



APRIL 2025

## EASTER NEWSLETTER



### Autumn 2025

Summers grip on the Valley seems to have finally been broken. January and February were both hot and humid months. In addition, some strong easterlies got the cold-water upwelling going, causing an ice-cold sea, some misty days and fish kills. A few thunderstorms with rain have kept the lagoon open and fresh, and assisted in dropping air temperatures. Shorter days and cooler nights are now back, winter will be following soon.

### Use and Abuse of Public Areas

The lagoon side spaces are suffering from fisherman's waste and the occasional braai fire. Fires are only permitted at the designated braai spots at the parking and SANParks will respond to complaints of fires, so please help spread the word that fires are not allowed here. Plans are afoot to upgrade the braai facilities at the lagoon mouth parking.

Litter left behind by fisherfolk is becoming a headache at all fishing spots, along the beach and along the shoreline to Salt River. SANParks have been alerted to this but don't be surprised with litter you may come across, just pass the message onto SANParks so they can address and also help by picking up litter where practical.

### Watercraft

Unlocked canoes along the lagoon remain a problem. Please ensure that your watercraft are either locked to the rails provided or are safely stored at home. Unlocked canoes will be removed and stored at the waste station.

### **Construction Works**

The Valley is undergoing a steady metamorphosis as owners renovate and very often choose to completely rebuild homes. Please ensure your designer liaises with the Ratepayers office, at 388 Lagoon Drive, to obtain guidelines with respect to coverage, building lines, retention of trees and the like. When building, please remember that all pavements belong to Bitou and the community – try keep all building materials, skips and waste contained within your erf. Where this is not possible, please ensure that your Contractors keep the verge neat and tidy. We are attempting to influence matters with regular checks on building sites, but it will assist if the message gets through to Contractors from owners as well.

### **Natures Valley Overlay Zone**

The NVRA committee are in the process of developing an Overlay Zone document for Natures Valley to complement the Bitou Zoning Scheme By-law, which defines the development parameters for all properties in the Municipal area, which includes Natures Valley. Consultations with Town Planners are well-advanced and it is planned to table the document to Bitou Municipality for review shortly. Thereafter the document will be circulated to all Natures Valley owners for comment and approval. The approval of an Overlay Zone for Natures Valley will assist in aiding the control and assessment of new building plans with the ultimate objective of preventing densification and maintaining the unique character of Natures Valley.

### **Support A Local Charity : Kids Of Kurland**

The Kids of Kurland School Project was established in 2001 by residents in the Valley and the Craggs with the aim of supporting the Craggs Primary School and improving the level of education offered. This charity has been run by the selfless devotion of a number of residents and has resulted in the funding of additional teaching posts to address overcrowded class sizes. At present three teachers' posts are supported, and as the Department of Education have recently frozen another teaching post, plans are afoot to increase funding for a fourth post.

Preloved books are for sale at Blue Rocks Café in support of this charity and you are encouraged to support a very worthwhile cause and find some good holiday reading into the bargain.

Donations are extremely welcome too!!

ALENTI38t/a Kurland School Project, NEDBANK 1090 034 288 Ref : Surname

Contact : +27 72 386 9636 ; [www.kidsofkurland.com](http://www.kidsofkurland.com)

### **Potential Developments in the Local Area**

Two developments have been mooted that need to be monitored.

**1 Kurland Township Expansion** - The Bitou Municipality has intentions to expand the Kurland Township by building 1500 new homes. This is questionable on many levels, as Kurland already has a high unemployment rate and the provision of services such as water supply and sewerage will pose a massive challenge and investment. The long term impact of waste management and wastewater treatment poses a threat to the Salt River catchment. There are a number of interested parties in the area who are actively engaging with the municipality on this development.

**2 Regional Prison** - The Bitou Municipality requested the Department of Correctional Services, back in 2013, to consider developing a facility in the greater Plettenberg Bay area largely to address rising unemployment and assist the local economy generally. The proposal, which has recently been resurrected for consideration, involves the building of a 513 bed facility requiring a site of between 25 and 120 hectares. Three site options have been mooted, two to the west of Plett and the third in Covie. Again, this development would face a massive investment in services to be viable.

Obviously, such a development on the Covie commonage is likely to have a significant impact on the local environment and put a severe strain on the minimal water resources in the area.

The NVRA will monitor this development and keep owners advised.



### **Contributions To NVRA:**

The NVRA appreciates the support and financial contributions of the majority of Natures Valley owners in their efforts to ensure the effective delivery of municipal services and actively engage with owners and the municipality in the adherence to the Title Deeds which are critical in ensuring that Natures Valley retains its special ambience and is not negatively affected by inappropriate developments. If you are a new owner or wish to show your support, an annual contribution of R500 is suggested but any support is welcome and obviously higher amounts are much appreciated.

For donations to the NVRA :

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.

### **Residents Get Together**

Locals be advised – we will attempt to resurrect a prior tradition – a social get together with a bring and braai is mooted to be organised in mid-winter. Notice of date and details to follow in late June. All ratepayers and residents in the Valley welcome.

### **Natures Valley 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 044 531 6757/080 021 2797 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 the superintendent's office : [mbarnardo@plett.gov.za](mailto:mbarnardo@plett.gov.za).

Tariffs 01/07/2024 to 30/06/2025:

Monday to Friday – R719.90

Saturday – R1079.85

Sunday and public holidays – R1439.80

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 need to pay for a second load.

### **Refuse Collection**

Bitou waste collection takes place on Fridays from 07h30, including when this happens to fall on a public holiday. Please note that refuse collections **WILL NOT** take place on Good Friday – please take refuse to the waste station. Household waste is to be placed in baboon-proofed wheelie bins for collection. If you have too many waste bags for your bin, then please resolve this with a trip to the waste station.

