

Hawequas - Fynbos Restoration Project 2020 Funding appeal

Background

Hawequas has a large number of Black Wattles, Gum Trees, Hakea, Stinkbean and Pine Trees which are all alien plant species which infest some parts of our Hawequas Fynbos. A number of clearing projects have been carried out, from a joint venture with CapeNature, to aerial spraying, to getting Scouts and volunteers involved in clearing. One of the issues with Black Wattle is that there is a large seed bank in the ground which is viable for 50-80 years. A fire went through Hawequas in January 2017 and this was the cue for Black Wattle seed to germinate. It is crucial to prevent seed set, otherwise the clock is reset and the new seeds require clearing for another 50-80 years.

Hawequas needs a sustained eradication programme with ground teams and which needs to go on for many years. This job is too big for volunteers only. Black Wattle, Gum Trees and Stinkbean need to be cut down as close to the ground as possible and then a herbicide applied to the stump within minutes. The herbicide is required to stop the plant from resprouting. Hakea and Pine need to be cut low down to the ground as possible and herbicide is not required. Gums need to be either uprooted or cut and herbicide applied.

Options in tackling the pockets of Black Wattle

- The employment of nearby farm workers who are not always fully employed to clear alien plants.
- Various Scout courses and some school groups to clear which assists further, but presents challenges around logistics and motivating so relies on volunteer offers.
- Aerial Spraying is expensive and requires close management and Fynbos rehabilitation. It can be utilised if and when appropriate and where we can get donor support.

Appeal for Funding

- We propose a small team of local farm workers are employed one day per week to tackle predetermined areas. Funds are required to facilitate payment of the farm workers who are also especially financially stressed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic creating a win-win for all.
- The costs are R800 per day and benefactors are therefore being sought to make donations to the Hawequas - Fynbos Restoration Project Fund that will allow this vital project to be launched. Any amount will help us achieve our goal, R800 covers a day or R3200 a month. If funding allows we will increase the team or the days, but we aim for at least one day per month for 2 years to be raised.

Donations

Donations may be made using an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or SnapScan.

EFT		SnapScan
<p><u>Bank:</u> Standard Bank</p> <p><u>Branch:</u> Thibault</p> <p><u>Branch Code:</u> 02 09 09</p> <p><u>Account Number:</u> 0708 63660</p> <p><u>Bank Reference:</u> <Your name> Fyn</p>	or	<div data-bbox="911 367 1238 824" style="text-align: center;"><p>Snap here to pay</p></div> <p><u>Enter Name & Item Purchased</u></p> <p><Your name> Fyn</p>

Progress

Regular updates are placed on the Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre Facebook page indicating progress.

Priority areas for alien plant clearing (Specifically Black Wattle)

- Below the sandstone cliffs.
- The upper and middle reaches of the Dasbos river.
- The small stand above the Hawequas Manager's house.
- The stand at the Adirondack Shelter and down the seep along the Central route to the Dam.
- Scattered plants along the North Circular Route contour path at the top.
- Scattered plants east of the Adirondack Shelter down to the Spruit river (near where South Circular Route path goes).
- Stand above the Dam in the seep.
- Some sections along the Spruit river on the immediate north side of the South Circular route path.
- The Spruit River course.

Pines and Hakea are scattered throughout the property. Gum Trees are located north of the Hawequas manager's house and around the car park.

What can be achieved?



Before: The above photograph shows a stand of Black Wattle (the bright green plants) awaiting removal.

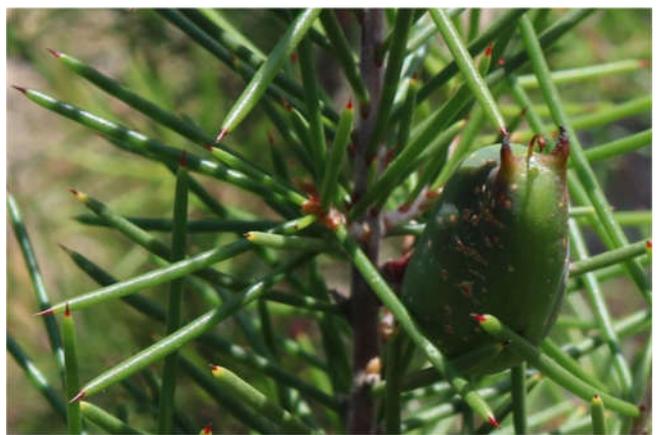


After: The below photograph shows the result of Black Wattle after clearing and herbicide applied. The bright green plants are nowhere to be seen. This photo was taken 6 months after the hack and demonstrates how correct clearing can save Fynbos. This clearing was done by the Scout Conservation Badge course in June 2019.

Photographs of Targetted Species to be cleared

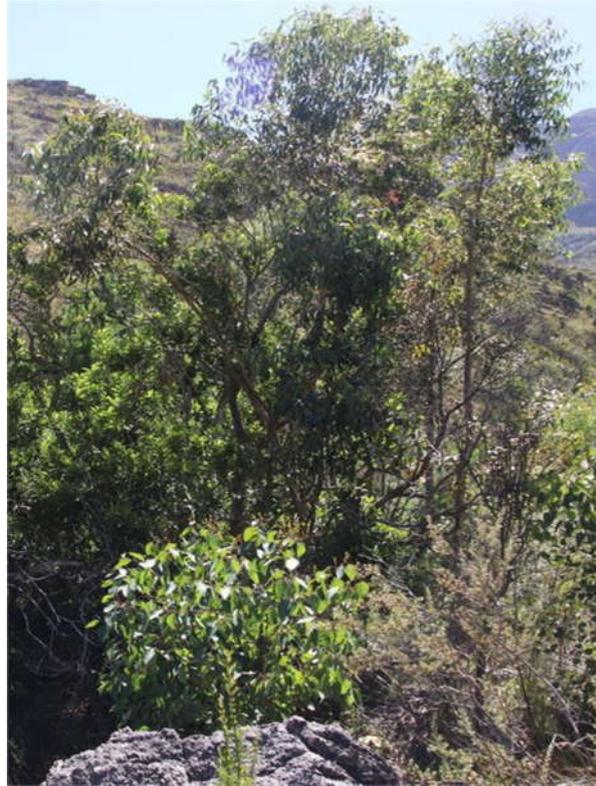


Above: Black Wattle – *Acacia mearnsii*



Above: Silky Needlebush - *Hakea sericea*

Photographs of Targetted Species to be cleared



Above: Gum Tree – *Eucalyptus*



Above: Stinkbean- *Paraserianthes lophantha*

Photographs of Targetted Species to be cleared



Above: Pine Tree - *Pinus pinaster*

All photos taken by Dr Tony Rebelo, John Wilson and Nigel Forshaw

August 2020