



388 Lagoon Drive Office Hours Tue, Wed, Thur 09:00- 12:00;  
Tel 044 531 6699; email. [office@nvra.co.za](mailto:office@nvra.co.za);  
website: <http://www.NVRA.co.za>



**MARCH 2024**

## **EASTER HOLIDAY INFO-LETTER**



**Guess when?**

The NVRA trusts that all owners and visitors enjoyed a memory filled festive break in this wonderful part of the world and are headed back for another dose of the Valley this Easter. Looking back at the festive season, we experienced a number of issues that we thought need to receive attention.

### **Traffic Safety**

Feedback on the effectiveness of the trial speed bumps in St Andrews would be appreciated. The initial impression is that they may be too “gentle” and need to be reconfigured.

Helmets, helmets, helmets – these should be worn when cycling, skateboarding, even on a casual jaunt around the village.

The vigorous growth of vegetation along the road verges also constricts vision affecting safety, and pruning is high on the agenda. The SRA's team is making good headway in this regard.

### **Water Safety**

We experienced an unfortunate drowning between the mouth and the lifesaver controlled main beach in the holidays. Most residents and owners very well know the fickle nature of the Nature's Valley surf, strong rips can operate in even small swell conditions. Please make your visitors aware of the risk and emphasize that they should swim at the main beach.

Disappointingly the lifesavers were on the receiving end of several counts of verbal abuse from bathers who did not like the lifeguards trying to marshal them inside of the flags. Remember they do not know everyone's ability, nor can they safely monitor a large area. Unlocked canoes at the lagoon continue to pose a problem, there has again been unauthorized use of loose canoes, and this has the potential for a repeat tragedy. There is a feeling that problems wouldn't occur if everyone respected other people's property, however two wrongs unfortunately don't make a right.

### **Refuse**

Bitou waste collection takes place on Fridays from 0730.

Household waste to be placed in baboon-proof wheelie bins for collection.

Recyclables are not collected by Bitou and must be deposited at the Waste Transfer Station where they are collected in bulk by a contractor appointed by Bitou.

The capacity of the waste station was stretched to its limits during the December holiday season, and we will be considering what improvements can be made to cope with holiday volumes.

As a community we can surely improve on re-cycling. The re-cycling containers admittedly battled with the Christmas volumes, but high volumes of re-cyclable waste is going through the waste skip in general refuse. It simply requires some self-discipline, staff need to be trained and rentals informed, for re-cycling to be effective. Waste collection days have seen old bad habits – loose baboon friendly waste on verges seems to be prevalent, and it is only a matter of time before our wily friends take advantage of this – if you have too many waste bags then please resolve this with a trip to the waste station.

Over time we have noted that both the dune reserve and the MTO forests, especially on the eastern side of the pass, are frequently used as a dumping ground for garden refuse and construction materials. Dumped garden refuse itself is an eyesore but the bags it's carried in and an accumulation of other waste in the garden refuse is environmentally problematic. If you use the services of external garden contractors, please ensure that they transport the waste to the municipal facilities near Old Nick or at Kwanokuthula.

### **Use of Public Areas for Private Functions**

A large private function recently took place on the lagoon edge which included drinks and serving food from a "caravan". It appears that no permit was obtained for this event. Such functions generally result in a fair amount of rubbish and local damage and generally there are no toilet facilities nearby. In addition, they can be disruptive to the general public and nearby property owners.

Since all areas in NV outside your own home are "public", they fall under the jurisdiction of Bitou Municipality or SANParks and permission is required for holding an organized event which goes beyond a family get together or picnic. Some areas are more suited than others for such functions.

If you or your tenants are hoping to use a public space for such an event, kindly apply well in advance to the Bitou Superintendent, Marco Barnardo ([mbarnardo@plett.gov.za](mailto:mbarnardo@plett.gov.za)) who will advise on the suitability of the venue and what arrangements need to be made or what actions need to be taken to ensure a satisfactory outcome. Permission is not guaranteed.

Refer to the circular included from Bitou at the end of the newsletter for further information regarding this process.

### **NVRA Committee**

The NVRA Committee for 2024 is as follow:

Doug Blaine (Chairman); Municipal Liaison, Secretarial, NVT liaison.

James Martin (Deputy chairman); Finance and admin, SANParks liaison, SRA Management Committee.

Johann de Wet (Deputy chairman); Built environment and plan approvals, signage management.

Rob Nicol; Chairman SRA Management Committee

Paul Richards; SRA Management Committee, Superintendent liaison.

Peter May; Newsletters, Website and SANParks liaison.

Paul Vlaming; Roads, Electrical, Waste Management

Mark Langton; Water, Sewerage, Estuary

The committee meets formally on a bi-monthly basis and the office is managed by Annamarie Kovacik.

Co-opted members who assist in various portfolios include Conrad Wiehahn, Paul Erens, Roy Parkhurst and Bob Schuiling and Ian Palmer.

### **Contributions to the NVRA:**

The NVRA appreciates the support and financial 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 obviously higher amounts are much appreciated.

#### **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.

Valley. The contact details of the committee are listed on the NVRA website :<http://www.nvra.co.za>.

### **Owners Contact Details**

Please ensure that your contact details are current and up to date so that the office may contact you in emergencies and keep you abreast of any important issues pertaining to the valley.

Annamarie Kovacik [office@nvra.co.za](mailto:office@nvra.co.za) 0445316699;

Marco Barnardo [mbarnardo@plett.gov.za](mailto:mbarnardo@plett.gov.za) 0445316757

Nature's Valley Trust [info@naturesvalleytrust.co.za](mailto:info@naturesvalleytrust.co.za) 0445316820

## **NV Superintendent**

Marco Barnardo, the Bitou Municipality Superintendent for Nature's Valley and Covie has his office in the Phyl Martin Park. His office hours during the holidays are Monday to Thursday 07h30 to 16h30, Fridays 07h30 to 13h30. In emergencies contact Bitou Municipal Care line 086 124 8686. Marco is not always in the office. Leave a message on 044531 6757 or send an email to [mbarnardo@plett.gov.za](mailto:mbarnardo@plett.gov.za) .

## **Bitou Municipality Honeysucker Service**

The procedure to follow to book the service is as follows:

1. Do the payment for Bitou Municipality
2. Send proof of payment to customer care in Plettenberg bay or to the superintendent's office to make the booking.

## **Honey sucker tariffs 01/07/2023tot 30/06/2024**

Monday to Friday – R675,00

Saturday – R1013,00

Sunday and public holidays – R1350,00

### **Banking details:**

Standard Bank – Plettenberg Bay

Account number – Look for Bitou Municipality in the Business Directory

Reference – 20200629985030 + erf number

Payment is for one load. Should the tank be larger than the capacity of the truck you can pay for a second load.

## 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

## WhatsApp Messaging

The following WhatsApp groups are available to owners and visitors to join:

**NV Security Group** administered by Annamarie 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, 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 receiving reports on Natures Valley matters

**Baboon Alert** administered by NVT 0825720948. This useful site provides information on troop movements in the valley.

**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.

## Dogs in the Valley



A friendly but urgent reminder to all visitors and owners to obey the Municipal By-laws regarding dogs in Nature's Valley. Rules are clearly set out on boards at all beach entrances.

Dogs should be leashed at all times except in the lagoon area where they may play and interact freely. Poo bags are available at all beach entrances and it is compulsory to pick up and dispose of faeces in the bins provided.



February 2024

Dear Natrures Valley Residents,

In the light of the happenings yesterday afternoon at the corner of Lagoon drive and St Andrews, please take note of the below proceedings:

Natures Valley is open to the general public to have access to the beach and surroundings and we as Bitou Municipality or SANParks cannot prevent the public from having a party on the beach or other public spaces during daytime, unless it gets out of hand, they are trespassing on private property or if they are using items that is prohibited in that specific area, for example glass on the beach, However when the public is having what we see as a planned event such as birthday parties or wedding ceremonies on the beach or estuary banks, they do need a permit which will address a number of things such as:

- Number of people allowed on the specified area.
- Music.
- Use of glass.
- Open fires.
- Use of generators
- Confetti.
- Cleaning.
- Selling of food to the public.
- It would also make note that even if you are occupying a specific area, the public can still come to the same area if they wish to, unless cordoned off.

If any activity/event taking place in a public area, causes disturbance to residents or if residents are not aware if the event has the necessary permission to take place, please contact the below numbers for clarification, please do not approach the event taking place as things can escalate quickly.

Please note that somebody will answer on the below numbers and if it falls within their area they will deal with the situation on hand.

Bitou Municipality Law Enforcement – 044 501 5000 (regarding Noise complaints or the excessive use of alcohol in public areas)

Marco Barnardo (Municipal Superintendent- Natures Valley) – 071 299 2458; SANParks – 072 917 4474





**Natures Valley 1956**

Safe Travels and Happy Holidays!

