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A Customer is the most important person ever in this office - in person, by mail, or by telephone.
A Customer is not dependent on us - we are dependent on him.
A Customer is not an interruption of our work - he is the purpose of it.
We are not doing him a favour by serving him, he is doing us a favour by giving us the opportunity to do so.
A Customer is not an outsider to our business - he is part of it.
A Customer is not a cold statistic - he is a flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own, and with biases and prejudices.
A Customer is not someone to argue or match wits with.
Nobody ever won an argument with a customer.
A Customer is a person who brings us his wants. It is our job to handle them profitably to him and to ourselves.
That is what a Customer is - in your business or in any business.
Some people seem to have forgotten a few of these basic truths in recent years, but it is high time to be remembering them again.
To-morrow may be too late!

My precious Mommy Charms always had this up in our shop (we still do) as a reminder of just how important our customers are to us. We value you!

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PAWS Memorial Wall
In remembrance of your beloved Dog or Cat

<p>Forever in our hearts</p> <p><i>Chloe</i> 2008 - 2011</p>	<p>Dearest memory of our best friend</p> <p><i>Billy</i> 2008 - 2011</p>	<p>In loving memory of our good boy</p> <p><i>Milo</i> Never forgotten 2008 - 2011</p>
<p>R100 per plaque</p> <p><i>Forever in our hearts</i> <i>Chloe</i> 2008 - 2011</p>	<p>Forever in our hearts</p> <p><i>Chloe</i> 2008 - 2011</p>	<p>Forever in our hearts</p> <p><i>Chloe</i> 2008 - 2011</p>

Size of plaque approximately 150mm x 100mm

R100 per plaque

For more info contact:
Marianne Wardle
082 414 8425 / mwag1942@gmail.com

Contact Marianne 082 414-8425,
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PUFFY VS NIGHTY



Snakes of Bitou

Snakes are one of the most misunderstood and feared animals on Earth... Here in Bitou we have a couple of dozen species of snakes, but only a few are considered medically significant.

And serious bites are quite rare... Traffic causes many more casualties than snakes! Snakes, like most animals, don't attack but only defend. It's quite simple: if you don't mess with a snake, it won't mess with you! Never handle a wild snake.

The current protocol for snakebites is: if possible photograph the snake, get the patient to a hospital ASAP. No other First Aid measures.

-Venomous snakes include: Puff adder (*Bitis arietans*), night adder (*Causus rhombeatus*) and boomslang (*Dispholidus typus*). Boomslang are generally very shy and loathe to bite, and so bites from these snakes are very rare. Puff adders feature in most of the venomous snake bites in our area, as they are often attacked by dogs... Bites to humans are rare. Night adders are also responsible for some bites, requiring medical attention, but not life-threatening. Cape cobras (*Naja nivea*) and berg adders (*Bitis atropos*) are not very common...

-Semi-venomous snakes include: Herald (Red-lip) snake (*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*), spotted Skaapsteker (*Psammodromus rufus*), many-spotted reed snake (*Amplorhinus multamaculatus*) and cross-marked grass snake (*Psammodromus crucifer*). These snakes are of no medical importance, a bee-sting is more painful and

dangerous. But bites may cause swelling and pain. The most common species is the Herald snake.

-Non-venomous snakes include: Western green snake (*Philothamnus occidentalis*), brown house snake (*Boaedon capensis*), olive snake (*Elaiophis inornatus*), brown water snake (*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*), slug eater (*Duberria lutrix*) and mole snake (*Pseudaspis cana*).

Out of these snakes, only the mole snake is capable of giving a bite that might require stitches.

Snakes prey on rodents, frogs, lizards and even other snakes. They play a vital role in our ecosystems, and deserve respect and protection.

In the coming year I will tell you more about my adventures rescuing some of these amazing reptiles...

Always welcome to WhatsApp pictures to 0741209416 Tiago Rebelo (Snake Rescue) for identification and advice.

Check out my YouTube channel for educational videos: Tiago's Wildlife.



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- Consent is non-negotiable
- Survivors deserve to be heard and believed



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Transforming Lives: FAMSA Knysna/Plettenberg Bay/Sedgefield Offers Life-Changing Counselling Course for Volunteer Counsellors


For those with the passion to help others and the time to learn, a remarkable opportunity awaits. FAMSA (Families South Africa) Knysna/Plettenberg Bay/Sedgefield, a trusted name in strengthening families and communities, is offering a comprehensive counselling course that equips volunteers 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 training prepares participants to become FAMSA volunteer counsellors — capable of providing emotional support, guidance, and practical tools to those in need.

"We believe that anyone with empathy, commitment, and time can become a powerful 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."

Participants learn about trauma support, relationship counselling, communication skills, crisis intervention, and more. The program includes supervised practical sessions, group work, and regular feedback, ensuring volunteers are confident and competent by the time they begin their service.

Graduates of the course not only gain invaluable skills but also join a community of dedicated volunteers who are changing lives every day. Whether you're looking to give back, explore a new path, or grow personally, this course is a stepping stone to meaningful impact.

One of our volunteer counsellors says: We give our clients this safe place (counselling room), we peel back the layers

to their gold centre and we are witness to their struggles ... past and in recent years. It is a privilege to walk a little way with our clients ... we walk them to a place of healing. 

The next intake is open, and FAMSA is encouraging all interested individuals to 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-plett.org.za/>.

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JULIET is looking for a job as a housekeeper call 078 8686 103 / 078 886 8758

GRACE is looking for a job as a housekeeper call 064 927 282

RONELLA is looking for a job as a baby sitter and domestic worker call 064 099 5093

JOSEPH is looking for a job as a gardener, painting with 10yrs exp call 070 6199 191

LINDA is looking for a job as a housekeeper with exp call 079 438 0372

PETER is looking for a job as a general work 9 years experience in painting, skimming, waterproofing, housekeeping, gardening and swimming pool maintenance call 072 183 0652 ref avail

CHRISPIN is looking for a gardening job or painting for 3-4 days a week call 061 1067 205

GLORIA is looking for a job as a housekeeper 5yrs exp ref avail call 066 395 2208

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK

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Web ref: RLS984795 | Size: 2.30Ha. **Paul Lewry 082 857 8835**

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Web ref: RLS992491 | 6 bedrooms | 5 bathrooms | 2 garages. **Susan Duncan 072 968 0779 | Ian Duncan 076 814 6808**

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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! Phone Len Swimmer our Chairman at 082 452 1799 or email: lens@telkomsa.net



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A story from Lunchbox Theatre...

Golden Child is a mourning ritual for children aged 5-11 who have recently experienced a recent loss in their lives. Created by Belgian artist Barbara Raes, it has been performed 44 times since 2018. In Plettenberg Bay, six children will experience the ritual through a partnership between Born in Africa and Lunchbox Theatre. A child spends the night alongside a beautiful river with a trusted family member and the project leader. At dawn, the Sun Queen (played by Amanda Valela Ntantiso or Marveen Charles) wakes the child, saying she needs the light in child's eyes to help the sun rise. Together they set off on a magical boat journey, singing a mantra to welcome the sun as sorrow gently fades into the sea.



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PLETT, KNYSNA & SEDGEFIELD

Golden Child is a 12-hour ritual that celebrates light, healing, and the renewal of hope; even in the presence of pain and loss.

Did you know that everyday a special child is chosen to help the sun to rise?

This child is called the Golden Child. And from the 27th January to the 1st of February six carefully selected children from Plettenberg Bay will be responsible for the break of dawn.

Accompanied by the glorious Sun Queen these children will take a boat trip onto the lagoon and sing a special song that helps the sun to rise.

We invite all Plett residents to join us just after the sunrise to say thank you to the child and celebrate them for helping bring

light to the day.

The gathering and greeting will happen on the N2 bridge over the Keurbooms and/or at the Angling Club. WhatsApp Stuart on 0834230083 to receive more info.

The Golden Child Project was created by Barbara Raes in Belgium as a ritual process for aiding the healing process of children who have experience loss or trauma. The project has seen 48 children in Belgium and Holland take part in this deeply moving ritual.

Through a collaboration with Born in Africa, Het Paleis and NT Gent, Lunchbox Theatre is very proud to have been selected to facilitate the first African Golden Child project.

Please see our Facebook Event page for more info.



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

29 Jan - Candy Buttle ; Michelle Tockar
Samantha Rowe

30 Jan - Hajni Berko

31 Jan - Warren Kentridge ; Adele Greasley

1 Feb - Gayle Harries ; Jarred Varkel ; Enoch Xolisile Maxawulana

2 Feb - Busi Maxawulana ; Harvey Whitehead

3 Feb - Jessica Rimmer ; Katryn Roux ; Jessica Rimmer ; Eben Ferreira ; Luzane Petersen

4 Feb - Olivia Lederle ; Chante Maree

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Plett Shark Spotters

It's that time of year again when we start
keeping our eyes peeled for the arrival
of white sharks in Plettenberg Bay! In
2024, our first sighting was in May, with
activity peaking around September. Robberg remains a truly special place, one of the few spots where you can witness these apex predators cruising just metres from shore, right alongside the mountain. Recently, four white sharks were tagged along the east coast and eight in Mossel Bay. Shark Spotters are now operating daily from 07:00 to 18:00 at five beaches: Lookout Beach, The Wedge, Central Beach, Robberg 1, and The Wreck. Lifeguards will raise the white shark flag if a shark has been seen within the past hour.

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Would you like to be a change leader in your community to improve human-baboon coexistence? Have you ever wondered why human-baboon coexistence is challenging, and collaboration around this topic remains elusive in Bitou Municipality?



*In memory of our precious
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Anton: 082 878 4193

Andrew: 082 462 0432

www.plettevangelical.co.za

Apply to attend our six-week Social Learning Program starting 15th February to 30th March 2026 at Piesang Valley Community Hall. The program consists of 6 workshops, taking place once a week from 9am-13pm, on a weekday (a weekend option also available).

During these workshops, you will learn communication and leadership skills to be a change leader and mediate different views around baboons and their management; to understand the complexities of human-baboon coexistence in the urban-rural interface; and come up with a vision and plan to improve human-baboon coexistence in your community.

We welcome individual residents as well as representatives of organizations from the Bitou region to apply. The only criteria is that you commit to attending all six workshops as each week will build on the previous week. The program is free, and refreshments will be offered. To apply, send a WhatsApp or an email to Miila: 071 2041 883 / miila.kauppinen@gmail.com, with a short explanation of who you are and your motivation to attend the program. Please apply by 7th of February.

The program is funded by Wageningen University in the Netherlands as part of a PhD project of Miila Kauppinen. The workshops will be facilitated by Dr. Ruth Kinsky and Miila Kauppinen.

Dr Ruth Kinsky is a Research Fellow in the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Her expertise is in community-based human-wildlife coexistence. Miila Kauppinen is a PhD candidate working on the topic of human-baboon conflict in Bitou. She is especially interested in how humans and wildlife can coexist in complex social-ecological landscapes.

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Phone Manager Public Safety/Law Enforcement all hours. You can stay anonymous. Tel. 044 533 5000

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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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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

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Maurice Hartshorne. Tel: 083 2591763

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Midmoo Mile will be @ 7am on Saturday 7 February at Poortjies.

Everyone is invited! If you would like to fundraise for a Cow Cossie (or know someone who wants to join in) please DM me. Fundraising targets: Adult R2500 Kids R1500

Whether you fundraise or not, please join us on the morning, make a donation ... swim, paddle, float, walk the dogs, just be there. All funds go to CHOC (Childhood Cancer Foundation of SA)

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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 on 1300 to 1230 (Mondays) at The House of Steps. Call 083 256 0841.



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1. Your name and telephone number.
2. Your Position
3. Position of casualty.
4. Nature of casualty.

Give as much information as possible & stay in position and keep your telephone line open.

If problems with above cell number try the below:

Deon Truter 082 569 5542

Marc Rodger 082 780 6427

Steff Le Roux 082 440 0932

Rob Gibson 083 277 0992

BITOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

LAND USE MANAGEMENT NOTICE



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 Land Use Planning Bylaw of 2015.

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 45 of the Bitou Municipality Land Use Planning By-Law of 2015 that the applicant has submitted a land use application to Bitou Municipality. The details of the application are as follows:

Property Description	Type of Application	Applicant Details
ERF 1978 PLETTENBERG BAY	1. Subdivision of the site into two in terms of Section 15(2)(d) 2. Removal of Title Condition 1(c) and 1(d) of Deed T 56565/2025 3. Administrators Consent with respect to Deed Condition 2 e	VBGD TOWN PLANNERS

A copy of the application and full supporting documentation is available for viewing on the Municipal website. Enquiries regarding the application may also be directed to the Municipal Land Use Management official Olwethu Yonke at 044 501 3317 or at townplanning@plett.gov.za.

Any comments or objections to the application, with reasons, therefore, must be lodged in writing to the abovementioned official by means of email or hand-delivery within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, and must include the name & contact details of the person concerned. Comments / objections received after 30 days may be disregarded. A person who cannot write may visit the Town Planning Office, where a staff member will assist to transcribe their comments.

The personal information of anyone who submits comment / objection might be made available as part of processing the application.

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Helpline 086 1006 962 www.na.org.za

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for professional advice 044 533 0598



Christopher Lungelo Mapeyi

Acting Municipal Manager

Tel – 044 501 3000

Bitou Local Municipality

Private Bag X1002

PLETTENBERG BAY, 6600

Municipal Notice No: 14/2026

SECOND ADJUSTMENT BUDGET 2025/2026

BITOU MUNICIPALITY (WC047) NOTICE NUMBER: NO: 14/2026

NOTICE is hereby given that at a meeting held on the 14th of January 2026, the Council of Bitou Municipality passed a resolution in respect of the adoption of an Adjustment Budget on the 2025/2026 budget, compiled in terms of section 28 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003.

A copy of the above-mentioned resolution and the Adjustment Budget is electronically available in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000 for public scrutiny during normal office hours at the municipal offices and libraries within the Bitou Municipality region as well as on council's website at **www.bitou.gov.za**.

Enquiries may be directed to Budget Office at 044-501-3315.

Persons who cannot read or write, may contact Mr. C. Payle during normal office hours at the Municipal Offices situated at Melville's Centre, Shop 67, for assistance as regards the contents of the above-mentioned document

.....
Christopher Lungelo Mapeyi
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER
Bitou Local Municipality

Customer Care: 044 501 3174/5 (After hours – 086 124 8686)

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Property Description	Type of Application	Applicant details
PORTION 26 OF MATJES FONTEIN Farm No. 304	PROPOSED SUBDIVISION	BEACON SURVEY

A copy of the application and full supporting documentation is available for viewing on the Municipal website. Enquiries regarding the application may also be directed to the Municipal Land Use Management official Olwethu Yonke at 044 501 3317 or at townplanning@plett.gov.za.

Any comments or objections to the application, with reasons, therefore, must be lodged in writing to the abovementioned official by means of email or hand-delivery within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, and must include the name & contact details of the person concerned. Comments / objections received after 30 days may be disregarded. A person who cannot write may visit the Town Planning Office, where a staff member will assist to transcribe their comments.

The personal information of anyone who submits comment / objection might be made available as part of processing the application.

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