

HANGKLIP Hardcore Hackers

HACK REPORT # 79 August 2026 (date 31/08/2026)

Monday 3

38 Lawrence Rd, Pringle Bay. (ad hoc hack), Three Palm trees (see donations below)

8 hackers reported for duty

Wednesday 5

Portion 142 of the farm Hangklip 559 (M-Plot) old porter drive between Pringle Bay and Rooiels.
(22 nd hack) Mainly Spider Gums but some Rooikrantz and Myrtle

36 Hackers reported for duty (plus four for the photograph to send to Jonsson Workwear...see donations below)

Wednesday 12

Turtle Creek, Hangklip road, Pringle Bay. Mainly A. Myrtle with some Rooikrantz

35 hackers reported for duty

Wednesday 19

Harold Porter Botanical Garden, R44, Betty's Bay.

Clearing of dead wood and cutting of excess Keurboom and Fountain bush.

38 hackers reported for duty

Monday 24

4 Glen Road, Pringle Bay. (ad hoc hack) Mainly Myrtle

6 hackers reported for duty

Wednesday 26

FCE, old Porter Drive, Pringle Bay. Mainly Spider Gum and Black Wattle

34 hackers reported for duty

Friday 28

Erf 3218, Dolphin Drive, Betty's Bay. (ad hoc hack). New Zealand Christmas Trees (see donation below)

10 hackers reported for duty

Wednesday 1 September

FCE, old Porter Drive, Pringle Bay. Mainly Spider Gum and Black Wattle

36 hackers reported for duty

Hack group composition

August provided eight hacking opportunities, including one brought forward from September, with no activities lost to rain. The group recorded 203 mandays. We congratulated **Richard Jacobs** and **Rudi du Plessis** as newly qualified Hangklip Hardcore Hackers, and they received their HHH T-shirts. We hope they will wear them with dignity and pride.

We also welcomed three new visitors, namely **Richard Portmann**, **Jeremy** and **Gemma Cronin**. They have already attended two hacking activities, and we are looking forward to welcome you back as properly qualified Hangklip Hardcore Hackers!

In the spectrum of this month several hackers and persons in close relation to the Hack Group experienced health setbacks, injuries and undergo medical interventions. We think here of the following people that we are aware of: **Brian** – Arms, **Dave** – Neck and shoulder, **Ken** – Cancer, **Peter Dall** – Medical interventions, **Paddy Dall** – serious medical intervention. These are the individuals that we are aware of. Please keep these people in your prayers for courage and strength and please report those who are having challenges so that we can support each other.

See attached table for the monthly attendance.

Hacker of the month

Congratulations to **Marius Joubert** for being awarded the John Whitehead Floating Trophy for the month of August. Marius is one of our most underrated Hackers, who does extraordinary work in support of others, below the Radar. He is one of the finest draggers who typically works at the first point of contact with the chainsaw operator who he pairs up with for the hack. He keeps the cutting area clear of cut material, adding to the general safety of the work. But his most special attribute is being attentive to the needs of village residents, where a small-scale ad hoc session is needed. This might involve someone who is ill or too frail to arrange to get the job done themselves. He avoids claiming credit for this, content to help in urgent situations. A more decent Hacker than Marius is rare to find. Marius is a worthy recipient of the August award of the JWFT!

Donors and support from the community

Our gratitude is expressed to the following generous donations to our funds and /or in kind:

Barbara, R1500 (ad hoc hack of three Palm trees at her home)

Alfie Bester, R1500 (for the NZXT on his erf)

We are so grateful to **Jonsson Workwear**, for the R54000 worth of protective clothing that we received. This was Jonsson's fourth donation and we are so grateful. These clothes are such quality material, which provide the hackers with great protection. We also expressed our appreciation towards **Megs** for doing all the wheeling and dealings to the benefit of all!

Birthdays for September

Congratulations to those who celebrate their birthday.

Chris G, Joshua, Karin B

Please let Karin T (072 426-3640) know of your birthday month if you are new to the HHH group

Convenor's remarks

Progress on Turtle Creek. The Turtle Creek hack has been ongoing since 2020, and some clearing had already been done by an outside company before the first HHH activities began. As a result, the southern side of the plot is now heavily congested with hacked branches. The northern side of the plot was burnt during the 2024 field fire, which helped reduce the biomass there. However, the stacked branches on the southern side remain a concern, as they may hinder the return of Fynbos seedlings. Anyone with a practical solution is encouraged to share their input.

Membership applications. Thank you for the wonderful response from members following last month's report, in which we made a strong appeal for hackers to become members of the Hangklip Botanical Society (HBS). The membership form is attached. New members, and those who have not yet had an opportunity to do so, are encouraged to complete the form, pay the membership fee, and send both the form and proof of payment to Sue McConnell at the email address provided on the form.

Sugarbird Team. The Sugarbird Team has started a new project to clear alien vegetation from Hangklip Valley. They began at the top, on the escarpment above Sea Farm, and are working their way down into the valley. They are doing excellent work, and we are truly grateful for the support and dedication of this team.

HHH fieldwork. This month, the endurance, patience, and adaptability of the HHH were tested once again as the group worked to remove the last of the forest triangle of FCE across the Buffels River. As in the previous month, the route took us through the river flow and into the thickest part of the Palmiet and Spider Gum forest. We expected the river crossing to be easier this time, but conditions did not improve as hoped. On arrival, the water level was much higher than it had been during the inspection the previous afternoon, despite no rain overnight. After another delay, the group was able to continue hacking. We eventually realised that the wind had pushed waves across the weir, causing the river level to rise.

Hackers, you are simply the best at adjusting to circumstances. No matter what the challenge is, the hackers will prevail.

Supporting one another. Every day, we are reminded of the realities of life and of the different stages and circumstances we each face. We do not all experience the same level of health or fitness, but as a group we continue to look out for one another. Several individuals are facing health challenges, and my request is simple: where possible, let us support, assist, care for, and pray for one another.

Carte Blanche visit. Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the way the group responded to the visit by the Carte Blanche film crew. The Carte Blanche team approached us to explore what the HHH and the Sugarbirds are doing in response to the broader situation in the Biosphere, where several state forests are becoming increasingly difficult to control because of alien vegetation. The crew wanted to see what local volunteers are doing to address alien vegetation control. They were surprised by the composition of the HHH, impressed by what has been achieved, and noted the professional way in which the group operates.

They also agreed that the Sugarbird concept is a major win-win for everyone involved and, above all, a significant benefit to nature through the eradication of alien vegetation. The Carte Blanche team, under the leadership of Liz Fish, was very positive in its approach, and we expect an insert of approximately 10 minutes in the programme within the next two to three weeks.

Next hacks

The planned schedule for September includes possible Ad Hoc Hacks on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. Wednesday hacks are scheduled for 9th (? BB), 16th (M-Plot, RE), 23rd (Turtle Creek, PB), 30th (Hakea, RE). We are still waiting for the United Church, to give approval from the removal of the New Zealand Xmas trees. Once we get that we will make a gap, that is how serious we are to remove those invaders!

Photos

(Thank you for the contributions of our fellow hackers, with reference to **Gaenor, Steve, Andreas, Rob & Karin B**) See the attached photos for a visual record of the month's activities

38 Lawrence Rd, PB



Before and after the removal of the Palms in Barbara's Garden



M-Plot, RE



The arrow indicates the area that was cleared from Spider Gums

Turtle Creek, PB



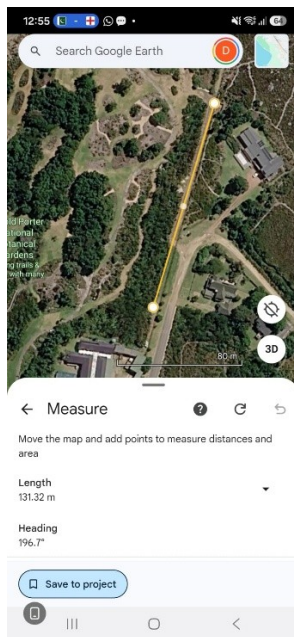
A summary of the hack at TC!

Glen Road, PB



Clearing A. Myrtle at Glen Rd

Harold Porter Gardens, BB



Great Work being done at HPG – 130 meters of branches stacked, lead by Rob!

Dolphin Drive, BB

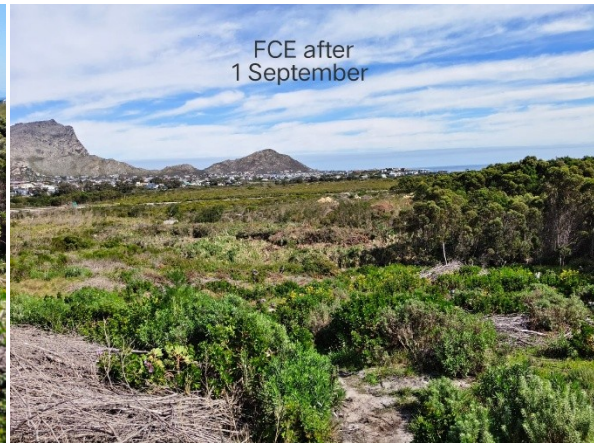


The result, New Zealand Xmas Trees removed by this team!

FCE, RE/PB



Crossing the unexpected full flowing Buffels River



Clearing of the Spider Gum Triangle in the Buffels River



Palmiet was supposed to be friendly, but it felt like the enemy!

Visit by the Cart Blanche Team



Interviewing Ryno of the Sugarbirds



Introduction of the team to the HHH

Recipient of the JWFT



Marius, recipient of the JWFT for August

New Hangklip Hardcore Hackers



Richard Jacobs



Rudi du Plessis

New Hackers



Jeremy & Gemma Cronin



Richard Portmann

Guardians of the HHH Group



Peter & Paddy who accommodated the whole HHH Group on 19 August for the aftermath of the HPG Hack