



INGWELALA

GATE LETTER

JULY 2017

Dear Member,

Welcome back to Ingwelala as we shift into the second half of 2017!

As always, the staff wish you and your guests an enjoyable stay.

Temperatures ranged from 7 to 32 degrees Celsius during the reporting period. No rain was recorded.

A frequently asked question is whether the current veld condition will see us through to the next rains? Despite the past season rainfall measuring below long-term average, the late rains in April made a positive difference, that could possibly shorten the winter season. Having said this, the current forecast by the SA Weather Service is for a warmer than usual spring, so these warmer temperatures will impact negatively on the veld if the summer rains arrive late. Observations that the late April rains impacted positively was certainly borne by the abundant grass seed crop that attracted tens of thousands of Red-billed Quelea to the area, and favourable conditions for birds like Francolins and Cape Turtle Doves producing late season clutches. In addition, it is interesting to note how many elephant breeding herds are still ranging in the general area, due to grass and surface water availability? The usual trend is for the breeding herds to range further afield during the winter months. Simultaneously, buffalo remain scarce, dispersed far and wide after the late rains.

Big Five sightings through the month of June were abundant for elephant, leopard and lion. There were several lion kills, one great sighting was lions wounding a buffalo (and losing interest), and chose to kill another buffalo instead, which allowed a large clan of hyenas to immediately move in and kill the wounded buffalo! The wonders of the bush are truly amazing to witness. On another occasion, the lions spent an entire night chilling around the swimming pool grounds, investigating and sniffing at the human scents left on garden benches and chairs. Two young cubs present seem to enjoy a run on the lawn, using the garden furniture as useful screens from which to ambush one another in play. The elephant bulls that visit Camp have also shown an interest in all the new plants and shrubs around the Members Area, and "touch wood," have not inflicted too much damage during these escapades. A Member collecting a cell phone on charge after dark from the TV lounge had to prolong the collection time as a leopard crossed the gazebo/patio area between all the table and chairs!

A reliable torch with a strong beam is essential at the Members Area after dark.

The elephant cow that has a sizable hole in her forehead was recently seen nursing a young calf, fantastic news to know that she is doing well.

General sightings included giraffe, blue wildebeest, zebra, impala, kudu, nyala, lesser bush baby, genet, civet, warthog, hippo, crocodile and side-striped jackal.

Birds listed were Fish Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Ground Hornbill, Temminck's Courser, Brown-headed Parrot and Cut-throat Finch.

Please remember to keep all food out of sight from baboons and monkeys, and secure your bungalows before leaving on a drive.

KINDLY BE ADVISED THAT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY THERE WERE EIGHT KNOWN CASES OF **MALARIA** CONTRACTED AT INGWELALA. PLEASE CONSULT WITH A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER FOR ADVICE ON ANTI-MALARIA MEDICATION AND PRODUCTS.

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 570.00 is applicable.

6. Please report any water leaks as well as any 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.

John Llewellyn
Reserve Manager
Ingwelala Share Block (Pty) Ltd.