



INGWELALA

**GATE LETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Dear Member,**

Welcome back to your home in the bush as the spring of 2017 commences. The staff wish you and your guests a relaxing stay.

The maximum temperature for August was 34 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature was 7 degrees Celsius. 1.2 mm of rain was measured during the month.

Kindly be reminded there is a small group of elephant bulls that breach the camp fence most nights. Please be aware that these elephants do pull up water pipes, frequently the main lines, which necessitates closing the water supply at the main reservoir. This is necessary to prevent mass water wastage. It is a good idea therefore to have a pre-planned **back-up supply of water** in your bungalow for odd chores and the flushing of loo's etc. Staff attend to the water leaks as a priority. Either Reception or the Gate will keep you updated on repair progress on radio Channel 1.

Ingwelala falls within a **malaria area**. Please take the necessary precautions after consultation with your medical practitioner.

Through the reporting period there were daily sightings of elephants, predominantly breeding herds, with one sighting counting as many as 60 elephants. A Member reported being charged by a young bull elephant, serving as a reminder to us to always identify an "escape route" when watching these magic giants. No large buffalo herds ranged on Ingwelala, the buffalos seen were small bachelor groups. Lion sightings were plentiful, including cubs. Leopards were seen most days. An interesting sighting was of two leopards with a kill "cornered" in a tree by wild dogs which were in turn chased away by two hyenas. On another occasion, seven hyenas milled around the tree of a leopard kill.

Wild dogs were seen often, providing excellent photographic and video opportunities for viewers. This included several sightings of kills, and pups feeding at these kills. A Member described the one kill where adult dogs pulled down a steenbok, and then retreated a short distance to stand guard as sentries while the pups ate the steenbok. Fantastic to witness this behaviour.

Game sightings included spotted hyena, side-striped jackal, black-backed jackal, giraffe, zebra, impala, kudu, nyala, bushbuck, Sharpe's Grysbok, grey duiker, steenbok, warthog, genet, civet, porcupine, honey badger, banded mongoose, dwarf mongoose, vervet monkey, African wild cat, hippo and crocodile.

There is an adult male giraffe with a natural head injury (from fighting) which is being monitored, his behaviour is normal, he is feeding and has good body condition in general. The wound/injury appears to be clean and forming a scab so we are holding thumbs that the injury heals fully. Please be on the look out for him and advise the Gate if you see him.

Birds noted in the sightings register were Martial Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Fish Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Ground Hornbill, Temminck's Courser and Green-winged Pytilia. The Yellow-billed Kites have returned for the summer months.

There is an increase in snake and scorpion activity as the spring warms up. It is a good idea to have a decent torch at hand after dark, and to wear closed shoes.

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

Please continue to assist conservation staff by noting any prickly pear plants you see from the roads, location can be recorded in the sightings register in Reception. Thank you to those Members who assist on an ongoing basis, much appreciated.

**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:

	<b>Shop</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Fuel</b>	<b>Workshop</b>
<b>Monday – Friday</b>	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	07h30 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00
<b>Saturday</b>	08h00 - 13h00	08h00 - 13h00	07h30 - 13h00	08h00 - 13h00
<b>Sunday</b>	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.**