

The Battle for Betty's Bay

REPORT ON HACK No 740

1st November 2025

Twenty eight volunteers attended. This was the sixth hack at Brodie Link to remove thousands of rooikranz seedlings which have taken root after the January 2024 fire. Lifts were arranged from the R44 Cape Nature Field Ranger's gate for those who didn't want to risk taking their cars up the 700m long jeep track to the hacking site parking area which had dried out significantly in October.

Ashley and Jonathan were welcomed to their first Betty's Bay hack, we hope that this will be their first of many. Jonathan is a regular HH hacker and Ashley attended the HH hack at Honingklip on Heritage Day. We split into two groups, one tackled an area lower down and the other headed up the slope to the Port Jackson infestation on the western boundary demarcated by a deep & wide erosion gulley. Jan, with chainsaw, popper, lopper and poison tackled the aliens growing between the field rangers house and the top parking area. Progress was slowed as the Port Jackson were fairly large and some of the Rooikranz trees were coppicing from the burned stumps or growing very close to them.



The mid-morning break was taken back at the parking area at 10am. Thanks to Dave for providing all that was needed for a good cup of tea or coffee despite having to miss the hack. Thanks to Anne and Betsy for making their delicious egg mayo and tomato and onion sandwiches, they were devoured.

After the break, the two groups returned to their working areas. Despite fairly large areas of alien free fynbos there are isolated thickets of Rooikranz with some Australian Myrtle, it was agreed at the aftermath that we will return on 6 December 2025 to clear them.



A very big thank you for a most productive and enjoyable hack. Thanks to Christine for joining us all the way from Kleinmond, Anne and Magda from Pringle and Megs and Mike from Rooiels, your support is always appreciated.

As ever, on behalf of the Betty's Bay Fynbos, thank you all for your efforts.

Rob Boyd
Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group.