



GATE LETTER

DECEMBER 2017

Dear Member,

Welcome back to Ingwelala during the closing month of 2017.

The previous month's maximum temperature 37 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature was 16 degrees Celsius. 24.6 mm of rain was recorded. The general veld condition remains dry, much more rain is needed to help the grass get underway.

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

Kindly be advised that Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Authority (MTPA) has **authorised and issued permits** for two commercial elephant hunts to take place in the UWCA (ex Gp 13) from 29 November to 12 December and one commercial elephant hunt on the Luttig Trust property (not neighbouring Ingwelala) from 02 December 2017.

Elephants breach the camp fence on an ad hoc basis, and it is common for these elephants to pull up water pipes in search of fresh water. The main water supply is then closed until staff can locate and repair the leaks. It is recommended you store a **back-up supply of water** in your bungalow for the odd chores and for 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.

Due to low occupancy in November, entries into the sightings register were somewhat limited. However, there were lion sightings most days. An adult male lion that was in a fight some weeks ago remained with the pride, despite his body condition steadily deteriorating before he succumbed. The post mortem revealed under developed lungs, the cause of death pneumonia. No TB present, further samples were taken to test for Rabies. The results will be known in due course. Leopard sightings were fewer, perhaps the summer leaf foliage on trees favouring more cover for leopards to remain concealed. They do spend their entire existence plotting to not be seen! Buffalo sightings also decreased, with no mention of any large herds ranging on Ingwelala. There were very few elephant sightings.

Wild dog sightings were plentiful, the largest pack numbering 19 in total. The wild dogs are drawn to the annual impala lambing season (mid to late November, the first one seen on 15 November).

There were reported sightings of spotted hyena, side-striped jackal, giraffe, zebra, impala, kudu, nyala, bushbuck, klipspringer, Sharpe's grysbok, warthog, genet, porcupine, civet, banded mongoose, baboon and vervet monkey and spring hare.

Birders noted Yellow-billed Kite, Eurasian Golden Oriole and arrival of the Woodlands Kingfisher on 15 November.

A reminder that snake and scorpion activity peak in the summer months. Wearing closed shoes and having a good torch in the evenings could avoid a nasty bite or sting.

There are baboons that forage through camp. All food should be kept out of sight to prevent break-ins to bungalows for the food.

Thank you to those Members who assist conservation staff by noting prickly pear plants seen from the roads. Its location can be recorded in the sightings register in Reception.

General:

1. For security measures, please continue to disclose your Bungalow number when requesting a “radio check”. Please report 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

Note: Any extended Shop hours during the December/January holiday period will be communicated via Radio Channel 1 and placed on a notice board outside Reception.

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.