

FABI RESEARCH WORK FEATURES ON CARTE BLANCHE

The popular South African current affairs and investigative journalism programme Carte Blanche featured the Tree Protection Co-operative Programme's (TCP) research work on the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) on 4 November. The production team had visited FABI to interview Professor Wilhelm de Beer and his team including Darryl Herron, Wilma Nel, Seamus Morgan and Shaun Fell. The PSHB was first discovered infesting mature London plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) trees planted along the street outside the KwaZulu-Natal Botanical Gardens in Pietermaritzburg by FABI postdoctoral Fellow Dr Trudy Paap in 2017 and has since been discovered in many other parts of the country.



There is particular concern on the impact the borer will have on the city of Johannesburg as many trees in numerous leafy suburbs are decimated. This interview is one of several that have been fielded by Prof. de Beer on numerous print and electronic media platforms the past few months, highlighting FABI's world-class research efforts to keep trees healthy.

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