



## DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

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.

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

### Important contact numbers

POLICE	044 501 1900	10111 or 112
ADT EMERGENCY	0861212340	083 290 9085
AMBULANCE	10177	112
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, 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 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](mailto:mbarnardo@plett.gov.za).

**Superintendent's Office: 044 531 6757.**

#### Honeysucker service

The procedure and the associated costs are on the back page of this notice. Please make sure that you arrange for the service in time rather than waiting until it becomes an emergency.

Please display your **Erf No.** in a position where it is clearly visible from the street.

#### Household-waste collections

Please note that household waste will be collected only once per week during the holiday season: Collections will only take place on **Fridays from 07h00 (including Xmas Day and New Year's Day)**. Place your refuse in a black bag inside the wheelie-bin and place it next to the street, making sure it is fitted with a **baboon-proof latch**. More care by owners and visitors when it comes to putting out waste for collection has helped dramatically in reducing **baboon trashing** episodes. Please **do not place plastic waste bags on the verge**.

If you accumulate excess waste during the week, please take your waste to the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) at the eastern end of Forest Drive where bags must be 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 and definitely not dumped in public bins. BABOONS in particular, but also monkeys and crows, love ripping open black bags, which creates a huge mess.**

#### Recycling

Recycling bins at the WTS are now baboonproof and therefore the top lids need to be lifted before you can deposit items in it. Owners are encouraged to use this facility, but clean the items from any food residues which attract baboons. Please flatten cardboard boxes before it is put into the bins. Recyclable materials are collected from the WTS on a routine basis. There is a separate bin for glass bottles.

#### Garden Refuse

Garden refuse may **NOT** be disposed of at the Natures Valley WTS or somewhere along a street or in the bushes. The only place where organic waste can be disposed of is at the Bitou Municipal Waste Handling Facility on the left of the N2 just past Kwanokathulu.

We would like to urge owners to rather make use of one of the garden contractors in NV who are equipped to chip green waste on your property and to transport loads to the designated place. Names of contractors are available at the NVRA office.

Old household appliances such as stoves, fridges, washing machines, etc can also be taken to the Bitou Municipal Waste Handling Facility.

#### Dogs in Nature's Valley

**There are signs at beach entrances indicating which rules apply in that specific area. 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.

#### 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.

## 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

Nature's Valley Trust has been active in assisting 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% three years ago to the current 30%. Your kind co-operation by keeping children and dogs outside these demarcated areas would be greatly appreciated.

## Safety and Security

We are fortunate to live and spend holidays in such a safe environment as NV. However we do experience some petty crime, especially during the season. Please make sure that doors are locked and unbarred windows are closed when you leave the house. 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 and locked.

### Fidelity-ADT

Fidelity-ADT maintain a 24/7 presence in NV. A dedicated officer, with a 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 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 operated 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 2020 to 31 Jan 2021. 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 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).

Pink buoys can be seen at the beach entrances. When witnessing a potential drowning, bystanders can use these pink buoys to throw to a

swimmer in trouble, while activating an emergency response. This keeps the person in distress afloat for long enough to allow rescuers to get to them. The buoys have already resulted in numerous lives saved, particularly in the Southern Cape. Please make sure that you have the NSRI number on your cell phone: 082 990 5975

## Fire Precautions

The NVRA has joined the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA) and we 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.

## Fires on the Beach

Please note that the making of fires on the beach and along the lagoon (except at the day visitor's braai area) is forbidden by Bitou Municipality.

## 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. They also pose a serious fire hazard in the surrounding Sanparks reserve**

## Hawkers

Owners and visitors are asked please NOT to support "hawkers" who visit NV during the holiday season, mainly selling fish which in any event is of dubious quality. If Hawkets become a nuisance, please call the Fidelity-ADT vehicle (083 290 9085).

## Skate-boarding

Skate-boarding in the Village is dangerous and going down the pass on a skateboard extremely dangerous and is strictly prohibited.

## Drones

The use of drones are not allowed in Nature's Valley and in SANParks areas.

## 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-freezers.
- 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.
- A hose is also effective.

#### 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.

**Please note this Whatsapp serves as an aid for tracking the baboons and must not be used as a platform for complaints about baboons or discussion of baboon issues.**

#### 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 Bitou Municipality.

#### Social Matters

##### Carols by candlelight and Father Christmas at the Syndicate.

The organisers of these very popular events had to take a difficult decision to cancel both events because of the reality of Covid-19. We feel sorry, especially for the kids of the Valley, but for this year we have no other choice. Big gatherings are not allowed and create a definite health risk.

##### NG Kerk basaar

The basaar which was scheduled for the 18th of December was also cancelled due to Covid-19 considerations.

#### Art exhibition

There will again be an art exhibition in the Church hall. Your support will be appreciated.

#### Natures Valley Trust Activities

NVT has decided to cancel all activities for this year due to the inherent risks associated with the Covid pandemic.

#### Rain

Rainfall measured in the Valley during the last three months was as follows:

Aug - 102 mm

Sept - 55 mm

Oct - 115 mm

We do not have unlimited water supplies and it is necessary to regard water as a scarce commodity and it should be used with responsibility.

#### NVRA Matters

Annamarie Kovacic manages the NVRA office. 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 09h00-16h00 from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2021. It will be closed on weekends and public holidays.

#### AGM

**The NVRA AGM will be held on Thursday 17 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. Because of Covid-19 the meeting will be conducted according to the official guidelines. Masks will be compulsory and social distancing to be observed.

#### Contributions

Our sincere thanks to those owners who have already contributed to the NVRA for the current financial year, which runs from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. 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 1,000.00.**

**Banking details: NVRA, Standard Bank, Plettenberg Bay (050714), A/C No. 082609217.** Notice of payment to [office@nvra.co.za](mailto: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](mailto: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 2020.

**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	R579.60
Saturday	R869.40
Sunday & Public holidays	R1159.20

**Banking Details:**

NEDBANK - Plettenberg Bay

ACC: 1089913974

Branch code: 198765

**REF: 10840861 +Erf number**

Email proof of payment to: [Mbarnardo@plett.gov.za](mailto: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.**