



## GATE LETTER

JANUARY 2018

**Dear Member,**

On behalf of the staff we wish you and your families a prosperous 2018. May you have many enjoyable and memorable visits to Ingwelala during 2018. The start to the year saw the Nhlralumi River flowing strongly which is always a welcome site. Thank you to those who joined for the New Year Bash, an enjoyable time was had by all, once the evening storm had passed! A short-lived gale force wind did extensive damage to the Vuka Ingwe screen fence on the airstrip side, carpents in the Workshop were damaged and several trees were snapped off/blown over throughout the Reserve, disappointingly a number of massive marula trees suffered the same fate.

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

The closure of 2017 recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius and a minimum temperature of 17 degrees Celsius. A total rainfall of 64.6 mm was recorded at the Weather Station, which is a good 30% short of the long-term December average of 90.2 mm. The South African Weather Service is predicting above average rains during the latter part of summer.

The borehole equipment that supplies water to Sibon Dam has been temperamental, maintenance staff are attending to this. Unfortunately, the lack of rainfall together with high evaporation conditions has not assisted in maintaining water levels at this time of the year. We do need to manage our water resources responsibly and therefore request water is used sparingly.

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.

The previous month's game sightings blew hot and cold, as it can. There were periods when sightings were plentiful and there were times when sightings were few and far between. In particular elephant and buffalo sightings were infrequent. The absence of any grass sward to speak of and the recent impact of the drought explains the general absence of buffalo. Lion and leopard sightings were reasonable, with the joy of several cubs been seen for both cat species, and several kills, which always makes for good sightings along with photographic opportunity.

Packs of wild dogs have been active, the largest number in a pack being 18, but mostly a pack of 11 dogs were seen.

There was a report of a cheetah seen on Buffelsbed.

Other general game sightings included spotted hyena, giraffe (one herd of 14), impala, kudu, nyala, warthog (several with youngsters), genet, porcupine (several sightings mentioned), honey badger, banded mongoose, baboon, vervet monkey, spring hare, hippo and crocodile.

An adult female nyala was immobilised by a Vet to remove a short piece of PVC pipe which she had unfortunately stepped into. The pipe was restricting blood flow to the fetlock, causing pain and a severe limp. We are holding thumbs she makes a full recovery.

Birds recorded in the sightings register were Martial Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Kori Bustard, Ground Hornbill, Secretarybird, Saddle-billed Stork, Spotted Flycatcher, Brown-headed Parrot, Painted Snipe, Bronze-winged Courser and Southern White-faced Owl.

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:

	<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

**Please note, any extensions to the Shop hours during the holiday period will be posted 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.**

