

NATURES VALLEY SRA NPC Reg no (23/713537/08) (NVSRA)
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Chairmans Report for the year ended 30th June 2024

It has been a steep learning curve for the NVSRA management team since our launch in 2023. The establishment of a formal structure to support Bitou Municipality in the provision of supplementary services to the Valley has been very successful. Our initial objectives of managing the baboons, improving security and enhancing our environment and public open spaces has progressed very well. As we move into the second year of our existence these projects will be further developed to maintain the beauty and serenity we have come to know and love in Natures Valley. Thank you to everyone who has assisted us in achieving our objectives during this first year. In particular, I would like to extend a special thank you to my co-directors, James Martin and Paul Richards, as well as Natures Valley Superintendent, Marco Barnardo, who have given so much of their time in making the SRA a reality. Thanks also to the Management Committee of the NVRA, under the leadership of Doug Blain, who have supported our endeavours every step of the way.

The SRA will report back to residents at the joint NVRA/NVSRA AGM to be held on 19th December. Rob Nichol, James Martin and Paul Richards were appointed as the original SRA founding directors and will be seeking re-election at the AGM. We ask any property owners who would like to put forward nominations for further directors to please submit these for consideration prior to the AGM.

Project Update

Baboon Management

The Baboon Management Program has been running smoothly despite a number of monitor changes over the past 12 months, with monitors keeping the troop well controlled. We have a team of 3 monitors from Covie – Sebastien Booyens, Levi Booyens and Marquin Damons, and a team from Kurland - Moses Jantjies, Mzoxolo Hali and Sidwell Rwayimani. Monitors continue to improve their baboon management techniques and understanding the troops movement patterns has helped pre-empt raids into the Valley on numerous occasions.

The baboon troop has also seen some significant changes in recent weeks. After the death of the Alpha Male late last year, most of the males in the troop dispersed taking numbers down from 23 to 12. This gave us a smaller troop to control and removed some of the consistent raiders from the troop bringing us a lot more peace in the Valley.

Over the past few months however, the Covie troop, comprising 11 slightly less habituated baboons, has been moving ever closer to our Valley troop, made up mostly of females plus one juvenile male. It appears that the 2 troops have now merged bringing the total troop to 23. In the process there has been some infighting, and the Alpha Female from the Valley troop has been evicted causing her to venture into the Valley more frequently – please keep a watchful eye out

for her and alert the monitors if you spot her. She was unfortunately injured in these scuffles for dominance within the troop and the NVT has been monitoring her recovery.

Given the control that we have been able to maintain we have not yet deemed it necessary to move to darting and collaring any of the troop members for tracking purposes. However, as we highlighted last year, with the merging of two of the smaller troops in the area, we will continue to keep this as a further control option.

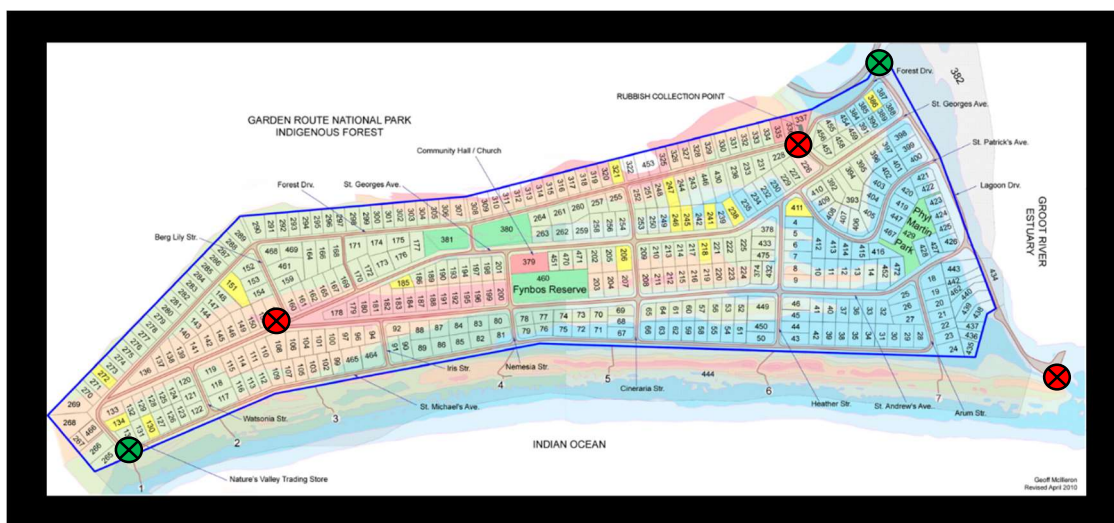
We have been fortunate to have Primate Research Specialist, Sophie Kurilla, from Tufts University, Boston, USA, back with the NVT team to conduct further studies in baboon behaviour with our troop. Sophie has been very excited to observe the merging of two troops and will provide valuable feedback for our future troop management.



As you are all aware, waste management is the most important behavioural change that we as residents need to make to keep the baboons out of the Valley. As part of our management program, we have extended the Waste Transfer Station and increased the number of recycling bins to keep on top of this.

Safety and Security Program

Phase 2 of the security camera network has been implemented as per our planned rollout. ADT initially installed 2 free sites for us at the Valley entrance and the Blue Rocks Café parking area. This has been extended as shown in the diagram below.

Natures Valley Camera Location Sites



-  Existing Camera Locations
-  New Camera Locations

There are now 3 new camera sites that have been entirely funded by the SRA. **Site 1**, at the Lagoon Parking area has 3 cameras – 1 PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) to assist with monitoring the lagoon for swimmers in difficulty as well as crime prevention, and 2 fixed bullet cameras; **Site 2**, at the St Georges/St Andrews Ave intersection, has 2 bullet cameras monitoring the road in both directions; and **Site 3**, at the Waste Transfer Station has 3 cameras on 2 separate poles – one street facing, one monitoring the WTS and one monitoring the back entrance from the R102 that is a known path for a sneaky entrance to the Valley.

All the sites are independent of the Eskom grid with their own solar panels and battery backup systems. The system should be fully operational by the end of November with an external control room providing 24 hr monitoring and backup services. This control room provides immediate notifications of any suspicious activity and has direct connection to our Security

Verge & Alien Vegetation Clearing

The Verge Clearing Team, headed by Marvin Kettledas, has been hard at work during the year cutting back the overgrown bushes alongside our roads, mowing the lawns and tidying up the public open spaces. The SRA funded two additional specialist staff members to assist the verge clearing team with this huge task. At first these trimming sessions left the verges looking quite bare, but they have all grown back with lush new leaves again and our beautiful Valley is once again pristine! Thank you to Marvin and the verge clearing team.

We acquired a new trailer in July to cart away the excess cuttings that were creating a fire hazard and to minimise the need for too many unsightly Municipal skips being placed all over the Valley. We have upgraded the verge clearing equipment adding new chain saws, pole pruners and other essential equipment required by Marvins' team.

Giorgio Lombardi, from the NVT, has been very busy improving the environmental and conservancy information signs and keeping the parks and nature walks clear for us to use. Thank you to all the wonderful staff of the NVT who play such a vital role in the management of the environment our beautiful Valley. Hendri and his team have worked very closely with the SRA on our Baboon Management and open space projects over the past year and we look forward to conquering new challenges with them in 2025.

Finance Report

The Natures Valley Special Rates Areas Non-Profit Company (NVSRA NPC) was formed on 26 April 2023 and commenced operations on 1 July 2023.

Overall, the company has had a very successful first year and reported a surplus of R 445 518.

Surplus. This is made up of Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2024 of R256 993 and R 238 091 of trade and other receivables. The cash on hand meets the requirements of the Bitou By-Law that the SRA is allowed to hold the equivalent of two months of levies at the year end. The trade and other receivables are two months of outstanding levies that were only received from Bitou in July 2024 after the year had ended. This is because we are paid in arrears and it was the first year of operation so unlikely to happen again.

Revenue. R 1 419 304 was levied by Bitou on the Natures Valley owners of which R 1 348 339 was paid to the NVSRA NPC. The difference is made up of a R 3% admin fee to Bitou R 42 579 and a 2% provision for bad debts R 28 386, as per the finance agreement between Bitou and the NVSRA NPC. In addition to the levies Bank interest of R 13 469 was received.

Operating Expenses. R 916 290 was spent during the year of which the majority was for the Baboon monitors R 427 366, (46.6%) Security R 121 612, (13.3%) Verge and Alien Clearing R143 433 (15.6%) and Administration and other expenses R 223 879 (24.5%).

Baboon Monitors. The majority of the expenses R354 739 (83%) were for employee costs, transport and uniforms. Other expenses were for bicycles and repairs to them, paintball guns and monthly radio rental.

Security. The total of R121 612 was for the cost of the new mast and security cameras at the lagoon parking.

Verge clearing. There was a once off purchase of a new high sided trailer R 62 801 to use to carry away the cut branches to the Bitou dump site. This was a change in policy from the original plan of hiring a chipper to come to the valley and chip branches on a regular basis. The change was made because over time it would be cheaper and having a trailer means that the cuttings are taken away as they are cut rather than waiting for when a chipper can be available. This reduces the fire risk in the valley.

Administration and other expenses. R 42 521 was paid to a firm of accountants in Knysna to prepare monthly and annual financial accounts, and handle all issues associated with the employee's payroll.

The NVSRA NPC shares the NVRA office and as a result there are various shared expenses. The management fee is for the NVRA office manager's work for the NVSRA NPC. Other shared expenses are office rental, printing and stationery.

Being the first year of operation there have been several expenses which are non-recurring. The main one was R 52 463 for the incorporation and set up costs of the SRA. This includes legal advice and drafting the MOI for the company, formation costs of the company, the cost of the Public Participation meeting held on 19 December 2023, which included paying for an independent facilitator to chair the meeting, the hire of audio equipment, advertising the meeting and the application to form the SRA. Prior to the SRA being founded these expenses were paid for by the NVRA and have been refunded to them.

For more details on the accounts please see the audited annual financial statements which have circulated with this report.

Rob Nichol

NVSRA Chairman

24th November 2024