

WHAT'S NEW IN PLETT 25 JUNE 2026



What's New in PLETT

aka Est 1983

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DOCTORS: 044 5332415 / 044 5330186 /
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24 hrs / Office hrs 044 501 3230
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VETS - 044 533 3100 / 044 533 0124 /
044 533 9019
DENTISTS - 044 533 2318 / 533 2734 / 533 3446 /
533 0961 / 533 6363 / 533 0911
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
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CHEMIST - 082 852 4696 / 044 5014620
/ 044 5331370 / 044 5332278
FAMSA 044 533 0515 / 079 640 6883
LOCKSMITHS -044 533 3013 / 083 701 3434
/ 084 326 1806
MUNICIPALITY - 044 501 3000
MUNICIPAL HELPLINE 0861-248-686
SECURITY GUARDS-081 325 7385
/ 044 533 1691
VEHICLE BREAKDOWN - 044 5359303 /
083 269 8958 / 0445333259 / 0825682479
OPTOMETRISTS 044 533 2191 / 044 533 5195
CANSACARE - 044 533 1813
CHIROPRACTOR - 044 533 4113 / 533 0230
HOMOEOPATHS - 082 788 1550 / 082 728 7161
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Bliss Empowerment Bags

We are proud to introduce the Bliss Empowerment Bags, a collaboration between Bliss Mobile Hair & Beauty Service, Legacy House School, and SHIELD GBV Response & Safeguarding. These bags are placed in victim support rooms to help create comfort and dignity for individuals affected by Gender-Based Violence. Each bag includes small but meaningful items such as water, snacks, hygiene essentials, lip balm, nappies, and other comfort items to support someone during a difficult time.

Every donation helps bring care, dignity, and support to someone when they need it most.

✉ shieldgbv.consultancy@gmail.com

📞 WhatsApp: +27 78 252 8046

Together we can create safer spaces and support healing in our community ❤️

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Responding to Abuse with Care and Expertise

♥ REAL-LIFE AWARENESS STORY ♥

Not every support story ends in crisis. Sometimes they end with hope. A person contacted us during one of the most difficult seasons of their life. They were carrying grief, uncertainty, fear, and emotional pain. Through time, support, and access to the right resources, they slowly began rebuilding their life. The conversations changed from surviving each day to planning for the future. Today, they are pursuing new opportunities and moving forward with hope. Healing isn't always fast. Growth isn't always easy. But progress is possible. Sometimes support starts with listening.

📞 SHIELD Support Line
📞 078 252 8046

ALANON MEETINGS.

Is your home unhappy because someone drinks/drugs too much? Al anon offers help, free of charge, to the families and friends of problem drinkers/users. Meetings are held at 12H30 (Mondays) at The House of Steps "little wooden hut behind Piesang Valley Hall and Gym"

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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.

*In memory of our precious
Charmaine Wild,*

*Who adored our Plett Community
so very much, please help
Hospice / Plett Aid Foundation
to continue doing the amazing job
they do for our Plett Community.*

Plett Hospice Banking Details

FNB, Plett branch, 210514

Acc no: 62048095063

Account name:

The PlettAid Foundation.



Conserve Eden

(18 June 2026)

We have had a very special visitor in Plett recently. A cute subantarctic fur seal spent a few days resting up on our beaches! Subantarctic fur seals are marine mammals that breed on remote islands in the southern Indian and Atlantic Oceans, including islands such as Marion Island, Gough Island and the Crozet Islands. Young seals and non-breeding adults often travel long distances with ocean currents and occasionally arrive along the South African coast, including Plettenberg Bay. They visit these waters to feed on fish, squid and other marine prey, and may haul out onto beaches to rest, recover from storms, avoid rough seas, or conserve energy between feeding trips. Although they can appear tired or inactive, this behaviour is usually completely natural, and they should be observed from a safe distance

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without disturbance.

Our interns have assisted other volunteers from the Plett Stranding Network to keep an eye on our guest, putting up signs and tape to keep people away and reduce stress while it rests.

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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Responding to Abuse with Care and Expertise

SHIELD – Description

SHIELD is a GBV Response and Safeguarding Consultancy focused on providing practical, survivor-centred support and clear response pathways for individuals, organisations and communities affected by Gender-Based Violence.

Our work centres on creating safer responses through compassionate guidance, ethical support practices and strong referral networks. SHIELD assists individuals by offering confidential support, helping them understand their options, and connecting them to trusted services such as counselling, legal assistance, medical care and social support.

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.

Our mission is to improve how GBV is responded to — making support accessible, coordinated, trauma-informed and community-focused.

078 252 8046

shieldgbv.consultancy@gmail.com

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

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REACH FOR RECOVERY - Breast Cancer Support Group

Phone June 044-533 3062

IF YOU SEE a horse, mule or donkey in need of help please phone 072 370 2830

A reminder to our community. **FAMSA** assists with all forms of emotional and relationship challenges, e.g. depression, abuse, grief, trauma, parenting and divorce counselling. We would love to assist and make a difference. **Call 044 533 0515 for info.**

DRUG PROBLEM?

Narcotics Anonymous
Helpline 086 1006 962 www.na.org.za

PAWS Memorial Wall
In remembrance of your beloved Dog or Cat

Contact Marianne 082 414 8425 to arrange for a memorial plaque for your pet.
Only R100 donation to PAWS gives you a plaque with your preferred wording.

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Plett Shark Spotters

Winter spotting hours are here!

From 1 May, our shark spotters will be on duty daily across:

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

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REACH FOR RECOVERY - Breast Cancer Support Group

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IF YOU SEE a lost or injured animal, or suspect abuse, call PAWS on 083 287 9917

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If you have any unused clothing or blankets, please think of donating them to those who need it most by dropping it off at our office in Main Street in the HOME2HOME boxes provided, where they will be distributed to various shelters and charities.

For more information about our Home2Home initiative contact our branch:

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Probus

– What is it?

The Plett Probus Club is a local association of retired or semi-retired professional or business people who have similar levels of interest, are of good character and are respected in the community. The objectives of Probus include: To stimulate thought, interest and participation in a variety of activities and to create opportunity to make new friends at a stage in life when folk have both the need and the time. As a Probian, you will find membership interesting and satisfying, but what is more important, you will meet and enjoy the fellowship of a group of similarly minded folk, who, like yourself, are expanding their interest and extending their friendships. We have regular meetings either for an informal breakfast or a luncheon during which a presentation on popular current day topics of interest is given at venues in and around Plett. So don't delay – JOIN NOW!

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*Wishing the
following people a very
happy birthday this
coming week*

27 June - Octavis Leonie ; Mary Lefleur

28 June - Luiz Da Fonseca ; Leora Givati ;
Saleem Maree

29 June - Sienna Costa ; Sharon Hersch ;
Buyiseka Ndyawel ; Lo-Anne Lewis

30 June - Abigail Taylor

1 July - ♥Isabella Muller♥ ,Daniel Varkel
(always remembered); Marion Steyn



Put their paws in experienced hands

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Counsellors – USHO – Understanding Self
to Help Others

For those with the passion to help others
and the time to learn, a remarkable oppor-
tunity awaits. FAMSA (Families South
Africa) Knysna/Plettenberg Bay/Sedgefield,
a trusted name in strengthening families
and communities, is offering a comprehen-
sive counselling course that equips volun-
teers with the skills to support individuals
through life's most challenging moments.
The course, which is both transformative
and practical, is open to individuals who are
ready to dedicate their time and heart to
making a difference. Designed with both
theory and hands-on experience, this train-
ing prepares participants to become FAMSA
volunteer counsellors — capable of provid-
ing emotional support, guidance, and practi-
cal tools to those in need. It also improves
skills and knowledge to helping profession-
als.

"We believe that anyone with empathy,
commitment, and time can become a pow-
erful force for healing," said Karin, Director
of FAMSA Knysna. "This course doesn't just

teach counselling techniques — it shapes
compassionate listeners who can help
others rebuild their lives." As shared below
by a 2025 USHO Graduate explaining the
impact of the course on his life:

*"USHO (Understanding Self to Help Others)
counselling course was the onset of change
for me, as well as the platform for pro-
cessing decades worth of trauma and self-
trauma. It emancipated me from my old-self
and stimulated growth into new areas of my
life which were under-developed, or just
plain stagnant. In short, "I found me". Do it
for yourself and in time you will indirectly,
and directly inspire and help others who
surround you.*

Participants learn about trauma support,
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One of our volunteer counsellors says:
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ing.* ♥

The next intake is open, and FAMSA is
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apply early as spaces are limited. If you
have the time to learn and the heart to help,
this may be your moment to make a real
difference.

For more information or to apply, contact
FAMSA at trainingknysna@famsa.org.za or
visit our website: [https://famsaknysna-
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Your
best friend's
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Dr Brendan Tindal
Dr Pauline van der Watt
Dr Clare Schroeder
Dr Sunel Jooste

Tel: 044 533 0124

A/H: 076 909 2577

info@robbergvet.co.za

56 Longships Drive, Plettenberg Bay

Strandloper Project

Marine Wildlife Strandings in the Garden Route.

If, while enjoying your time on the beach and shoreline, you encounter a stranded species of marine wildlife, please contact your local Marine Stranding organization.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A TURTLE.

1) Do not return it to the ocean. It has stranded as it is either weak, ill, tired or has ingested plastic. 2) Do not place it in a container of water. Turtles are air breathing and can drown if weak and tired. 3) Keep it in a dry, ventilated and room temperature box, preferably placing the turtle on a towel. 4) Contact the turtle rescue number or the local marine stranding organization.

5) Get a location pin

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A LIVE SEAL.

1) Do not try and chase it into the water - it is either tired, undernourished or weak and wants to rest. 2) Create a safe zone around it and prevent dogs and crowds from approaching it. 3) Call your local marine stranding organization.

4) Take a location pin to share with the rescuers.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A PENGUIN

1) Do not try and chase it into the water - it is either tired, undernourished or weak and wants to rest. 2) Create a safe zone around it and prevent dogs and crowds from approaching it. 3) Call your local marine stranding organization.

4) Take a location pin to share with the

rescuers. 5) After you have spoken to a marine animal rescuer, and they request you to collect the Penguin, follow their instructions on how to handle it and where to take it. Please be aware that they have extremely sharp beaks and need to be handled with care and cautiously.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A DOLPHIN

1) Check for any obvious injuries. 2) Report to the local marine stranding organization and provide a detailed report of condition and location. 3) Unless advised by the stranding organization, do not attempt to return the dolphin to the ocean. Keep it cool by placing wet towels over it and wetting the towels about every 10 minutes. 4) Reduce any stress from dogs and crowds.

Plett area

Plett Stranding Hotline - +27 79 463 4837

Nature's Valley

Nature's Valley Trust- 044 531 6820

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Media Statement

Keurbooms Abstraction
Point Rehabilitation
Successfully Completed
Bitou Municipality is
pleased to announce that
rehabilitation work at the Keurbooms
Abstraction Point has been successfully
completed following the severe weather
conditions and flooding experienced in
recent weeks.

The flooding significantly altered the flow of
the Keurbooms River, diverting it away from
its original channel and preventing the
Municipality from abstracting and pumping
water from the river. This presented a major
challenge to the operation of the water
supply system and required urgent
intervention. Municipal teams, supported by
contractors and technical specialists,
undertook intensive rehabilitation work to
restore the river flow to its original course.
This work has now been completed,
allowing normal abstraction operations to
resume. In addition, flood-related damage
to the pump station has been repaired. The
rehabilitation process included the cleaning
of the sump and the restoration of critical
infrastructure necessary for the efficient
operation of the abstraction facility.

The successful completion of these works
marks an important milestone in restoring
the resilience and reliability of the
Municipality's water supply infrastructure
following the severe weather event. Bitou



Municipality extends its appreciation to
residents, businesses and stakeholders for
their patience, understanding and
cooperation during this period. The
Municipality will continue to monitor the
system closely and implement measures to
safeguard water infrastructure against future
weather-related challenges.

Issued by:
Bitou Municipality Corporate
Communications and Customer Relations

TOY DONATIONS NEEDED

We are so excited to be starting a
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Please help us fill our shelves
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A very special thank you to Delia's Café for
kindly allowing their shop to be one of our
donation drop-off points ❤️

Toy donations can be dropped off at:

📍 Sabrina's Farm - F18 Airport Road

📍 Delia's Café - Robberg Bay Shopping
Centre

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📞 Contact: Alison Bryant 082 572 1027
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Raptor Rescue Plett

Volunteer Weekenders

Needed! 🦅

We're calling on all willing hands to join us for our upcoming volunteer weekend on 27-28 June from 8:30am. Since the recent storms, we have remained closed to the public while focusing on essential repairs and maintenance. We are eager to reopen our doors in time for the upcoming school holidays, and we need your help to make it happen!

Projects include:

🔧 Sealing our newly repaired African Fish Eagle enclosure.

🔨 Painting the ablation block and reception area.

🛠️ General maintenance around the centre.

🌳 Clearing fallen pine branches and storm debris.

No special skills are required, just a willingness to lend a hand! However, if you have experience with chainsaw operation, carpentry, or general handyman work, we would especially love to hear from you.

As a token of our appreciation, all volunteers are invited to join Mark for a guided tour and flying demonstration. Preparing the centre for reopening is only part of the challenge, our ambassador birds also need to get back into their routines. While Mark has been doing his best to keep them active, many are still adjusting to unfamiliar surroundings after losing favourite trees and perches during the storms. By spending time around people again and participating in their flying demonstrations, the birds can gradually rebuild their confidence and settle back into being the wonderful ambassadors that inspire so many visitors each year. Anyone interested in lending a hand is welcome to join our volunteer WhatsApp group, where we will coordinate teams and session times. To protect the welfare of the birds, numbers for each session may be limited, as we cannot have too many people in the flight demonstration area and centre at once. Thank you for understanding and for helping us get the centre ready to reopen. 🙏



Eco Explorer

Plett really showed up for the penguins at the latest release on Lookout Beach!

A group of rehabilitated African penguins returned to the ocean at Lookout Beach thanks to the combined efforts of dedicated conservation organisations, volunteers, wildlife professionals, and supporters. For these Dutch visitors, it was the first time that they've seen a penguin! Every penguin released represents hours of rescue, rehabilitation, veterinary care, transport, monitoring, and ongoing conservation work. These moments are only possible because people choose to support the organisations working tirelessly to protect our marine wildlife. The African penguin is one of South Africa's most iconic seabirds, but it is also in serious trouble. Populations have declined dramatically over the last century due to food shortages, habitat loss, pollution, and other human pressures. Every individual rescued and successfully released matters. If you ever encounter a penguin on the beach, keep your distance, give it space, and contact the appropriate wildlife authorities in your area. For Plett and surrounds contact the Plett Stranding Network +27 79 463 4837

A reminder that dogs are not permitted on Lookout Beach. While many dogs are well-behaved, their presence can cause significant stress to penguins and other coastal wildlife. There are many dog friendly beaches in Plett, sticking to these also helps avoid a total ban of dogs on beaches. Thank you to everyone involved in giving these remarkable birds a second chance.



Raptor Rescue Plett

Just before the recent storms hit, this young Knysna Turaco nestling was admitted into our care through the team at Knysna Veterinary Clinic.

With prolonged power outages and difficult conditions, it was unfortunately impossible to completely avoid direct human contact, as the youngster required a more hands-on approach.

We are however delighted with the progress this beautiful bird has made. Having grown well, it has now been ringed and moved to an outdoor hack-release aviary. The aviary is situated in an area frequented by wild Knysna Turacos, which are regularly provided with supplementary food. Our hope is that the youngster will begin to recognise its own species, become familiar with their calls and behaviour, and gradually integrate with the local population.

For now the young Turaco is safe in the capable hands of a trusted friend and fellow birder, where it will continue to receive support feeding while enjoying a more natural environment. Although some degree of human habituation was unavoidable, we remain hopeful that, like the wild turacos already visiting the area, it will adapt well and thrive in its surroundings.

Special thanks to Mark Brown from Conserve Eden for fitting an identification ring, and to Stephen Van Wyk for his assistance with the slow-release process.



HOME FOR HOPE SOUP KITCHEN

The above mentioned organisation is asking for your kind donations of stamp, mielies, bread, soup mix, pasta and veggies for ±150 children in KwaNokuthula. Kindly leave at Print Shop for collection. Thank you. Enq: Theodora Krabie (063 840 7154)

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Engel & Volkers Chilli Festival 2026 celebrates local hospitality, community and flavour.

Plettenberg Bay, 15 June 2026 – The fourth annual Engel & Volkers Chilli Festival concluded in spectacular fashion on Saturday, 6 June, with a vibrant Grand Finale event at Barrington's Estate, bringing to a close a month-long celebration of local food, hospitality and community spirit. Held throughout May, the festival invited locals and visitors to explore specially created chilli-inspired dishes at 16 participating restaurants across Plettenberg Bay. Designed to support local businesses during the quieter winter season, the festival encouraged diners to discover new flavours, support local restaurants and vote for their favourite dishes and dining experiences. The festival culminated in a family-friendly finale featuring a chilli eating competition, cooking demonstrations, live music, local vendors, children's entertainment and the

announcement of the 2026 Engel & Volkers Chilli Festival winners. Commenting on the success of this year's festival, Derval Hoban, License Partner and Principal at Engel & Volkers Plettenberg Bay, said the event continues to demonstrate the power of local collaboration and community support. "The Engel & Volkers Chilli Festival was created with a simple goal: to support our local community and local businesses. The festival encourages residents and visitors alike to get out, enjoy great food and support the people who work so hard within our hospitality industry," said Hoban. "Every meal purchased, every vote cast and every event attended helps support local businesses and contributes to the vibrancy of our town. The continued growth of the festival is a reflection of the incredible support we receive from our participating restaurants, sponsors, volunteers and the wider community." The Grand Finale brought together festival participants, sponsors and supporters for an afternoon of entertainment and celebration. Highlights included the popular chilli eating competition, a cooking demonstration featuring local chef Guy Clarke of Café Civara alongside acclaimed chef Pete Goffe-Wood, live music by Whiskey for Tea, and a variety of local food and artisan stalls. The organisers extended their sincere thanks to headline sponsors Pilot Software and Straughan Inc. Attorneys for their ongoing support, as well as Farrier & Partners for independently overseeing the verification of voting ballots. Appreciation was also expressed to Barrington's Estate for hosting the Grand Finale, and to the many volunteers, musicians, vendors and participating restaurants who helped make the festival possible.

2026 Engel & Volkers Chilli Festival

Winners

- Engel & Volkers Chilli Festival Champion Restaurant: Café Civara
 - Second Place Restaurant Overall: Blue Rocks Café & Grill
 - Restaurant That Sold the Most Chilli Festival Dishes: The Club Haus Plett
 - First Place Waitron: Rose from Café Civara
 - Second Place Waitron: Ricardo from Slops
- Hoban added that the festival has grown into much more than a culinary competition. "With every year, the festival becomes more than a food event. It is a celebration of local entrepreneurship, hospitality and community spirit, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this year's festival such a success."

As the festival continues to grow, Engel & Volkers Plettenberg Bay remains committed to creating opportunities that bring people together, support local businesses and showcase the best of what the region has to offer.

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