

The Aliens in Retreat

January 2010

A chronicle of Helderberg Hackery

Under the auspices of the Friends of the Helderberg Nature Reserve

Woodchips fly as the year begins



John McNaught-Davis using a chainsaw on a large longleaf wattle.

Nine months on and you can again see the mountain through the trees. In May 2009 we began a sweep through the pine plantations in the southeast section of the Reserve, removing acacias, eucalypts, hakeas, young pines, spanish broom and a few others lurking there. This hack was the end of the extended sweep.

One can never truly finish the job as there are always plenty of small seedlings still growing. We'll be back to tackle them when they've grown a little — before they produce seeds. Sadly the battle against invasives is never won. Constant effort like this does make a real and visible difference, though!

For this hack we worked at the northern edge of the plantation adjacent to the parking area. On a fairly hot day it was wonderful to be able to finish the job early at the (slightly delayed) tea break and admire the improved view — the fruits of our labour.

Those applying the coup de grâce to this bit of plantation were Annegret Gruner, Karen Hansen, Belinda Reyers, Darryl Stander, Edward Silberbauer, John McNaught-Davis, Jos Out, Erika Dau, Lewis Silberbauer and James Silberbauer.



Before: The northern edge of the plantation was fringed by a large number of young pine trees.



After: Now there's a clear view through the plantation to the Helderberg peaks.

Erika Dau shows us how it's done with a saw.



Next Hack

The next hack will be held on Saturday 13 February 2010. Starting at 7:30am.

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