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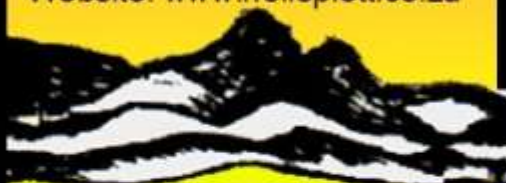
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Financial support will make the biggest immediate difference as we work to repair storm damage, maintain daily operations, and rebuild infrastructure. If making an EFT, please use your email address as a reference so we can thank you personally.
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- Assistance with chainsaws, tree cutting, and debris clearing

We would greatly appreciate helping hands over the coming days and weeks for repairs, clearing fallen trees, rebuilding enclosures, and restoring pathways and fencing. Carpentry and construction assistance would be especially valuable.

Right now, we are doing everything we can to keep going for the wildlife that depends on us. Please contact +27 73 948 8371 for assistance and rescues, our other number is not working currently.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 16 May 2026
BITOU LAW ENFORCEMENT NIGHT SHIFT STRIKES AGAIN: TWO SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED DRUG DEALING IN PINE TREES



Bitou Municipality is proud to announce another successful crime-prevention operation conducted by the Bitou Law Enforcement night shift in close partnership with the Plettenberg Bay SAPS Crime Prevention Team. The night shift team, which commenced duty on 15 May 2026 from 18h00 to 06h00, achieved a significant breakthrough in the Pine Trees area where two suspects, a male and a female believed to be in their late 40s and early 50s, were arrested for alleged drug dealing. During the operation, Law Enforcement officials and SAPS members seized a quantity of suspected drugs, including tik straws, unprocessed tik, and mandrax tablets. A substantial amount of cash was also confiscated. The suspects were arrested and detained at Plettenberg Bay SAPS and are expected to appear before the Plettenberg Bay Magistrate's Court on Monday, 18 May 2026. This successful operation follows weeks of patient, disciplined and intelligence-led work by Bitou Law Enforcement officers, who worked closely with community informers behind the scenes. Once the information was positively verified, the Law Enforcement shift on duty activated the Plettenberg Bay SAPS Crime Prevention Team. The swift and coordinated response led to the successful arrests and seizure of suspected drugs and cash. Chief, Law Enforcement and Security, Mr Siyasanga Vandala, said the operation reflects the ongoing commitment and direction of Bitou Law Enforcement. "This is not an isolated success. This is the daily norm of our Law Enforcement operations. The night shift was introduced with a clear crime-prevention mandate:

"to contribute meaningfully to keeping our town clean, safe and orderly, while working hand in hand with SAPS and other law-enforcement agencies," said Mr Vandala.

Mr Vandala emphasised that the fight against crime requires a united community effort and cannot be left to Law Enforcement and SAPS alone. He noted that drugs, cable theft and other criminal activities affect every household, every street and every community structure, and therefore require parents, churches, schools, businesses, neighbourhood watches and residents to work together in protecting Bitou. He further drew a connection between the recent cable theft arrests in the Kurland/Crags area and the drug bust in Pine Trees, stating that while the incidents may not be directly linked geographically, they point to the same deeper social crisis: drugs are fuelling crime and destroying young lives.

Young people trapped in drug dependency often become desperate for their next fix and may resort to stealing cables, vandalising infrastructure, breaking into properties and committing other crimes to obtain money for drugs. "This is why we cannot only chase the child who steals the cable while remaining silent about the person selling drugs in the community. If we deal decisively with the source of the problem and make it difficult for drug dealers to operate, we will save many young people before they become permanent offenders, victims of addiction, or lose their lives completely," said Mr Vandala. Mr Vandala added that communities often know who the drug dealers are, yet fear, silence or acceptance allows these individuals to continue destroying families and young lives. He called on parents, churches, schools, community leaders and residents to stop standing by while young people are slowly being lost to drugs and crime.

"Our children are dying while we watch. As parents and as a community, we must ask ourselves what we are protecting when we keep quiet. Silence protects drug dealers, but information protects our children," he said. He further stated that the Municipality cannot only respond after the damage has already been done.

Drug dealing creates a chain of destruction: children become addicted, families are broken, municipal infrastructure is damaged, service delivery is disrupted, and communities are left unsafe.

"If we make it difficult for drug dealers to operate, we make it harder for drugs to reach our children. In doing so, we do not only fight crime; we save lives and protect the future of Bitou," said Mr Vandala.

Bitou Municipality commends the Law Enforcement night shift members, the Plettenberg Bay SAPS Crime Prevention Team, and the brave community informers who contributed to this successful operation.

A special word of appreciation is extended to the dedicated Law Enforcement officers who continue to work tirelessly, often quietly and without public recognition, to keep Bitou safe. Your commitment and sacrifices during difficult and dangerous operations do not go unnoticed. To those officers who formed part of this operation, and to all members who continue to serve with professionalism, pride and dedication; your work is deeply appreciated. Bitou Municipality further encourages residents to report drug dealing, cable theft, vandalism, illegal activity and suspicious behaviour to the relevant authorities. Every report matters. Every piece of information can help save a child, protect a family, prevent infrastructure damage and make Bitou safer. Bitou Municipality remains committed to building a town where criminals do not feel comfortable, where communities are not held hostage by drugs, and where the next generation is protected from the cycle of addiction and crime.

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24 May - Loulette Moukarzel ;

Ryan Potgieter ; Werner Snyman ;

25 May - Douglas Seton ; Hanlie Fourie

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26 May - Akhanya Maselana ;

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In addition to direct support, SHIELD provides awareness talks, educational workshops and safeguarding guidance to communities, schools, organisations and businesses. These sessions aim to increase understanding of GBV, promote prevention, and empower people with the knowledge to respond safely and responsibly.

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Plett Shark Spotters

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Lookout • The Wedge • Central Beach • Robberg 1 • The Wreck

07:30 – 17:00

We'll be sharing updates via our WhatsApp Community and Plett Sightings Group, including white shark sightings and any other important activity. Join here:

<https://tr.ee/i2FZn7IT7b>

Before you swim, always check if lifeguards are on duty and follow their guidance. Conditions can change, so it's always best to double check.

Stay safe and enjoy the bay

PLEASE KEEP OUR BEACHES AND STREETS CLEAN when taking your pet for a walk. Poo Bags are available from all the Veterinary Clinics and pet supply shops. PAWS poo bags may be purchased at R20.00 for a roll of 30 biodegradable bags. Please Support Paws and keep our Town clean. Thank you

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Let's build a safer Plettenberg Bay – starting here.

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Riley Clark: A Plett Teen with a Big Tennis Dream

If you've been anywhere near the courts at Plett Country Club, you've probably heard Riley Clark before you've seen him. At 17, Riley brings a mix of talent, energy, and unmistakable enthusiasm to every match he plays — the kind of presence that makes tennis fun to watch and impossible to ignore. Riley first picked up a racket at six years old, and from that moment, tennis became part of who he is. By ten, he had joined **The Olsen Tennis Academy**, where he found the coaching and

competitive environment that helped turn his passion into real progress. Over the years, he's built a reputation not just for his ability,

but for the spirit he brings to the court — loud, lively, and always fully committed. Here in Plett, Riley is a regular at the Country Club courts. He thrives on the social side of the sport just as much as the competitive side, and he especially loves being invited to the annual

Wimbledon Mixed Doubles Tournament

— an event that suits his personality perfectly: fun, competitive, and full of community. This year, Riley reached a milestone that reflects years of hard work and dedication: **he has been selected for the South African U19 Schools Tennis Team.** It's an incredible achievement for a young player from our small coastal town, and it opens the door to an exciting opportunity — travelling to the **United Kingdom** to compete internationally as part of the SA team. The experience will expose him to new opponents, new conditions, and a level of tennis that will help him grow even further. As with most international sporting tours, the costs are significant. Riley's family is working hard to make the trip possible, and the community's support — whether through sponsorship, donations, or simply spreading the word — will help him take this important step in his tennis journey.

Riley is a vibrant, hardworking, and proudly Plett teenager who gives everything he has to the sport he loves. With the backing of the community that has watched him grow, he'll head to the UK not just as a member of the SA Schools Team, but as a spirited ambassador for the town that shaped him.

Riley Clark, FNB, 6242 271 9867
<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/campaign/help-riley-clark-go-on-his-sa-tennis-tour>

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PLEASE NOTE:

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in What's New in Plett are not necessarily those of the Editors or Staff of What's New in Plett.



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**Swift Multi-Agency Response
Leads to Arrests in Cable Theft
Incident**



Bitou Municipality wishes to inform the public of a successful multi-agency operation that led to the arrest of five suspects involved in cable theft and vandalism of municipal infrastructure. While municipal teams were fully engaged in disaster response efforts, criminal elements attempted to exploit the situation by targeting critical infrastructure. The Manager of Electrical Services, Mr Fourie, reported incidents of cable theft to the Chief of Law Enforcement and Security, Mr Siyasanga Vandala. Municipal Law Enforcement and Smhart Security—responsible for alarm systems and surveillance monitoring of key municipal assets—were immediately activated. Through the use of advanced surveillance systems, suspicious activity was detected at the Kurland Sports Field. A male suspect was observed stripping electrical cables. A coordinated response involving Municipal Law Enforcement, Smhart Security, the South African Police Service (SAPS), and members of the community led to the swift arrest of the suspect on the scene. To strengthen community awareness, information about the incident was shared via social media platforms. This resulted in additional leads and the subsequent arrest of four more suspects linked to cable theft and damage to municipal infrastructure. In total, five suspects have been arrested and are currently detained at Plettenberg Bay SAPS under Case Number CAS 78/05/2026. They are awaiting their court appearances. The Municipality is encouraged to report that most of the stolen property has been recovered. This incident highlights the effectiveness of integrated security measures, including surveillance technology, as well as the importance of strong partnerships. The collective efforts of SAPS, private security providers, Municipal Law Enforcement, and vigilant community members were instrumental in achieving this outcome. The Chief of Law Enforcement, Chief Siyasanga Vandala, emphasised that crime prevention is a shared responsibility. Municipalities play a critical role in supporting safety initiatives alongside law enforcement agencies. Through ongoing Safety Forum

engagements, stakeholders continue to strengthen collaboration, enhance intelligence sharing, promote proactive policing, and empower communities to actively participate in crime prevention efforts. Bitou Municipality extends its sincere appreciation to all parties involved in this successful operation. For security reasons, the identities of the officers involved have not been disclosed.

Media Enquiries:

Bitou Municipality Communications Unit
Contact Person: Mr Andile Namntu
Tel: 0445013006
Email: anamntu@plet.gov.za

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TAM Malawian man seeks gardening, painting, caretaker or any work avail call 063 000 9306

HEZION Malawian man seeks gardening, caretaker, painting job for 2 days a week 063 000 936

SAMSON seeks pining and gardening work call 063 170 7946

JAPHET seeks painting and gardening work call 073 692 5918

ERICK seeks gardening and painting job call 069 948 4825

DANFORD seeks driving, painting and gardening work call 060 6130 297

DICKSON seeks gardening or housekeeping job call 060 485 6135

JANET seeks baby sitting, cleaning or any kind of work call 073 775 3141

REBECCA seeks cleaning / domestic work call 067 050 2198

DONATIYA seeks housekeeping and baby sitting call 060 281 6740

BRAVE seeks gardening job 063 1104 855

FAMSA provides support & counselling in a safe environment for folk experiencing challenges with relationships.

Also for depression abuse, trauma, parenting and grief.

Please call 044 533 0515.

RESIDENTS AND VISITORS: Please do not put out your garbage bags until the morning of collection. There are baboons in the area, as well as seagulls which tear open the bags

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Dr Pauline van der Watt
Dr Clare Schroeder
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PROPOSED TEMPORARY LAND USE DEPARTURE:
PORTION 89 OF THE FARM GANSE VALLEI NO 444,
BITOU MUNICIPALITY

APPLICANT: **MARIKE VREKEN TOWN PLANNERS CC**
info@vreken.co.za / 044 382 0420

OWNER: **HOLDING FAMILY TRUST**

The Municipality in accordance with Section 45(3) has instructed the applicant to attend to the publication of the land development application received in terms of Section 15(2) of the Bitou Municipality's Land Use Planning Bylaw.

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 45 of the Bitou Municipality's Land Use Planning By-Law 2015, that Marike Vreken Town Planners CC has submitted a land development application to Bitou Municipality for the following, in terms of the Bitou Municipality's Land Use Planning Bylaw (2015):

A temporary land use departure for a weekly arts and craft market on a portion ($\pm 1036m^2$) of Portion 89 of the Farm Ganse Valleï No 444, Division Knysna, in terms of Section 15(2)(c) of the Bitou Municipality's Land Use Planning Bylaw (2015).

A copy of the application is available for viewing on the municipal website. Enquiries may be directed to the Town Planning Department at (044) 501-3303/3470/3317 or townplanning@plett.gov.za.

Any written comments may be addressed in terms of Section 50 of the said legislation to townplanning@plett.gov.za and/or Municipal Manager, Bitou Municipality, Private Bag X1002, Plettenberg Bay, 6600 and/or fax number 086-457-3270 and/or be hand-delivered at the Municipal Offices on or before **Monday 22 June 2026**, quoting your, name, address or contact details, interest in the application and reasons for comments. The Municipality may refuse to accept comments received after the closing date. Any person who cannot write will be assisted by a municipal official by transcribing their comments.

The personal information of anyone who submits a comment / objection might be made available to the applicant/ owner or other party involved with the application and will be stored as public record.

VOORGESTELDE TYDELIKE GRONDGEBRUIK AFWYKING:
GEDEELTE 89 VAN DIE PLAAS GANSE VALLEI NO 444,
BITOU MUNISIPALITEIT

AANSOEKER: MARIKE VREKEN STADSBEPLANNERS BK
info@vrekens.co.za / 044 382 0420

EIENAAR: HOLDING FAMILY TRUST

Die Munisipaliteit het ingevolge Artikel 45(3) van die Bitou Munisipaliteit se Verordening op Grondgebruikbeplanning die aansoeker opdrag gegee om toe te sien tot die publikasie van die bogenoemde grondontwikkelingsaansoek ingevolge Artikel 15(2) van die Bitou Munisipaliteit se Verordening op Grondgebruikbeplanning.

Kennis geskied hiermee ingevolge Artikel 45 van die Bitou Munisipaliteit se Verordening op Grondgebruikbeplanning, (2015) dat Marike Vreken Stadsbeplanners (BK) die volgende grondontwikkelingsaansoek ingedien het by Bitou Munisipaliteit: 'n Tydelike grondgebruik afwyking vir 'n weeklikse kuns- en kunsvlytmark op 'n gedeelte ($\pm 1036\text{m}^2$) van Gedeelte 89 van die Plaas Ganse Vallei No 444, Afdeling Knysna, ingevolge Artikel 15(2)(c) van die Bitou Munisipaliteit se Grondgebruikbeplanningsverordening (2015).

'n Afskrif van die aansoek is beskikbaar vir besigtiging op die Munisipale webwerf. Navrae kan gerig word aan die Stadsbeplanningsdepartement by (044) 501-3303/3470/3317 of na townplanning@plett.gov.za.

Enige skriftelike kommentaar ingevolge Artikel 50 van die genoemde wetgewing kan gerig word aan townplanning@plett.gov.za en / of aan die Munisipale Bestuurder, Bitou Munisipaliteit, Privaatsak X1002, Plettenbergbaai, 6600 en / of faksnommer 086-457-3270 en / of afgelewer word by die Munisipale Kantore voor of op

Maandag 22 Junie 2026, met verwysing van u naam, adres of kontakbesonderhede, belangstelling in die aansoek en redes vir kommentaar. Die munisipaliteit mag weier om kommentaar wat na die sluitingsdatum ontvang is, te aanvaar. Persone wat nie kan skryf nie, sal deur 'n munisipale amptenaar bygestaan word deur die kommentaar af te skryf.

Die persoonlike inligting van enigiemand wat kommentaar / beswaar indien, kan beskikbaar gestel word aan die aansoeker/eienaar of ander party betrokke by die aansoek en sal as publieke rekord gestoor word.