



INGWELALA

GATE LETTER

MAY 2017

Dear Member,

On behalf of the staff, a very warm welcome to you and your guests, we wish you a most enjoyable stay.

Temperatures ranged from a low of 13 degrees Celsius to a high of 35 degrees Celsius, with 21.2mm of rain measured during the previous month. The Nhlalalumi River flowed steadily on 15 April after heavy rains fell to the south in the catchment.

The camp had high occupancy rates throughout April, and it is always pleasing to read through all the wonderful sightings that are posted in the sightings register in Reception. Thank you for taking the time to record these sightings. Lions were seen almost every day, in various numbers, shapes and sizes. There was an eye witness report of a clash between different aged cubs of two lionesses, where 8-week old cubs of the one lioness tormented and killed a newly born cub of another lioness. When trying to understand or interpret this behaviour it raises more questions than answers. An adult male lion, in pitiful body condition, was euthanased after it sought refuge in Vuka Ingwe. The post mortem confirmed the lion was riddled with TB in its lymph nodes and showed chronic arthritis in the joints. Blood and tissue samples were collected for further analysis, the Vets suspecting too the lion was infected with Feline AIDS.

Other Big Five sightings were also plentiful, with numerous breeding herds of elephants seen, on the hotter days those ranging on Argyle enjoy bathing in the river at Farmhouse. Buffalo and leopards were seen often, with two different pairs of mating leopards a certain highlight (Old Farmhouse and Mansimvula Cutline).

Wild dogs were active along the tar road early mornings, pack sizes varying from 7 – 15.

General game sightings included giraffe, blue wildebeest, zebra, impala, kudu, nyala, grey duiker, steenbok, spotted hyena, spring hare, porcupine, hippo, African wild cat, genet, civet and crocodile. It's encouraging to see the spring hare numbers are building up rather pleasingly.

Birds listed were Martial Eagle, African Hawk Eagle, Fish Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Ground Hornbill, Black Stork, Hooded Vulture, Hamerkop, Kori Bustard, Cisticola and even an Osprey seen at Timbavati Crossing.

During April, we experienced **baboon** challenges again, where baboons broke no less than five windows in different bungalows. Based on past experiences, I urge everyone to be vigilant and aware of how quickly baboons can learn to associate humans with availability of food.

*To avoid a recurrence of baboon damage to bungalows, it remains imperative that **no feeding of any form of wildlife, including birds and any small creature** is strictly adhered to. The same applies to Sibon Camp and all the picnic sites, hides and bomas. Continue to draw blinds and curtains when leaving the unit unoccupied and ensure all doors and windows are locked. **Please ensure that all food is out of sight**, especially in vehicles parked in the Reception car park, the vervet monkeys are habituated to raiding cool boxes and containers!*

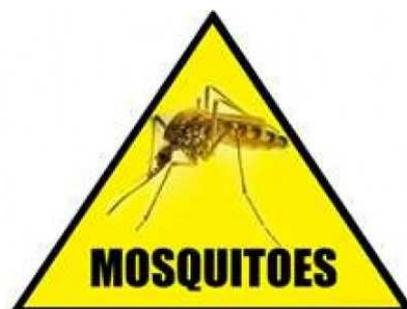
In early May, the Conservation Team will commence with a new trial for Grewia thinning on Goedehoop. This involves the use of a purpose designed machine to tackle this task. The multi stems are cut by a rotating disc at ground level and thereafter herbicide is applied as cut stump treatment to destroy the root system. The effectiveness and results of this method will be closely monitored by Mark Shaw and compared to the “traditional” method where we use a tractor and chain to pull out the Grewia when soil conditions are conducive.

General:

1. For security measures, please continue to disclose your Bungalow number when requesting a “radio check”. Please continue to assist field staff by reporting any suspicious vehicles/persons that you suspect to be a security risk or any fresh human spoor seen (outside of camp). Your assistance in this regard is highly appreciated.
2. Gate staff are requested to ensure that Gate Indemnity Forms are correctly completed when entering the Reserve.
3. If for any reason, you are using your “town vehicle” for game viewing, please ensure you obtain temporary decals from Reception before traversing on Ingwelala so all vehicles are easily identifiable.
4. General Working hours are:

	Shop	Reception	Fuel	Workshop
Monday – Friday	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	07h30 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00
Saturday	08h00 - 13h00	08h00 - 13h00	07h30 - 13h00	08h00 - 13h00
Sunday	08h00 - 12h00	08h00 - 12h00	07h30 - 12h00	08h00 - 12h00

5. A Duty Manager is available to assist you after hours with **emergencies**, contactable via the Gate Staff on radio Channel 1. An after hour **call out fee** of R 530.00 is applicable.
6. Please report any water leaks as well as trees that may have been pushed over onto the roads by elephants.
7. The Do’s and Don’ts and Game Drive Etiquette are attached for your attention.
8. KINDLY BE ADVISED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST THREE CASES OF MALARIA REPORTED ON INGWELALA AND NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES. PLEASE CONSULT WITH A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER FOR ADVICE ON ANTI-MALARIA MEDICATION AND PRODUCTS.



John Llewellyn

Reserve Manager
Ingwelala Share Block (Pty) Ltd.