



FRIENDS OF THE ARDERNE GARDENS

9 February 2023

PSHB and the Arderne

Two weeks ago I received the news that PSHB had been found in Newlands. For many years we have watched the spread of shothole borer in South Africa and seen it get closer to our beloved trees at Arderne gardens. Although the beetle has not yet been detected in the garden, it is literally on our doorstep, and infestation can be expected. This is the grim reality that we are facing. Our responsibility is to do what we can to protect the iconic trees that grow in the garden. We are blessed with the financial resources to implement a world class response based on the experiences of other institutions in California and Australia that have faced this challenge already, and we are guided by some of South Africa's top scientists. In particular Dr Trudy Paap of FABI and Professor Francois Roets of the Centre for invasion biology at Stellenbosch University. Paul Barker who is employed in the garden is recognized as an expert in the field of PSHB management, we are extremely lucky to have his dedicated efforts on our behalf. We will be using a "push pull" strategy that combines pheromone mimicking lures and repellents that will be deployed in and around the garden. Additional measures include the felling of low value trees that are reproductive host species within the garden. The future for some of the most special trees in the garden is extremely worrying, however I believe that we have the best people and support to try and combat this awful disease.

Thank you
Francois Krige
Chair of Fotag and Arborist responsible for the Arderne trees.