

The Aliens in Retreat

February 2018

A chronicle of Helderberg Hackery

Under the auspices of the Friends of the Helderberg Nature Reserve

Mangrove-like bottle brushes



There was a dense stand of bottle brush growing at the water's edge. It seemed reminiscent of a mangrove stand. Inset: it took a concerted effort to clear.

Given our current drought conditions I was almost hoping for a cancelled hack when it rained during the night. By the time we started to hack the rain was over, but we had received a welcome 16mm. It was probably just as well the rain didn't stop the hacking because we had a very good turnout and did excellent work in ideal hacking conditions.

Once again working on the shore of the reservoir, we cleared a lot of bottle brush, beefwood, pine, eucalypt and port jackson.

Thank you to John and Cathy Kleyn who kindly donated a tree popper to the Friends' hack group. It was immediately put to use at this hack.

Hackers were Craig Boonzaier, Christy de Witt, Matthew Durie, Lisa Figenschou, Gavin Hardress-Williams, Gené-Maré Kotzé, Leonie Kotzé, Jenny Lawrence, Bill Maycock, John McNaught-Davis, Belinda Peyrot, James Sinclair, Gerhard Stoffberg, Justin Williams and James Silberbauer.



Christy de Witt attends to a eucalypt.



Bill Maycock removes a half-drowned eucalypt.

A tortoise keeps a wary lookout.



Not often encountered on our hacks: a splendid rain spider specimen.



Upcoming Hacks

The next hack will be held on Saturday 10 March 2018. Starting at 7:30am.

The one after will be held on Saturday 14 April 2018. Starting at 8:00am.

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