



GATE LETTER

APRIL 2018

Dear Member,

The staff welcome you back to your magical home in the bush. Wishing you a relaxing stay with special sightings.

Please be reminded that Ingwelala falls within a **malaria area**. Please take the necessary precautions after consultation with your medical practitioner. Local Health Departments have predicted an increase in malaria outbreaks with the late summer rains.

19.4 mm of rain was recorded for March, where the long-term average is 47.7mm. This is another well below average month where we received only 40% of what could be expected. This is the fourth consecutive summer for below average rainfall. The experts speak of 10-year weather cycles, so this dry cycle may get even drier as it bottom-outs before approaching a wetter cycle. Temperatures ranged from a minimum of 17 to a maximum 38 degrees Celsius.

The responsible thing to do is to actively review our water resources and acknowledge well below average replenishment to the underground water table. These water tables feed the aquifers that supply our boreholes. It is critical during these dry times to reduce any stress on the boreholes and avoid "over pumping". Two considerations are required, the first is providing water to the Camp for domestic purposes and the second is providing water to the artificial watering points. The dry conditions have certainly caused the herd animals to disperse widely in the region, especially the buffalo. To this end there is collaboration with Umbabat neighbours to achieve temporary closure of artificial water points on a rotational basis. Already pumping water to Goedehoop Dam ceased, and so while there is natural water along the course of the Nhlalumi River it will be prudent to stop pumping water to Goedehoop Dam. This will rest Jackleberry Borehole entirely and considerably reduce the pressure on Borehole no 3 which supplies Sibon Camp and provides back up for Sibon Dam.

In Camp there are several simple water-saving measures we can achieve as a collective:

- Take shorter showers, avoid using baths, but if a necessity then use water sparingly
- Flush toilets less frequently (only when necessary)
- Keep an eye out for water leaks and report them to Reception
- Avoid creating mud wallows at bungalows for warthog wallows
- No hose-pipe use for washing any vehicles
- Maximise washing loads in the laundry and staff houses

A final note on water is to please be reminded that elephants breach the camp fence on an ad hoc basis. 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.

Month on month the game sightings increased significantly. Excluding low buffalo numbers, Big Five sightings were excellent. It was good to note a marked increase in elephant breeding herds, perhaps an indication that the grasses are partially recovering with the late rains, as elephants are known to increase grass intake during the summer growth season. There were numerous superb lion sightings, with cubs, providing excellent

photographic opportunities. Leopard sightings always provide great elation to the viewer, even if the viewing is short lived. A discovery of two adult leopards together even greater elation.

There were two reports of wild dogs.

In the sightings register, it was void of general or common game, save the mention of zebra, giraffe and blue wildebeest. There was mention of spring hare, a puff adder and several black mamba sightings.

The Birders produced an impressive list which included Fish Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Ground Hornbill, Kori Bustard, Levallant's Cuckoo, Jacobin Cuckoo, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Diederik Cuckoo, Paradise Flycatcher, White-fronted Bee eater, Woolley-necked Stork, Saddle-billed Stork and Spoonbill.

The **vervet monkeys** that frequent the car park and swimming pool area have learnt to open cooler boxes and picnic baskets left unattended on vehicles. They do not back away from women and children, so please keep a close eye on small children.

The new troop of baboons that are roosting in Camp are still wary of people. There are two men, dressed in navy blue overalls and dayglo vests, who are temporary employed as what is known as baboon spotters. Their task is to locate the baboons in Camp and herd them to the perimeter fence, ensuring the baboons stay out of camp for most of the daylight hours. It is early days, and we'll learn more as we progress. We certainly don't need a recurrence of the previous troop's behaviour.

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

Please refer to any special notices posted at Reception and radio announcements for changes to the Shop hours over the Easter weekend.

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 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.