature Reserve

## Much pine in 2009



*Pine harvesting. Here Erika Dau, Jos Out, Lewis Silberbauer and Mike Carr work through a large patch of young pines.*



*Jos Out at left and Neil Hoy at right.*





*We came across these Guinea fowl eggs and wondered if they had been eaten by crows.*



*What would our hacks be without the regular visits from Bontebok?*

**A**nother year of hacking has gone swiftly by. I'm pleased to report that the statistics for 2009 show an average attendance of 16 (and a bit!) per hack and a total of 490 man-hours — about two months of labour. Thanks very much everyone, your efforts have made a tremendous difference to the Reserve.

This month we finished working in the southernmost plantations and began work in the plantation near the parking area. Present were Mike Carr, Annegret Gruner, Karen Hansen, John McNaught-Davis, Jos Out, Erika Dau, Lewis Silberbauer, Neil Hoy and James Silberbauer.



*Annegret Gruner uses a saw on a pine that resisted extraction by tree popper.*

## Next Hack

The next hack will be held on Saturday 9 January 2009. Starting at 7:30am.

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