

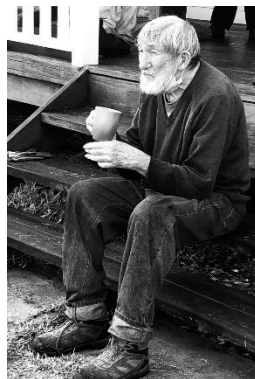
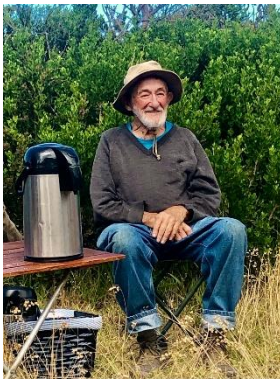
The Battle for Betty's Bay

REPORT ON HACK No 741

6th December 2025

Twenty six volunteers attended on a cloudless summer's day, thankfully with a cooling south easterly breeze. This was the seventh hack at Brodie Link to remove thousands of rooikrans seedlings which have taken root since 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 was bone dry after only 4mm of rain in November 2025.

A tribute was paid to Tom Dreyer who passed away peacefully in the early hours of Wednesday morning, 3rd December 2025. Tom was a long serving member and continued to hack into his nineties. I distinctly remember the 90th birthday celebration for Tom at one of our Hardcore Wednesday hacks. It is through his contribution and many likeminded people that the Battle for Betty's Bay has continued monthly for over sixty years, absolutely remarkable.



Tim Atwell was welcomed back to the hack after a lengthy absence due to poor health, we hope that this is in the past and that he will frequent more and more of the hacks. Great to have Sandy, Sarah, Sediq, Chris, Trevor and Ken back. Christine and Ken focused on an area near the Cape Nature house, Tim and Jan tackled larger aliens below the eastern edge of the main hacking site, the remaining hackers split into two groups, one tackled an area lower down the slope and the other, higher up, both working in a southerly direction.



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. Thanks to Anne and Betsy for making their delicious egg mayo and tomato & onion sandwiches and Christine for her thoughtfulness in bringing packets of biscuits.

A huge thank you to Lee & Mary, Anne & Betsy who alternate each month throughout the year and bear the cost of providing the sandwiches.

After the break, people returned to their respective working areas for the final hour. Whilst walking back to the parking area at the conclusion of this, the final Brodie Link hack it was immensely satisfying to see the fruits of our labour, pristine fynbos instead of a growing forest of hundreds of thousands of rooikrans trees.



A very big thank you for a most productive and enjoyable hack. Thanks to Christine for joining us from Kleinmond, Anne, Magda, Ken and Chris from Pringle, Mike from Rooiels and the Capetonian contingent of Sandy, Sarah, Sediq and Chris, your support is always appreciated. Thanks to Chris and Mike for bringing extra poppers.

Ad hoc Hack, Tuesday, 4 November 2025, Viv and Paul.

Open area bordered by Cliff, Four Streams and Park Crescent, Jocks Bay, 1 hour, bottle brush and myrtle.
Verges of High Level Rd, eastern end, 1 hour, port Jackson, rooikrans and myrtle.

Ad hoc Hack, Friday, 5 December 2025, 07:30 – 10:15, Jane, Paul, Rob.

Both verges of the R44 from Porter Drive (west) to the cutting on the way to Pringle Bay (myrtle, blackwood, rooikrans, port Jackson)

Rooikrans thicket on the southern side of R44 opposite the old landfill site.

Pines, rooikrans and blackwood on northern side of the R44 between the old landfill site and Porter Drive (west)

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

Rob Boyd

Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group.