



DECEMBER 2018 INFORMATION INFORMATION FOR HOLIDAY-MAKERS

The NVRA wishes you a warm welcome to Nature's Valley.

A brief guideline on important matters and arrangements that are in place to ensure your safe and enjoyable year-end holiday in Nature's Valley. Please take a little time to read through it and refer to our comprehensive website <http://www.nvra.co.za> for more detailed information.

Important contact numbers

POLICE	044 501 1900	10111
ADT EMERGENCY	0861212340	083 290 9085
AMBULANCE	10177	
BITOU MUN. CARELINE	086 124 8686	
DAYCARE AMBULANCE	044 5013700	081 037 8656
DOCTORS - MEDICLINIC	044 501 5100	
TRAFFIC, FIRE EMERGENCY	044 533 5000	
KURLAND FIRE BRIGADE	044 534 8375	
NSRI	044 533 2744	082 990 5975
SEA RESCUE	044 533 2941	

Municipal Matters

Superintendent

The Superintendent of Natures Valley and Covie, Marco Barnado, continues to operate out of the 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 resident in NV so please raise any municipal issues during normal office hours. In an emergency phone the Bitou Municipal Careline **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.

Superintendent's Office: 044 531 6757.

Honeysucker service

The procedure to be followed in arranging for the emptying of conservancy tanks is unchanged from last year. This procedure and the associated costs are on the back page of this notice.

Display your **Erf No.** in a position where it is clearly visible from the street. This assists hugely in achieving an efficient honeysucker service.

Wheelie-bins

If you have not yet claimed your free bin (one per erf), they are available from the Superintendent's office. The use of these bins, preferably fitted with a baboon-proof latch, safeguards against marauding baboons, seagulls and crows. More care by owners and visitors when it comes to putting out waste for collection has helped dramatically in reducing the trashing episodes by our furry and feathered friends.

Household-waste collections

From **11th Dec 2018 to 23rd Jan 2019**, household waste will be collected twice a week: **Tuesdays and Fridays from 07h00**. Place your refuse in a black bag inside the wheelie-bin. If for some reason collection does not occur, waste should be taken back inside the property and stored until the next collection day or it should be taken to the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) in Forest Drive and bags deposited through the hatch on the side of the building. **When departing from the Valley, rubbish bags or wheelie bins must not be left outside the property or bags dumped in public bins. They must**

be deposited at the WTS inside the building on site. BABOONS in particular, but also monkeys and crows, love ripping open black bags.

Recycling

The Municipality has placed recycling bins at the WTS. Owners are encouraged to use this facility, thereby keeping wet domestic waste to a minimum. Separating recyclables from domestic waste reduces the volume by about 75% which has a significant impact on the amount of waste transported by road to the landfill site outside Mossel Bay. Recyclable materials are collected from the WTS on a routine basis.

Garden Refuse

Garden refuse may **NOT** be disposed of at the Natures Valley WTS. The Municipality have plans to open an organic waste drop-off at Kurland but this has not yet transpired. Unfortunately, as a result of abuse by some owners Melton Farm no longer accepts organic waste for composting. The only place where organic waste can be disposed of is once again the old Plett landfill site on the Robberg/Airport road.

If any homeowner wants to make use of the Robberg landfill site, they must first go to the rates department to pay a levy for waste they want to dispose of. The supervisor at the Robberg site will ask for the proof of payment before allowing anyone to enter the site.

There are garden contractors in NV who are equipped to chip green waste on your property which is an environmentally-friendly option. Names of contractors are available at the NVRA office.

Old Appliances

Old household appliances such as stoves, fridges, washing machines, etc can now be taken to the Bitou Municipal Waste Handling Facility on the N2 just past Kwanokathulu for disposal.

Dogs in Nature's Valley, New Rules for dogs on beaches.

Well-behaved dogs accompanied by well-behaved owners will always be welcome in NV. If dogs are allowed to wander and negatively affect the enjoyment of holiday-makers, action will be taken against the owners in accordance with the municipal bye-laws.

Last year Bitou Municipality proclaimed new rules for dogs on beaches with allocated "Dog-free" areas (red zones), "Dogs on leashes" areas (orange zones and "Free-run, no-leash areas (green zones). The 9:00 to 16:00 "No-dog" rule falls away.

There are signs at beach entrances indicating which rules apply. A map showing the various zones has been erected at some beach entrances.

Briefly, the rules are as follows:

- (i) No dogs west of beach entrance 1. Or between entrances 3 and 5 (The Blue Flag Beach);
- (ii) Leashes from entrances 1 to 3 and from 5 to 7;
- (iii) Leash-free from entrance 7 to the river mouth;
- (iv) No dogs east of the river mouth. This has always been the case as it is a marine reserve area.

Dog Poo Bags

Dog poo bags are available at the entrance to the beach paths. Kindly make use of the bags to keep the beach and streets clean. Should the

bins on the beach be empty would you kindly collect bags from the Superintendent's office, the NVRA office or the shop.

Municipal By-laws on Dogs

The following extract from the municipal by-laws, relating to dogs in urban areas, is applicable to NV and is to be noted by all owners and visitors.

"Dogs in streets or public places:

1. The owner or keeper of a dog may not allow it in a street or public place unless the dog is on a leash.
2. Except in the event of a blind person being led by a guide dog, a person in charge of a dog in a street or public place must remove any faeces left by the dog.
3. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of paragraphs 1 or 2 above, commits an offence.

Control of dogs

1. No persons who owns or keeps a dog may:
 - urge a dog to attack, worry or frighten any person or animal unless in self-defence;
 - such dog inside the premises when it is not on a leash;
 - permit a dog to trespass on private property;
 - keep any dog which interferes materially with the comfort, convenience, peace or quiet of neighbours by barking, yelping, howling or whining.
2. The Municipality may seize and impound a dog which is found in a street or public place in contravention with the provisions of the by-laws."

Help our Birds to Breed

Over the past two years the NVT have made concerted efforts to assist the breeding of birds on our beaches by demarcating breeding areas with notices and ropes or ribbons. This and the new dog rules has led to a marked increase of the success rate of the hatching of white-breasted plovers from 9% two years ago to the current 30%. Your kind co-operation by keeping children and dogs outside these demarcated areas would be greatly appreciated.

Sanparks Areas

No dogs are allowed in the protected areas managed by SANParks. i.e. the National Park surrounding the village, the dunes, the eastern side of the lagoon or the beach east of the river mouth.

Safety and Security

Unfortunately, NV is no longer free of crime and all owners and their families are to be wary of leaving doors unlocked and unbarred windows open. This precaution is in any event also essential in keeping baboons at bay. Valuable possessions such as bicycles, laptops, cellphones, etc. should be kept well out of sight.

Fidelity-ADT

Fidelity-ADT maintain a 24/7 presence in NV. A dedicated officer, with patrol vehicle, is on duty 24 hrs per day to respond to Fidelity-ADT clients' alarm calls. The vehicle is equipped with a cell-phone and the officer will react to tip-offs regarding any suspicious activities. **The dedicated cell-phone number is 083 290 9085.** Please keep this number on hand. The vehicle is also equipped with a paintball gun to assist Fidelity-ADT clients with baboon invasions. The same cell number should be used for assistance in such instances.

Blue Flag Beach and Sea Safety

Beach No 4 will once again be operating as a Blue Flag Beach and is the only beach where LIFEGUARDS will be on duty between 09h00 and 17h00, 7 days per week. The season will run from 01 Dec 2018 to 31 Jan 2019. Lifeguards will only be on duty during this period at the above times. NV is known for its strong rip currents and dangerous swimming conditions. It is advisable for visitors and young children to

swim **ONLY WITHIN THE LIFEGUARDS' DESIGNATED AREA** and to abide by the sea safety guidelines (available from the NVRA office or the website) (see *Swimming Guidelines*).

Fire Precautions

Members will be aware of the devastating fires which occurred in June 2017 in Knysna and the Robberg area of Plettenberg Bay. We were most fortunate that there were no serious fires in or around Natures Valley but there is no need for complacency. Over the past year the NVRA have joined the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA) and are liaising with them on procedures for NV in the event of a fire. Please make sure that braai fires are thoroughly extinguished after use especially at night when windy conditions can arise. Also, please note that clippings which are left on properties and subsequently dry out can fuel fires and increase the fire hazard. Owners who are negligent in this regard could face heavy penalties if it were later proved that dry matter left on their properties had contributed to the spread of a fire.

In the past there have been fire incidents when it was necessary to evacuate the Valley due to the possibility of asphyxiation or the danger of a fire spreading to this area. If such an event occurs steps will be taken to inform residents timeously.

Fireworks and Chinese Lanterns

In terms of Bitou Municipal by-laws, unauthorised use of fireworks and the release of Chinese lanterns is prohibited within the municipal area and this includes Nature's Valley township, beach and surrounds. They also pose a serious fire hazard in the surrounding Sanparks reserve

Hawkers

Owners and visitors are asked to please NOT support "hawkers" who visit NV during the holiday season, mainly selling fish which in any event is of dubious quality. These hawkers have an approach and "modus operandi" which poses a security risk to owners. There are no steps which can be taken to prevent them plying their trade but a lack of support and a negative attitude to their products will help deter their activities. If Hawkets become a nuisance, please call the Fidelity-ADT vehicle (083 290 9085).

Skate-boarding

Skate-boarding down the pass is extremely dangerous to the skateboarder and other road users as well and is strictly prohibited.

BABOON WARNING

Baboons are endemic to this area and regularly visit the NV residential area in search of FOOD.

Please take the recommended precautions on the assumption that they will visit your home at some stage and once they have had success, they will return.

IF THEY ENTER YOUR HOUSE THEY CAN CREATE HAVOC.

Do Not:

- Put out food for baboons or monkeys.
- Put fruit or vegetable peelings outside - food left for birds will also attract baboons and monkeys
- Leave rubbish bags containing food scraps or even recyclable material outside as they will rip them open to see what's inside
- Display fruit or food which can be seen through a window or door.

Always:

- Close doors and windows not protected by baboon-proof bars or screens.
- Lock doors as they know how to use door handles. It's also a good idea to lock fridges and deep-freezes.
- Keep dogs away from them, as they could be attacked

Avoid:

- Making your property a potential source of food
- Approaching them, especially young ones. Males are very protective and can be dangerous when defending their young.
- Cornering them inside the house - stand back and allow them to exit of their own accord. Baboons become aggressive when cornered

To Chase Baboons from the Property

- Shout and wave your arms.
- Bang pots and pans
- Shoot in their direction with a catapult. They usually leave when they see the catapult.
- A hose is also effective as they dislike getting wet.

For Assistance When Threatened Call:

Fidelity-ADT Patrol Vehicle: 083 290 9085

For further information contact the NVRA office: 044 531 6699.

The NV Trust operates a Baboon Alert Whatsapp group which keeps people informed of the presence and location of baboons. You are welcome to join this group while in the Valley and can contact the NVT, at 044 531 6820, who monitor this group.

Phyl Martin Park

The park is a true community facility and is a beautiful spot to visit and learn about the indigenous plants and tree species of the area. The park is now being managed by Marco and assistants.

This park contains many indigenous plants and shrubs. The nursery has been closed but there are still a few plants available at half the original prices.

Social Matters

Covie Kids Xmas Party

The annual outing for the Kids of Covie this year will be run by the NVRA and ladies from the NVT. The kids will also receive a small gift and a picnic meal. We received so many generous donations last year that we have sufficient funds for this year and next year.

The event will be held from 15:00 on the 14th of December.

Church Bazaar

The NG Church Bazaar will be held on Wednesday 19th December at 18h00, in the church hall. There are sure to be the plenty of delicious home-bakes, pancakes, fresh produce and other items on sale.

Art exhibition

There will again be an art exhibition in the Church hall from the 27th till Friday the 31st December. Please come and attend our annual art exhibition which promises to be an event not to be missed.

Natures Valley Trust Activities

As usual, the NVT have set up a program of activities for which they will distribute a separate brochure.

Boats at the Lagoon

Two years ago SANParks extended the boat railing to accommodate the ever-increasing number of water craft which are kept in NV. When you leave the Valley please ensure that your boat is chained to the rail or preferably stored at home. There are still a few owners who leave their boats tied up in odd places for the year, spoiling the appeal of the natural estuary banks. **Also, please do not secure boats/canoes to benches which are for sitting on.**

Alien plants

Owners are strongly encouraged to remove alien vegetation from their properties. Of major concern are sword fern and Eugenias, which produce dibble fruit attracting Baboons and monkeys, and spread very

fast and are difficult to eradicate. Flowering gums wattle and blackwood are tree species which should preferably be removed. You may want to refer to the recently produced booklet on alien vegetation produced by the NVT and NVRA available at their offices for R75 or on our website.

NVRA Matters

Annamarie Kovacik, who is a resident in NV continues to manage the NVRA office efficiently. Should you wish to find out something concerning Natures Valley and our activities please drop in and introduce yourself when you get to the Valley. You can also visit our website at <http://www.nvra.co.za>

Office hours

The NVRA office will be open on weekdays from 09h00-16h30 from Tuesday 18th Desember 2018 until Friday 4th Jan 2019. It will be closed on weekends and public holidays.

AGM

The NVRA AGM will be held on Thursday 20 December at 17h00 in the NG Church hall, St George's Ave. The Agenda will be available at the NVRA office from early December.

The minutes of last year's AGM are attached to e-mailed copies of this Newsletter and will also be available from the NVRA office. We hope as many owners as possible will attend the AGM to gain an understanding of the issues affecting their interest in NV and take the opportunity to raise issues for discussion.

Any persons interested and willing to stand for election to the NVRA committee should please approach the Office Manager before the AGM so that the necessary paperwork can be dealt with.

Contributions

Our sincere thanks to the owners who have already contributed to the NVRA for the current financial year, which runs from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. For those wishing to contribute, please do so at the NVRA office or at the AGM. Alternatively, an EFT payment can be made directly to the NVRA bank account. **The suggested contribution amount is R 850.00.**

Banking details: NVRA, Standard Bank, Plettenberg Bay (050714), A/C No. 082609217. Notice of payment to office@nvra.co.za
Please notify the office of any change to personal details, contact numbers, and email addresses by popping into the office or dropping us a line on office@nvra.co.za.

In Conclusion

The Natures Valley beach is looking beautiful and the lagoon is clean and ready for the kids, canoes and windsurfers.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2019.

Please travel safely

HONEY-SUCKER SERVICES.

Please take note of the following information regarding the ordering of the Honey-sucker truck service.

Payment must be made first, then sent/taken to Bitou customer care in Plettenberg Bay or to the Natures Valley Phyl Martin Park Office (office hours Monday to Thursday 07h30-16h30, Friday 07h00-13H30) to make a booking of the truck.

The fees are as follows:

Monday to Friday	R527.85
Saturday	R792.35
Sunday & Public holidays	R1055.70

Banking Details:

NEDBANK - Plettenberg Bay

ACC: 1089913974

Branch code: 198765

REF: 10840861 +Erf number

Email proof of payment to:

Mbarnardo@plett.gov.za

Natures Valley: 044 531 6757

Customer care: 044 501 3028

086 124 8686

[Bitou Municipality has informed us that they will no longer accept payment by cheque.](#)