



DECEMBER 2022

# HOLIDAY INFORMATION



The NVRA wishes owners and visitors a warm welcome to Nature's Valley.

The aim of this leaflet is to make sure that all visitors feel welcome during the summer season and are well-informed, so that everyone can enjoy a carefree holiday. Please print out and keep this leaflet at hand during your stay in Nature's Valley.

Owners must please make sure that tenants are fully aware of all the arrangements and services, especially the arrangements about waste management and baboon control. This will help to ensure a clean environment during the holiday season.

## Important contact numbers

POLICE	044 501 1900	10111 or 112 (from cell)
ADT EMERGENCY	0861212340	083 290 9085 (vehicle)
AMBULANCE	0448055071	112 (from cell)
BITOU MUNICIPALITY CUSTOMER CARE	044 531 3000	0800212797
PLETT CLINIC	044 5013700	
PLETT MEDICLINIC	044 501 5100	
TRAFFIC, FIRE EMERGENCY	044 533 5000	0445013230/1
KURLAND FIRE BRIGADE	044 533 5000	
NSRI	082 990 5975	

## Municipal Matters

### Superintendent

The Superintendent of Nature's Valley and Covie, Marco Barnado, represents Bitou Municipality and 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. 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.  
In an emergency phone the Bitou Customer Careline 0800212797

### Honeysucker service for conservancy tanks.

The honey sucker service needs to be arranged well in advance to avoid the overflowing of conservancy tanks with the associated health risks. Especially during Dec-Jan holiday season it is recommended that you book the service in advance. Owners should be able to estimate when and how often the honey sucker service would be needed. The dates for the service must then be booked and paid in advance with Bitou and Marco, the Superintendent. **See last page for fees and payment process.**

Please ensure that tenants are aware of these arrangements.

### Domestic Refuse Collection

Household waste will be collected by the municipality on **Friday mornings from 0730.**

## **Pets in the Valley**

There is concern about the growing number of cats seen in the Valley. Cats cannot be contained and are natural hunters. The bird population of the Valley is very important to all owners and is under threat because of domestic cats. Owners are asked to be conscious of this issue. Cat collars should be fitted with a bell to give birds a chance!

Dog owners are no doubt aware that dogs must be kept on a leash at all times when outside private property, except in those area specifically designated as "off-leash" zones. This is a municipal regulation which is common to all municipal areas throughout the country. There are clear signs at each beach path and at the lagoon which identify those sections of the beach where dogs are prohibited, can be walked on a leash, or allowed off-leash. The only off-leash area in NV is on the beach between beach path 7 and the estuary mouth. Dogs are prohibited from the following beach areas:

- To the east of the estuary mouth.
- To the west of Beach Path 1
- The Blue Flag Main Beach at Beach Path 4.

Free running dogs on the beach are a significant threat to the survival of bird species, which lay their eggs in the dunes above the high-water mark. Dogs are also prohibited from all estuaries, dunes and forests surrounding NV, which are managed by SANParks

Dogpoo bags are available at all beach paths and a number of other locations in the Valley. We try to provide enough bags, but dog owners are encouraged to always carry their own bags to collect the dog poo, both in the Village and along the beaches and in other public spaces.

## **Waste Management**

### **Recyclable Waste**

The recycling bins in the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) (Erf 337 Forest Drive) are there to be used and we encourage all visitors to recycle as diligently as possible. The recyclables are collected regularly, sorted and consolidated in the Plett Industrial area from where it is dispatched directly to recyclers.

### **Household waste**

Household waste (other than recyclable waste) will be collected by the municipality, at each home on Friday mornings from 0730.

Refuse bags, inside baboon-proofed wheelie-bins should be placed outside the property on the morning of collection. Refuse bags which are not

contained in a wheelie-bin are prone to be ripped open by scavengers (baboons, seagulls and crows, etc) causing a mess which the refuse collectors will not clean up. This looks disgusting, affects adjoining properties, and encourages baboons into the village.

Excess household refuse which cannot be placed in wheelie-bins must be taken to the WTS. An attendant will be available at the WTS on weekdays between 08:00 and 16:00 to ensure correct disposal of recyclable and other waste by residents. Sign boards at the WTS clearly show where the waste bags and recyclable materials are to be disposed of.

Food must never be left outside of the main waste building and should not be placed inside bins for recyclables.

### **Builders Rubble**

The disposal of any building related waste is forbidden in NV. All building waste material is to be kept on the property and disposed of at the Bitou waste site on the N2 near Kwanokuthula.

### **Garden waste**

Garden waste must not be dumped anywhere in the Valley and definitely not at the Waste Transfer Station. Garden refuse should be kept on your property before being disposed of at the waste processing facility just outside Plettenberg Bay on the N2.

A list of contractors who help with the disposal of garden waste is available from Annamarie Kovacik in the NVRA Office.

### **Litter along the road verges**

We appeal to all road users, including hikers, joggers, and cyclists not to drop litter along the roads including the R102 approach roads and to help keep our Village and the surrounding areas clean.

### **Water Supply**

Natures Valley, which sits in the Southern Cape, is a region which relies on regular rainfall throughout the year. There is no obviously "rainy season" although historically, slightly less rain falls in the winter months. Unfortunately, the Southern Cape is currently experiencing a mini drought, with no significant rainfall in October or November,

while also experiencing high winds. This has resulted in very dry conditions and a reduction in water flow in the rivers. As most owners will be aware, NV relies entirely on the Groot River for its water supply and all owners and visitors are requested to use water with respect and minimize its use for garden irrigation. Excessive extraction of water from the river to meet the high demand in Dec and Jan reduces the amount of fresh water entering the estuary, which affects the health of this critical water body.

### **Fire Risk**

The dry conditions have also increased the fire risk in the Valley and surrounding fynbos and forest. Visitors are asked to be extremely cautious when making fires and please to ensure that the embers are extinguished before closing up for the night.

Owners and visitors are reminded that fireworks and Chinese lanterns are forbidden in the Valley and similarly the making of fires on the beach is prohibited.

### **Baboons**

Living in an area with baboons has its challenges and managing baboons in Natures Valley is certainly not straightforward. The previous section on waste management is also applicable to the management of baboons in the Valley. The main reason why baboons are present in the Valley and why they invade houses is to obtain sugary high energy human derived food. Therefore, the single most effective measure to be taken is to make sure that food is not accessible to baboons at your house, or at the waste transfer station.

Considerable success has been achieved during the past year in reducing the baboon presence in the village and the associated home invasions, as a result of the employment, training and management of a team of baboon monitors. Our thanks go to all owners who have contributed so generously to enabling this program and particularly to our Superintendent, Marco Barnado, who has been closely involved in managing this process. Owners will have been receiving correspondence on the future of this scheme and the intention of the NVRA to establish an SRA in

NV to secure the ongoing financing of baboon management.

### **Security**

We are fortunate to have a permanent security presence in Natures Valley in Fidelity ADT, due solely to the high percentage of homeowners (75%) who have signed contracts with the company.

The agreement, which we have with Fidelity ADT makes provision for the response unit to attend to general security issues in the community, such as baboon invasions and any other emergencies. However, Fidelity ADT can only enter properties where a contract has been signed with the owners, and calls from contracted clients will always receive priority above any other situation.

Visitors will note that CCTV cameras and the associated monitoring have been introduced at the entrance to the valley and the area around the shop and Beach Path No 1. Fid-ADT are thanked for their co-operation in supplying and upgrading these facilities as part of their ongoing commitment to NV at no cost to the NVRA or additional cost to owners. Enhancements such as this and the comprehensive patrolling by Fid-ADT are made possible by those owners who are contracted to Fid-ADT, so there are many owners who are benefitting without paying towards the security in the village.

We encourage all homeowners who are not contributing to consider signing a contract with Fidelity ADT. They deliver a reliable and effective service and with a higher number of clients an even more comprehensive service can be provided to the Valley as a whole.

Owners and visitors are advised that petty theft and burglaries in the Valley are on the rise, which is driving the need to improve surveillance and response capabilities. The incidents of crime are still low when compared with most urban areas in SA but sadly economic circumstances are such that the trend is unlikely to be reversed. Care should be taken to avoid leaving anything of value unattended and visible from the street during the day. At night, make sure your home and outbuildings are secure.

Visitors are asked to please refrain from offering any support to "so-called" car guards who have

started to appear at the lagoon parking. These individuals must be given no encouragement.

## Camping

Camping is prohibited in the Valley. The Title Deeds of all properties specifically state that no camping or caravanning is allowed on private properties. Please make sure that visitors who rent houses are aware of this ruling and if camping facilities are required then owners should make use of the SANParks camp site or other official camp sites in the vicinity.

## Environment

It is our duty to maintain the indigenous plants and trees of the Valley and to remove invasive alien species. Owners who are uncertain about the identification of specific plants and who might want some help with the removal of alien species can contact the NVRA office. A booklet with information about alien plants is available at the office or the NVT office for R 75 and details are also available on the NVRA website.

The NVTrust have resurrected the indigenous plant nursery in Phyl Martin Park and an indigenous tree identification route has been set up by the Trust, which starts at the NVT offices.

SANParks are in the process of developing an Estuary Management Plan for the Salt River and the NVT have received a grant for undertaking research in the estuary and riverine system. Info on the Management Plan is available at the NVT offices and a cut-off date for public comment on this document closes on 10 Jan 2023. Owners are encouraged to make themselves familiar with the document and participate as they feel necessary. A similar Management Plan has been developed for the Groot River estuary which will be implemented early in 2023. This is all good news for the long-term protection of these uniquely pristine river systems.

We are also pleased to advise that the rock-fall damage to a portion of the Salt River trail which occurred many years ago has been repaired by SANParks and this trail is now "officially open" once more.

## Drones

Generally, the flying of drones in NV is discouraged and is prohibited in the following areas;

- Anywhere within the National Park surrounding Natures Valley
- Over the lagoon and the area between the lagoon shoreline and the road (Lagoon Drive)
- The entire beach area including the dunes
- Within 50m of any public road in Natures Valley and surrounds and the lagoon parking area
- Within 50m of any person unless the person is under your direct control
- Within 50m of a building without the explicit permission of the owner.
- Before sunrise and after sundown

## NATURES VALLEY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

The NVRA appreciates the support and contributions of the majority of NV owners. If you are a new owner or wish to show your support, an annual contribution of R1000 is suggested but any support is welcome and higher amounts are obviously much appreciated. Ongoing costs are incurred in the administration of the organization, legal expenses when necessary and incidental expenditure in the interest of the community. The committee consists of volunteers, who have numerous essential projects or routine processes on the go at any time, particularly in connection with ensuring satisfactory services from Bitou Municipality, review of building plans, liaison with SANParks on environmental and management issues, security and many incidental issues. All this is done in the interest of maintaining the integrity of Natures Valley, ensuring it is safe for all who visit and the preservation of the charm and simplicity of this unique village.

## Contributions

BANK DETAILS: NVRA, Standard Bank, Plettenberg Bay, Branch no. 050714, A/C N. 082609217

PLEASE put your ERF NUMBER and NAME on the EFT so that we can identify who the payment comes from. Also, if you can send a confirmation email to Annamarie Kovacik at [office@nvra.co.za](mailto:office@nvra.co.za) or phone her on 044 531 6699 that would be a great help.

## Owners 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.

## NVRA AGM

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Association is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> December at 1700 in the NGK Hall in St Georges Str. We encourage all owners to attend to get an update on the activities of the NVRA and answer any questions which owners may have.

## Website

The NVRA website at [www.nvra.co.za](http://www.nvra.co.za) contains useful and up to date info on NV and its surroundings.

## WhatsApp Groups

There are several WhatsApp groups used for various purposes which you can ask to join, as follows:

**NV Security Group;** managed by Annamarie Kovacik, NVRA Office, 079 308 5610

To keep residents and visitors informed on or reporting of security issues such as burglaries, suspicious looking persons or vehicles in the valley, crime incidents, etc. The Security Whatsapp is not for emergency callouts to Fid-ADT, who do in fact get these messages, but for which their contact numbers should be used. Also, the Fire Risk and occurrence of fire in or near NV will be reported here.

**NVRA-Bitou;** managed by Marco Barnado 071 299 2458

For reporting or asking about anything concerning non-urgent or urgent Municipal Matters such as fire precautions, damage to roads, traffic issues, fallen trees, street markings, waste removal, water supply and electrical supply issues.

**Baboon Alert;** managed by Brittany Arendse 079 070 7513

This useful site can keep you informed of baboon movements and activities in NV. Reports on baboon activities by all participants are much appreciated and serve to warn us of their approach and are used to update data.

**Valley Chat;** managed by Lynn Oberholzer, 072 194 9579

This group is used mainly by permanent residents to inform each other of various social events and happenings in the Valley and surrounds.

**Weather;** The NVT has its own weather station and the information can be accessed through the app: iWeather lite.

## Bitou Honeysucker info and Tariffs

**The December-January season results in huge demand for the municipal honeysucker, so please plan ahead**

The Superintendent, who manages this service has advised as follows:

1. The Honeysucker truck will only come out once Bitou receive proof of payment.
2. If you have not booked the truck and run into trouble, you will have to cope with the problem until the truck can attend to it.
3. On a normal day the truck must service about 12 tanks, which is a lot, taking into consideration driving up the pass and back through busy traffic.
4. After Booking, please send me a Whatsapp as well, as I will be off over weekends and public holidays but will only have access to my phone and diary on these days.
5. Please report bad driving or speeding of any Municipal vehicle.

**Please note that Bitou Municipality no longer make use of an account number, you must look for Bitou Municipality under business directories in your Banking App.**

You must process the payment first, then Email proof of payment to: [Mbarnardo@plett.gov.za](mailto:Mbarnardo@plett.gov.za), or take proof of payment to Bitou Customer Care at the municipal offices in Plett or the Superintendent's office in NV (Phyl Martin Park)

**To book the service, the fee is as follows.**

Honey sucker tariffs 01-07-22 to 30-06-23

Monday to Friday – R632.00

Saturday – R948.00

Sunday & Public holiday – R1264.00

**Note that the truck will only come out to your property once you have made the payment.**

Banking Details:

STANDARD BANK – Plettenberg Bay

Account: Search for Bitou Municipality under Business Directory

REF: 20200629985030 (Erf number)

