



NATURES VALLEY NEWS

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Dear NVRA members and friends

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have weathered the storm of lockdown restrictions. In an attempt to make the letter more interesting and/or “newsworthy” we would encourage input from residents and property owners alike in future editions. Articles that highlight home industries and hobbies, arts and crafts would be welcome as well as emailed old photographs and supporting articles related to the Valley

The "Virus" and the "Valley"

Since our last newsletter it seems like everything and nothing has happened in the space of a few months. No sooner had the Xmas season ended than Covid 19 arrived and changed the way we live



(or at least it keeps trying to). Level 5 lockdown hit us with a bang in March and the Valley became eerily quiet and almost deserted with only a few residents venturing out under cover of darkness to check if the beach was still there. It was strange to see the parking spaces at the Valley Inn and at the lagoon completely empty but great to see how the Valley had

become a safe haven for families who were able to work and also to school their children from home.

The easing of lockdown restrictions from level 5 to 3 has coincided with a drastic increase in Covid 19 infection rates particularly in the Western Cape and in particular Capetown and surrounding wine land areas. As at the date of this Newsletter, Bitou has 69 recorded cases with 23 recoveries and one death. It is only matter of time before the virus spreads to the Craggs, Kurland, Covie, the Valley and surrounding areas and once again, there will be a need for communities to come together to help each other in what will undoubtedly be a very trying time in our lives.

We are aware of the very negative effect which lockdown is having on many business owners in the Valley. We have already witnessed how business activities come to a standstill almost overnight. The shop and restaurant, the guesthouses and AirBnB's, the building contractors and other service providers have experienced substantial revenue losses. Our domestic helpers and gardeners from Kurland and Covie are perhaps the worst hit by the lockdown. In many cases their income has stopped completely and the next few months will also be a challenge for them as Covid 19 escalates. Our thanks go to those owners and residents who have been able to continue paying their workers in spite of the fact that they couldn't work.

During level 5 lockdown several initiatives were embarked upon which received fantastic support from many Valley residents and homeowners reflecting the generosity, kindness and creativity of our community.

Mask4All (Craggs and Plett)

Teams of ladies in Nature's Valley and the Craggs together with Masks4All and Beyond Plett produced over 50,000 masks, of which 44,000 were distributed at no cost to the less financially able people including the entire population of Kurland and Covie. Contributions of money and materials from our communities resulted in this great outcome which was endorsed by worldwide recognition of the importance of masks in fighting the pandemic.

Now is the time for us to look after the people who work for us. When a community steps up at a time like this, it builds loyalty,

We urge everyone to wear masks when in close contact with others (even in open spaces) and when entering the Valley shop and our offices.



Food Aid

While Bitou Municipality and private funders were working on providing support to Plett communities, Natures Valley residents and homeowners and Natures Valley Trust members were again significant contributors to the Plett Rotary managed food aid scheme coordinated by Rotary President Ate Bos and supported by Pastor Allan Jubber of the Born Free Ministries and Paulus Mashego.

Over R440,000 in donations were received for food aid to Kurland, the Craggs and Covie and over 1,000 food hampers were distributed to these grateful communities as at the end of May.

Grateful Covie hamper recipients

With the growing possibility of further lockdowns and the likelihood that our local communities will be adversely affected by lack of employment, the generosity of Valley homeowners and friends will once again be called on in the months to come.

Valley People

Farewell to Doc Brown

In various social media you will be aware that Dr Mark Brown has resigned from the Nature's Valley Trust. He left at the end of May and started as the General Manager of TCI in Plett. Sadly, because of lockdown, we were not able to bid farewell to Mark, but so many people and organisations have paid Mark many compliments for the amazing job he has done in developing the NVT and contributing to the protection of our local environment



On behalf of the NVRA, we would once again convey our great appreciation to Mark for his wisdom and environmental leadership. We will miss him sincerely and we wish him well in his new position. We wish the NVT and Mark's successor, every success in continuing the good work.



Roads

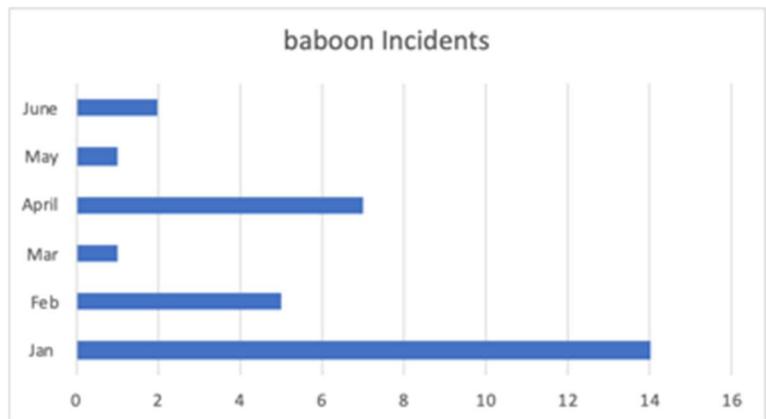
We were very surprised (and more than little pleased) when some heavy roadwork equipment appeared at the entrance during lockdown. At first, we thought only a few potholes would be repaired, but eventually all the major entrance roads up to Cineraria Street were given new tar surfaces and all road verges are in the process of being cleaned. It looks beautiful and drives very smoothly. Thank you to Bitou for looking after the Valley!

Garden Refuse

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, garden waste either needs to be composted by owners for their own use or transported out of the Valley. Burning of garden waste is prohibited by municipal by-laws and presents a serious fire risk. There is also a tendency to drop garden refuse along the roads in the bushes. This is not only unsightly but creates a serious fire-risk to all. Owners who employ gardeners in their absence may be unaware of this practice and are kindly requested to tell their gardeners that this is not acceptable. There are at least two garden service contractors who, for a small fee, will either chip your off-cuts or remove the chips as well as other organic material to the compost farm on the N2. However, this excludes sword-fern, blue-gum, pine and a few other non-destructible types of vegetation which must be taken to the Plett dump. For contact numbers please enquire at the NVRA office.

Baboons

Between January and June, there were approximately 30 incidents of baboon entry or attempted entries to homes with by far the greater number of reported incidents in January. The greater percentage of these incidents involved a loan male baboon which has traumatised members of a number of families after gaining entry into the house.



The NVRA and NVT have lobbied Bitou Municipality to involve itself in addressing the requirement for effective baboon management in Natures Valley and we can confirm that Bitou are taking a proactive approach to understanding the extent of the problem both in Natures Valley and Plett.

Discussions are ongoing with Bitou and other agencies who have gained valuable experience in attempting to manage baboon activities in urban areas.

Rainfall

The rainfall in NV has been sporadic since December but enough to keep the valley and surrounding areas looking beautiful. The figures below were provided by Doug Blaine.

	2018	2019	2020
Jan		48	82
Feb		10	40
Mar		84	20
Apr		38	38
May		40	60
June		17	16
July	40	28	
Aug	50	5	
Sept	150+	66	
Oct	45	40	
Nov	72	80	
Dec	28	36	

Committee and Admin

Paul Erens stepped down as chairperson of the NVRA at the end of 2019. Dave Owen has been appointed as the new chairperson.

Annamarie Kovacik, our Office Manager, can help you with Valley information in general. Office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 12:00.

About 55% of property owners contribute to the NVRA. We really appreciate the support from our members many of whom contribute more than the suggested amount. If you have not yet contributed for this year, your contribution would be most welcome.

The audited financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2020, will be presented at the AGM in December subject off course to approval from the COVID 19 disaster management committee! Please note that the new financial year starts on the 1 July 2020, and therefore 2020/21

contributions are now due. The suggested amount is **R1,000** but, as always, any amount is welcome as it indicates your support for the work done by the NVRA on behalf of owners. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and the NVRA banking details are as follows:

NVRA, Standard Bank, Plettenberg Bay, Branch 05 07 14 Acc. No: 082 60 9217

When making a payment please use your name and Erf no as reference.

Bitou Honeysucker Tariffs (1st July 2020-30th June 2021)

You must do the payment first, then Send/take the PROOF OF PAYMENT to Bitou customer care in Plettenberg bay or the natures valley office (office hours Monday to Thursday 07h30-16h30, Friday 07h00-13H30) to book the truck; the fee is as follows;

Honey sucker tariffs 01/07/2020 till 30/06/2021

Monday to Friday – R579.60

Saturday – R869.40

Sunday & Public holiday – R1159.20

Banking Details:

NEDBANK – Plettenberg bay

ACC: 1089913974

Branch code: 198765

REF: 10840861 (Erf number as well)

Email proof of payment to: Mbarnardo@plett.gov.za

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

Customer care: 044 501 3028

086 124 8686

Website

The NVRA website continues to be updated with important information and documents and we would like to encourage people to visit it regularly at www.nvra.co.za. The following is list of useful documentation posted on the site:

- General Information on Natures valley
- Important NVRA and Municipal documentation
- Guidelines for Visitors
- Safety advice for swimmers
- Function of the NVRA

- Building Regulations
- Dog Rules

Roy Parkhurst is responsible for the website and we thank him for his good work. If you have any questions about the Valley or the activities of the NVRA you should find your answers there.

Kindly circulate this newsletter to family members who may not be on our mailing list. Please also keep us informed of any changes to your personal and contact details.

Editor: Julian Müller (julian.muller@up.ac.za)