



# NATURES VALLEY NEWS



NVRA/NVBV; 388 Lagoon Drive/Lagoonrylaan 388; Office Hours: Tues –Thu 09:00-16:30; Kantoore: Di - Do 09:00-12:30; Tel 044 531 6699; email [office@nvra.co.za](mailto:office@nvra.co.za); website <http://www.nvra.co.za>



## Dear NVRA members and friends

The pandemic seems to be slowly relaxing its grip and we hope it provides you with more opportunities to enjoy a covid free Natures Valley. The first three months of this year have been relatively incident free other than the usual load shedding interruptions and transmission line equipment failures. We are assured that load shedding should be nothing more than a bad dream by 2030 (or later).

In the period since the AGM in December, much work has been done in preparing the way for applying for a Special Rating Area classification for Natures Valley. An SRA specific steering committee has been established under the Chairmanship of Rob Nichol and the SRA application progress is now reported through SRA Project News flyers. The second edition of the SRA Project News was circulated on the 5th April.

The importance of an SRA to Natures Valley cannot be over emphasised as it provides a means for property owners and the Municipality to mutually agree on measures that protect and improve this wonderful village's environment while placing control over the implementation of those measures in our hands. While baboon management and monitoring is an anchor project within the SRA application, it will act as a very good foundation for adding other improvements to our "Valley" which can only serve to enhance property values and improve our quality of life.

Your support for the SRA will be canvassed through a public participation process in the months to come and we urge all property owners to actively participate and to make a conscious effort to cast your vote.

In the meantime, we wish all members, visitors and property owners a peaceful and covid free Easter and hope to see many of you on the lagoon and the beaches and trails in and around Natures Valley.

## **A** new Director at the NVT

The Natures Valley Trust has announced the appointment of a new Director, Prof Hendri Coetzee with effect from the 4th of April 2022. Hendri holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences, an MA in Research Psychology and a BA (Hons) in Psychology. The NVRA welcomes Prof Coetzee and his wife Nicolette and their two daughters, Hannah and Sune to Natures Valley and we look forward to working with Prof Hendri and continuing our very constructive relationship with the NVT

## **C**hanges in Bitou Municipality

The Municipality has appointed Mr. Mbulelo Memani as Municipal Manager with effect from the 4th of April 2022. Mr Memani has previously held the positions of CFO at Cederberg and Knysna Municipalities. We hope Mr Memani brings some stability and decision-making capability to the various municipal departments and to the more pressing Nature's Valley issues of water storage and distribution and maintenance of our infrastructure in general

## **N**VRA to get a new chairman

After serving on the NVRA committee for 6 years and Chairman for the last 2 years, Dave Owen will be resigning from the NVRA in July. Dave and Viv will be relocating to the UK after living in South Africa for the last 48 years. We would like to extend our thanks to Dave for his support and leadership in addressing some challenging issues during his comparatively short time in Natures Valley. The NVRA committee will be electing a new Chairman and will shortly issue a notice of appointment.

## **S**upport the NVRA

In the opening statement to this newsletter, we mentioned that the SRA committee is now issuing its own SRA Project News flyers informing property owners of progress with the application. Until such time as the SRA application is approved by the Municipality, and NV SRA Not for Profit Company (NPC) is established the NVRA will continue to report on baboon activity, security related incidents and matters related to public open space maintenance. Once formed, the NVSRA NPC will assume the management and reporting responsibilities for these activities.

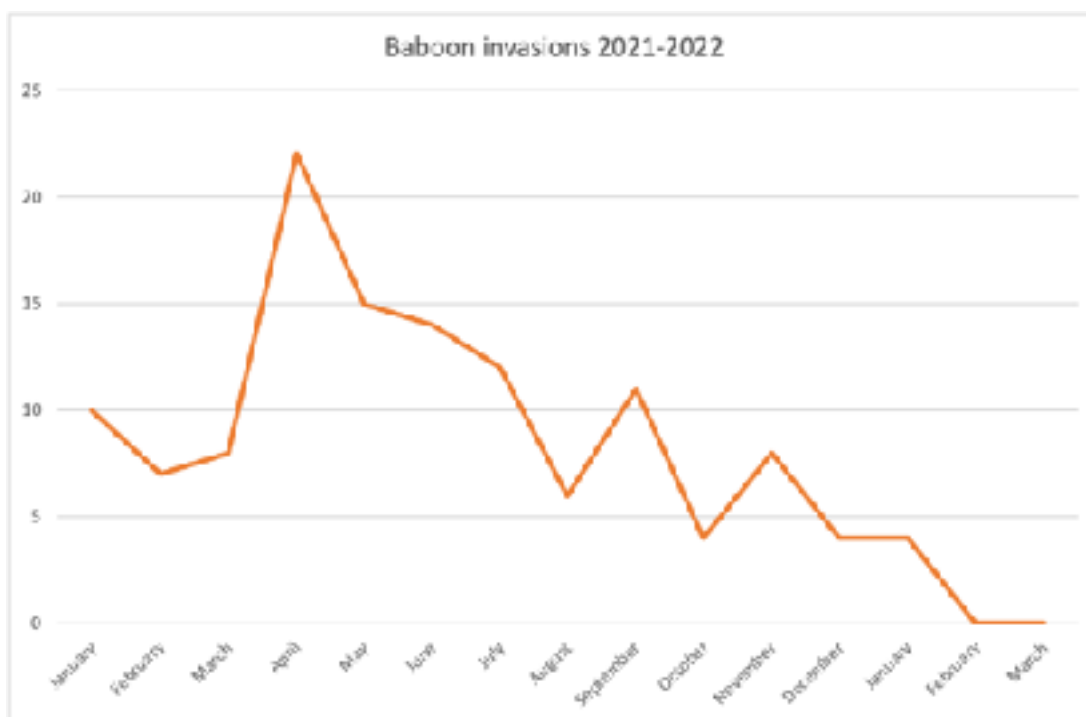
Having initiated the SRA and acted as a catalyst for raising interim funding of the baboon monitors, the NVRA will continue in it's involvement in the built environment and protection of the single residential status of Natures Valley as well as acting as a ratepayer's watchdog to ensure fair service delivery from Bitou in areas such as water supply, road maintenance, sewage removal, refuse management and electrical distribution.

The NVRA will also continue its close liaison with SANParks and the implementation of the Contractual National Park agreement. In order to carry out these important functions, the NVRA will rely on ongoing annual contributions from ratepayers towards maintaining this essential community organisation.

We would like to thank all those property owners who have made contributions this year. If you have not already done so we would urge you to make a contribution before the end of the financial year ending the 30th June 2022. A contribution of R1000 per year is suggested but any support is welcome and higher amounts are also much appreciated

**OUR BANK DETAILS: NVRA, Standard Bank, Plettenberg Bay, Branch no. 050714, A/C No. 082609217  
Contact Annamarie Kovacic 044 531 6699 or [office@nvra.co.za](mailto:office@nvra.co.za) for further details.**

## **B**aboon activity



No baboon invasions have been reported for the months of February and March 2022 though there have been many troop sightings close by. The baboon monitors have been successful in restricting troop movement to the east side of the Groot River and to the north of the west pass. While the monitors are now able to patrol without carrying paintball markers we anticipate more baboon activity as we approach the Easter holidays. Consequently, we request that all property owners and their guests **remain watchful, please ensure your house is properly secured when you leave it and do not leave plastic refuse bags on the street verge.**

## **W**aste Management

**Please note that we may experience disruptions in the collection of refuse during the month of April due to delays in extending labour contracts by Bitou. We will be providing residents with updates on collection times each Friday in April. Residents are however requested to take refuse bags directly to the waste transfer station in Forest Drive as a contingency measure.** Refuse

collection will take place on Fridays, as normal, unless otherwise advised.



**Refuse dumping in the road verges** - The number of plastic bottles, tins and plastic bags along the approach roads to Natures Valley seem to be increasing. We want to appeal to all road users, including hikers, joggers, and cyclists not to throw rubbish along the road and to help keep our Village and the surroundings clean.

## **S**ecurity

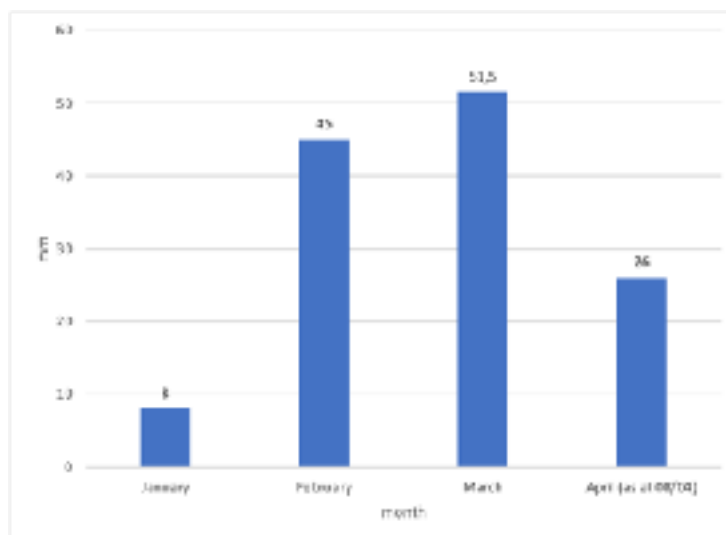
In the 3 months to end March 2022, there were 3 attempted break-ins, all in February. ADT responded to arms for 2 of the break-ins and responded and prevented the third attempt due to an alert resident raising an alarm via our WhatsApp security group

The NVRA has established a security sub-committee comprised of security minded property owners which has established a very effective communication network including Craggs community security, SAPS, Bitou Law Enforcement, Plett Security and the NSRI. In March, members of our NVRA security committee assisted SAPS, Plett Security and the Craggs security group in apprehending abalone poachers who were active in the Salt River area.

In another incident, 2 young visitors were reported lost in the area. Our security group was alerted and with excellent support from our baboon monitors, the children were quickly found.

## **R**ainfall (January - March 2022)

<b>January</b>	<b>8mm</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>45mm</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>51,5mm</b>
<b>to 8th April</b>	<b>26mm</b>



## **D**ogs in the Valley



Once again, we draw your attention to the need to walk your dog(s) on leads and not in restricted areas/zones. The only designated off-leash" area is at the estuary beach. There are clear signs at the entrances to beaches about dog rules and we appeal to visitors to obey these rules. These are municipal regulations and are not specific to Natures Valley Dog poo and irresponsible dog owners - we are not winning this battle!

Please pick up your dog's poo in the streets and on the beaches as a basic consideration to all other owners and visitors who have come here to enjoy Natures Valley without the need to avoid landmines!

Poo bags are available at all beach access points and we try to provide enough bags, but why not buy your own and keep some in your pocket - always be prepared!

We have a bylaw "public nuisances arising from the keeping of animals" - lets enforce it!

## **S**uperintendent

The Municipal Superintendent of Natures Valley and Covie, Marco Barnardo, has his office in Phyl Martin Park. Office hours during the holiday season will be 07h30 to 16h30, Monday to Thursday and 07h30 to 13h30 on Fridays. In an emergency phone the Bitou Municipal Customer Care line 086 124 8686. Marco is not always in the office so please leave a message and he will call you back as soon as he can or send an e-mail to [mbarnardo@plett.gov.za](mailto:mbarnardo@plett.gov.za) .

Superintendent's Office: 044 531 6757

## **O**wners Contact Details

Please make sure we have your correct contact details and please inform us of any changes to your e-mail address or phone number so that we can keep you posted on events and happenings that may concern you as an owner.

## **C**ontact numbers, emails and WhatsApp admins

Should you want to discuss any Valley issues the following phone numbers may be of use.

A full list of committee members and a large amount of other useful information is on our website <http://www.nvra.co.za>.

Annamarie Kovacik	044 531 6699	NVRA Office Manager <a href="mailto:office@nvra.co.za">office@nvra.co.za</a>
Marco Barnardo	044 531 6757	Municipal Superintendent
NATURES VALLEY TRUST	044 531 6820	<a href="mailto:info@naturesvalleytrust.co.za">info@naturesvalleytrust.co.za</a>

## **W**hatsApp messaging

There are a number of WhatsApp groups used for various purposes which you can ask to join. The main ones are the following:

**NV Security Group** administered by Annemarie Kovacik, NVRA Office, 079 308 5610

To keep owners or residents informed on or reporting of security issues such as burglaries, suspicious looking persons or vehicles in the valley, crime incidents and power and water supply failures , etc. Also, the Fire Risk situation and occurrence of fire in or near NV will be reported here.

**NVRA-Bitou** administered by Marco Barnardo, 071 299 2458

For reporting or asking about anything concerning non-urgent Natures Valley Matters such as fire precautions, damage to roads, traffic issues, fallen trees, street markings, waste removal or sewage problems.

**Baboon Alert** administered by Kellyn Whitehead, NVT, 082 559 1137

This useful site can keep you informed of baboon movements and activities in NV.

**NV Valley Chat** administered by Lynn Oberholzer, 072 194 9579

This WhatsApp group is used mainly by permanent residents and visitors to inform each other of various social events, load shedding counselling and support and any strange happenings.

## **B**itou Honeysucker Tariffs (1st July 2021-30th June 2022)

You must process the payment first, then send/take the PROOF OF PAYMENT to Bitou customer care in Plettenberg Bay or the natures valley office (office hours Monday to Thursday 07h30-16h30, Friday

07h00-13H30) to book the truck; the fee is as follows;  
Honey sucker tariffs 01/07/2021 till 30/06/2022

Monday to Friday – R603.36 Saturday – R905.05  
Sunday & Public holiday – R1206.73

Banking Details:

NEDBANK – Plettenberg bay

ACC: 1089913974

Branch code: 198765

REF: 10840861 (Erf number as well)

Email proof of payment to: Mbarnardo@plett.gov.za

### Emergency numbers

INSTITUTION	NUMBER	CONTACT PERSON	AREA
Bitou Municipality General enquiries	044 501 3000		Plettenberg Bay
Bitou Municipality customer care	086 124 8686	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
NV & Covie Superintendent	044 531 6757	Marco Barnardo	Natures Valley/Covie
Power Failures Eskom	086 003 7566/ 044 501 4103/4	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
SANPARKS Bloukrans Office	044 531 6792		Bloukrans
SANPARKS Standby Ranger	072 917 4474	24/7	Bloukrans
SANPARKS Storms River	042 281 1607		Storms River
NSRI	082 990 5975	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
Mountain search & rescue	082 339 1240	Andrew Scott	Crags
Traffic/Fire (Emergency only)	044 533 5000	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
Lawnwood Snake Sanctuary	044 534 8056 / 082 667 6588	Michael	Crags
Tenikwa (Injured wildlife-Animals)	044 534 8170 / 082 486 1515	Mandy	Crags
Police	10111/ 044 501 1900	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
Knysna Provincial Hospital	044 302 8400	24/7	Knysna
Knysna Ambulance Service	10177	24/7	Knysna
Knysna Private Hospital (LIFE)	044 384 1083	24/7	Knysna
Mediclinic Plettenberg bay	044 501 5100	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
Emergency number from CELLPHONES	112	24-Jul	Area related
Clinic - Plett town	044 501 3700/1/4	Mon-Fri (07h30 - 16h00)	Plettenberg Bay
Clinic - Crags	044 534 8737	Mon-Fri (07h30 - 16h00)	Crags
Clinic - New Horizon	044 533 6438	Mon-Fri (07h30 - 16h00)	Plettenberg Bay
Clinic - Kwanokuthula	044 501 5700	Mon,Thur,Fri (07h30-16h00)	Plettenberg Bay
		Tues,Wed (07h30-18h00)	
Medlife Private Ambulance	044 533 6444	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
	079 232 4956/ 076 688 4451	Warren	Plettenberg Bay
ER 24 (Medical aid patients)	083 320 1199	24/7	Plettenberg Bay
PAWS Animal welfare	083 287 9917	Tracy	Plettenberg Bay

