



RESERVE REPORT

February 2018

Introduction

The vervet monkeys (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*) that frequent the Reception car park are a growing concern from the point of view of behavioural changes. During the busy periods of high occupancy in Camp, this troop of monkeys have learned that there are “easy pickings” to be found foraging through the game viewers in the car park. The dexterity and speed with which cooler boxes and picnic baskets are opened and inspected for tasty snacks is simply mind blowing. Another favourite draw card is the easy access to bulging refuse bags, intended to be dropped in the Dirt Box, but occasionally overlooked when passengers alight from their vehicles, heading off to attend to other duties and needs. The volume and type of litter collected in and around the car park by the Grounds Staff is testament to this oversight.



Sub adult vervet monkey

There have been numerous complaints from (especially) mothers of small children where the larger bull monkeys show no fear of women or children trying to “shu-off” the monkeys from the tables and chairs at the swimming pool or the game viewers in the car park. The monkeys display challenging and intimidating behaviour, hoping for an opportunity to nip in and grab food off a table, or seize a dropped morsel from a young child. Thankfully, hand snatching, has to date been a rare occurrence. An unintentional or warning bite with a hand snatch spells an obligatory anti-rabies course of injections, which itself is an inconvenience to anyone’s planned itinerary. That the level of aggression and intent to ambush can and will increase, may only be determined in time, if the food source does not entirely disappear.

Applying to the Authorities for permits to destroy what is termed “problem animals” always comes under scrutiny where the questioner is asked to please identify the suspected cause of the problem? Secondly, identifying the correct offenders in a large troop can be challenging, and thirdly, discharging a firearm in a busy populated area is not an option at all. Therefore, dealing with a “problem” monkey spontaneously is a near impossibility.

A personal observation is that after the Camp baboons were euthanased this particular troop of monkeys seized an opportunity to establish some form of territorial “control” where they recognised a lack of inter species competition. This in turn built their “confidence” if you like.



Adult vervet monkey

I believe there remains an opportunity to turn the tide. A new troop of baboons has taken to roosting in Camp, and it will be interesting in time to observe any reaction from the monkeys. To achieve a turnaround will mean that as people, our behaviour and attention to detail will require urgent attention.

What can humans do to make a difference?

- Make a conscious effort to secure all food from being easy pickings.
- Ensure picnic baskets and cooler boxes left unattended on vehicles are “monkey proof”.
- Canned drinks (even empties) left in drink holders attract monkeys, remove these from sight.
- Have a designated crate on your vehicle that serves as a secure waste bin.
- Remember to drop any refuse bags in the Dirt Box before leaving vehicles unattended.
- Inform and educate all Users and Guests in your party to practice these precautionary measures.
- Accompany and supervise smaller children with ice creams and sweets in hand.



Vervet monkeys are from the genus *Cercopithecus* which refers to long-tailed monkeys. The long tail is an essential adaptation to assist with balance and tree climbing in the finer reaches of trees. In Afrikaans vervet monkeys are known as *blouaap* and as *nkawa* in Xitsonga. Vervets are extremely social in nature and survive in structured troops, where individual numbers can be as many as 50. Both genders form their own respective hierarchies.

In Southern Africa there is considerable colour range amongst different populations of vervet monkeys, however, colour of adult body coat is generally silver-grey with the characteristic black face. Of interest is that front and rear limbs are of similar approximate length. The males are larger and heavier than the females, maximum weights are 7 kgs and 5.0 kgs respectively. Vervets may be confused with samango monkeys, *Cercopithecus albogularis*, the latter is a larger monkey with a specialised habitat of taller and denser forest.

Diet is mainly vegetarian, and natural ranges include woodlands and savannah systems that provide suitable food, water and shelter. Vervet monkeys adapt well to city environments and are known to be destructive crop raiders. Natural food ranges widely from leaves to buds and shoots, flowers, seeds, berries and fruit, depending on seasonal availability. Vervet monkeys play a key role in the environment to aid seed dispersal and germination after seeds pass through their digestive tracts. Insects are eaten occasionally.

The IUCN status for vervet monkeys is Lower Risk/Least Concern.

Communication is key to survival. Three categories of communication have been identified in vervets, namely alarming, aggression and wanting. When alarming, vervets use different calls for different predators.



Vervet monkeys mostly are preyed on by raptors, snakes and leopards.

Canine teeth are long, they protrude from the gums.

Colour vision enables vervets to distinguish between ripe and unripe fruit.

Breeding is seasonal, where the timing of young are born after the summer rains, from March to May. This coincides with an abundance of food. Females never leave their natal group, whereas males leave the troop at puberty. In males the genitals are brightly coloured, the females have one pair of mammae on their chest.

Facts researched on the Internet. Words by John Llewellyn. Pictures courtesy of Vivienne Newell.

Sibon: Phase 1 Upgrade

Motivation and Scope

The Sibon Patio and Leadwood Cottage roof was deteriorating each with broken gum poles and branding that posed a safety hazard. The decision was taken to not just repair and re-thatch the roof, but to consider future planned work to Sibon, and design an integrated solution then build the Patio as phase 1 with phase 2 to complete the rebuild a year later.

Included in phase 1; Leadwood Cottage roof was rebuilt, and the steel door replaced with a wooden door. The two outside showers that needed renovation were also included.



Before the renovations

Design Concept

The main building foot print was not changed in any way, there were limited changes to windows and internal walls. However, the Patio was enlarged (Rebuilt from scratch). The entertainment area will become significantly more integrated where the kitchen (phase 2) will be moved to the Patio/Braai area side of the house and the two bedrooms (phase 2) will be moved to the far side of the house. The two bedrooms will be brought forward doing away with a passageway, access to the bedrooms will be from the front of the house. Both bedrooms will then enjoy a view of the waterhole with the en-suite bathrooms on the car port side. A large sliding door (Phase1) is now included to exit the current kitchen area onto the patio. Paving in (phase 2) will provide access from the Patio to repositioned Bedrooms 1 and 2. A Latte wall provides a screen between bedrooms 1 and 2. Trellidor Clear Guard sliding screens will be included for all doors and windows. For the phase 1 upgrade, Trellidor Clear Guard sponsored the 2.8m sliding screen onto the patio. Stainless steel baboon proof mesh is built into the walls above the kitchen sliding door and existing double door to ventilate the kitchen area.

The Patio is widened to allow the dining table to be turned 90 degrees to increase the area set aside for soft lounging chairs and furnishings. The custom-built dining table is enlarged to seat 22 people. The patio is extended up to the edge of the driveway and rounded in appearance to compliment the ethos of the current Ingwelala Building Regulations and underlying building style. The lounge now provides ample lounging area with a significantly better view of the waterhole. The new floor level is raised to match the main building floor level. The horizontal gum poles on the electric fence are replaced with a cable to improve viewing of the waterhole.

The Braai area now flows easier to interface with the dining room and lounge area.



Post renovation

Wrap around steps complete the patio edge and facilitate a rustic seating area and adjacent driveway access.

A Martini seat in the lounge area is a feature that the younger children will enjoy, providing an easy bunk opportunity after evening meals, when the adults settle down to swap adventure stories.

Ample power points are available for 220-volt power, including several built-in power points around the dining room table for those wishing to use laptop computers.

The roof is raised to accommodate a 45-degree pitch for efficient water run-off.

Phase 2 detail design is in progress. Construction is planned to take place between 14 January to end March 2019.

Staff complement



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Staff Movement



Dave and Adél Annandale joined the management team on 01 March 2018. We take this opportunity to welcome Dave and Adél and wish them every success at Ingwelala.

Adél will be looking after Reception, while Dave will assist with infrastructure maintenance and Members building projects. Dave is a qualified and certified domestic LP gas installer.

Previous work experiences for Dave included serving in the SA Air Force as a qualified petrol and diesel mechanic, he worked for MAN truck and bus, and was a Ntsiri employee for five years managing the Workshop and water reticulation. Dave enjoys cycling and rugby and reading technical magazines.

Adél has previous work experience in the field guiding industry and more recently Reception and Housekeeping duties at Ntsiri. Interests and hobbies include reading and watching movies.

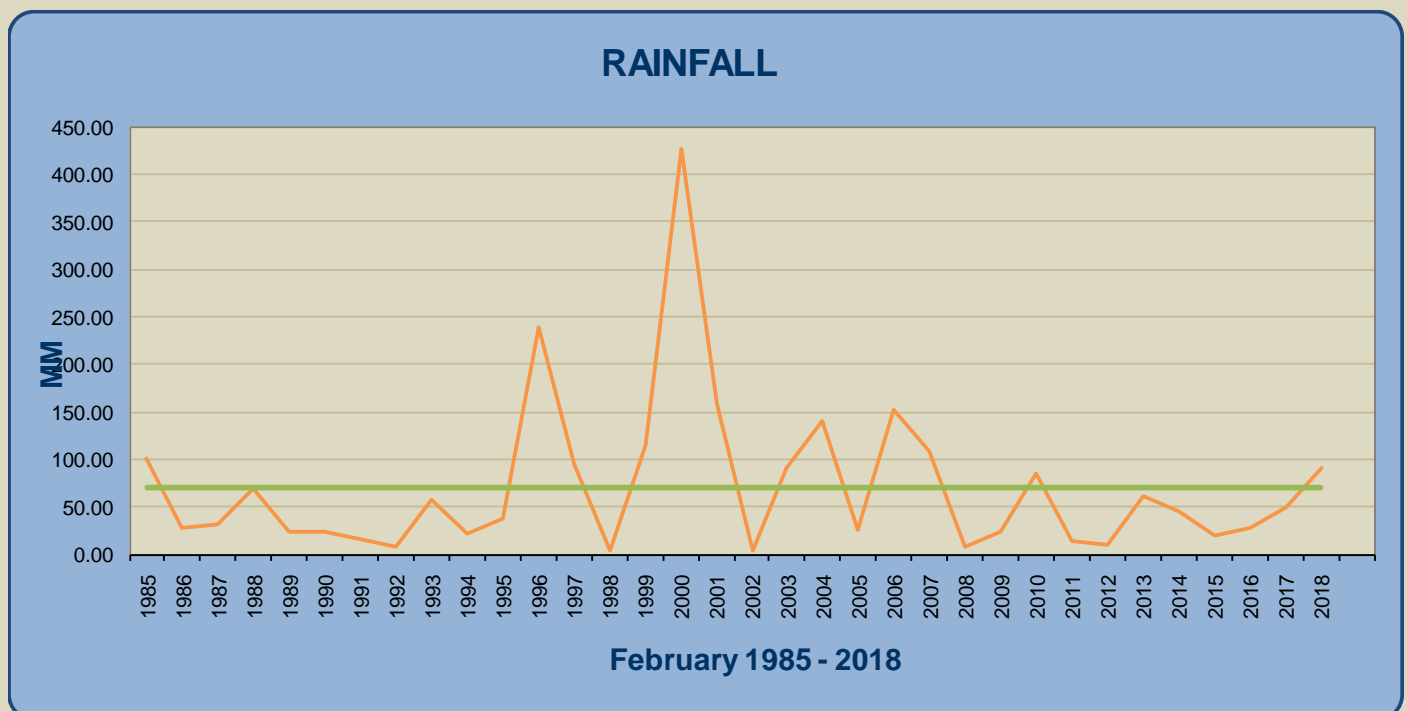
Bungalows for sale

A 20% share in Bungalow # 201 for R1.4 million.

Climate and rainfall (summary)

Rainfall: 90.2 mm
Minimum temperature: 20 degrees Celsius.
Maximum temperature: 37 degrees Celsius.

The following graph summarises total rainfall recorded at Ingwelala for the month of February over the past 33 years.



(Note: February 2018: 90.2 mm rainfall is well above the monthly average of 70.5)

Conservation

Alien plant eradication

Nil.

Veld Rehabilitation

Nil.

Erosion Control

Nil.

Roads and Tracks

Where necessary, after the rains, river crossings and accesses were smoothed over and compacted. Areas suffering bad cross-wash were attended to as a priority.

The Camp Roads were graded with the tractor blade.

20% of mitre drains on Buffelsbed serviced.

Airstrip

The airstrip surface was inspected on a regular basis and the general condition recorded in a register.

Encroaching weeds on the runway surface were mowed.

The lower areas that suffered bad cross-wash were levelled/smoothed over and compacted.

A reminder please that all airstrip users must complete (once off) an **Ingwelala Airstrip Indemnity Form** before landing. Indemnity forms are obtainable from reception@ingwelala.co.za Guest pilots must also complete the form before using the airstrip.

Fencing

Three breaches by elephants to the camp fence, all breakages were repaired by the Conservation Team.

Bomas, Hides and Picnic Sites

All checked and serviced on a regular basis.

Game sightings

Sightings recorded in the register can be described as “few and far between” because of the predominantly dry conditions and animal dispersal. For example, a recording of a single buffalo for the entire month speaks for itself. Towards month end, numbers of lion and leopard sightings improved significantly, as did the activities of a pack of 30 wild dogs! There were only four recordings of elephant sightings, a mix of breeding herds and bulls.

General game sightings included giraffe, zebra and blue wildebeest.

Birds recorded were Ground Hornbill, Levillant’s Cuckoo, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Woolley-necked Stork, Pennant-winged Nightjar and Kori Bustard.



Security

No incidents on Ingwelala during the reporting period.

Road Kills

X 1 Tree squirrel

X 1 Nightjar

General Fire Risk Management

Veld fire and general fire risk in the veld is low given the recent rains in February.

Fire-fighting equipment is checked on a weekly basis. Fire tender pumps were serviced.

X 1 tractor available to assist with fire-fighting (x2 water drawn carts).

X 1 "Bakkie-Sakkie" serviceable and responsive on a "first call" basis.

X 20 fire beaters and x4 knap-sack sprays in good working order.

Umbabat

Water reticulation

Yield data for the boreholes is reflected in the following table, comparative with previous months.

BOREHOLE	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17	MAR 17	FEB 17
BH NO 1	0	189	149	0	150	277	428	0	34	298	188	87	97
BH NO 2	877	1247	1603	1274	992	1082	959	1113	1043	1000	1141	1005	669
BH NO 3	627	500	425	682	534	653	531	1176	151	557	681	342	683
BH NO 4	0	0	0	768	0	0	0	78	181	483	425	322	753
BH NO 5	468	506	534	517	293	159	151	158	238	467	445	353	245
BH NO 6	234	481	565	1055	1218	1082	1018	769	367	675	622	683	107
BH NO 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
BH NO 9	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar
JB	0	0	0	0	0	58	350	1282	491	278	43	0	0
GOEDEHOOP	721	842	1297	774	1119	480	664	290	1312	1395	780	0	0

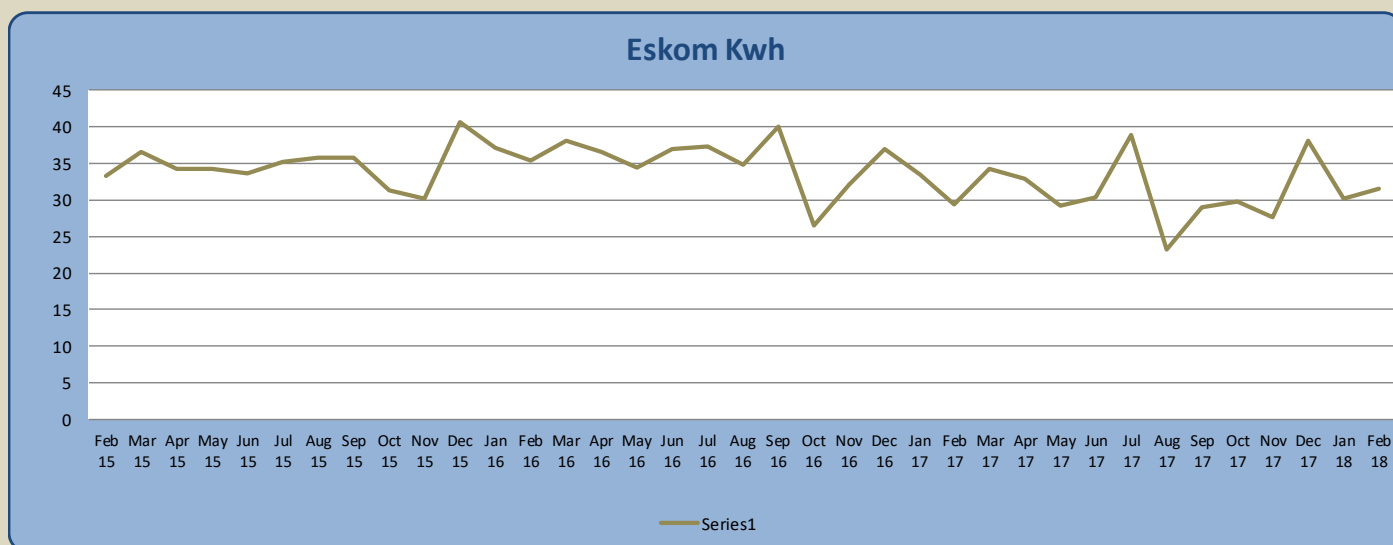
Vehicles and Workshop

WORKSHOP	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17	MAR 17
JOB CARDS OPENED	23	51	64	36	54	36	75	68	48	67	46	55
JOB CARDS CLOSED	23	49	66	37	50	38	54	53	58	63	57	56
GENERATOR HOURS	18.9	1.8	22	1.1	9.3	0	1	2.6	0	6.6	10.9	0
DIESEL TANK (L)	990	530	80	345	380	430	430	500	575	575	650	850

The general fleet and static plant maintenance is 100% compliant with the servicing schedule.

Eskom Usage

The following graph shows the monthly Eskom Usage (Kwh) for Ingwelala.



Building projects

Current (major) building projects are listed below:

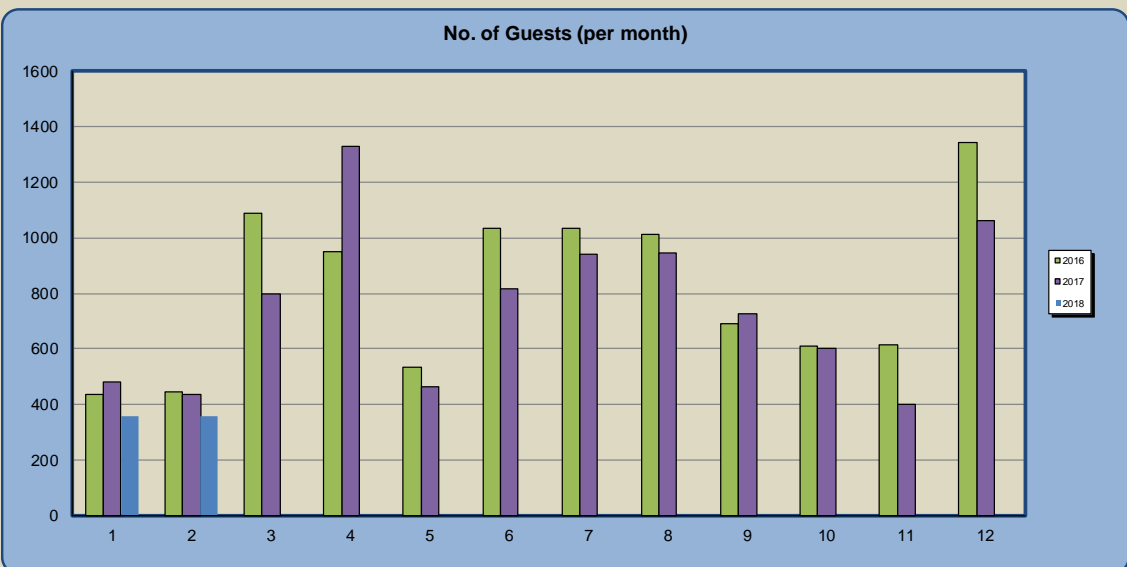
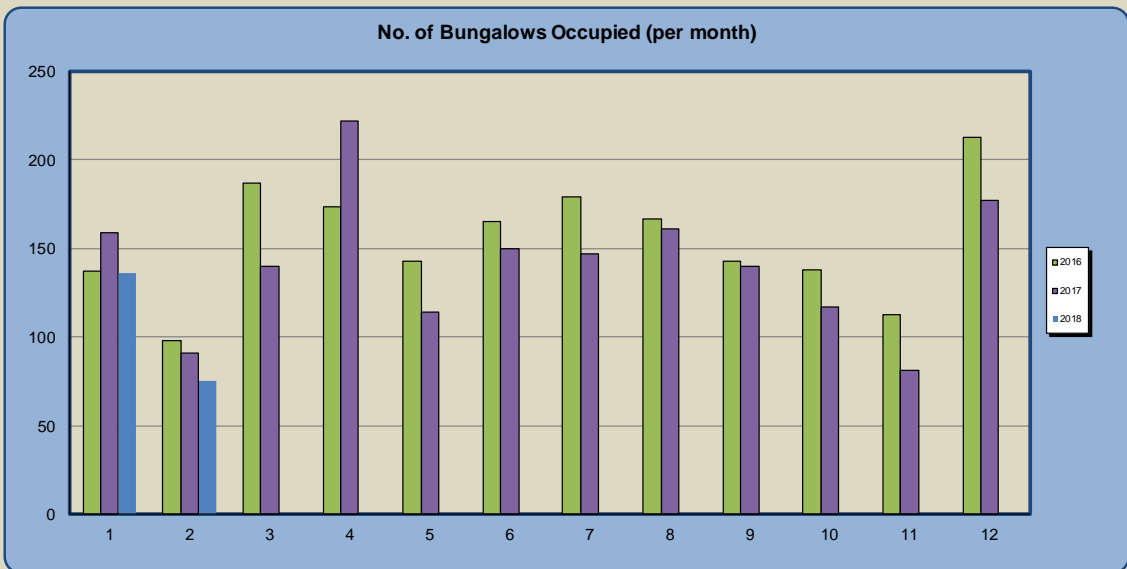
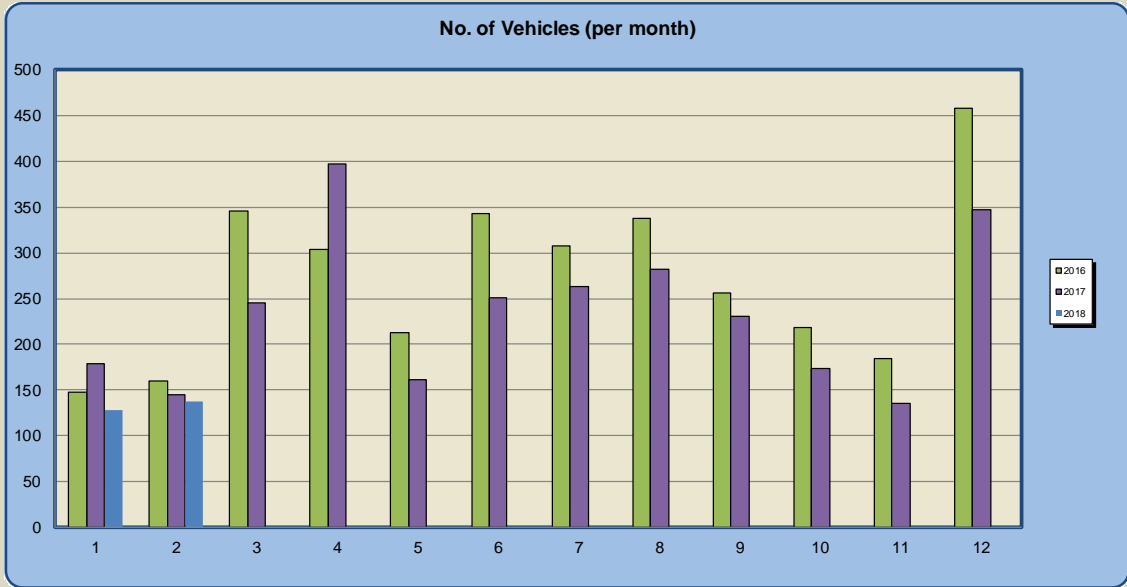
Bung No	Name	Work requested	Approval	Builder	% Complete
10-13	Peter Dittberner	New gazebo & internal upgrades	August 2017	Dukes Construction	90%
38	Gordon Pascoe	Demolish & rebuild	July 2017	Dukes Construction	45%
44	Cecil Bodenstein	New patio & gazebo & internal upgrades	June 2017	Owner builder	55%
86	Martinus vd Reyden	New patio & gazebo & internal upgrades	July 2017	Chameleon	95%
181	Shayne Holt	Rethatch & internal changes	January 2018	Chameleon	15%
185	Weston Dickson	Demolish and rebuild	January 2017	Chameleon	80%
202	Jan Kitshoff	Rethatch & internal changes	August 2017	Chameleon	80%

Reception Statistics

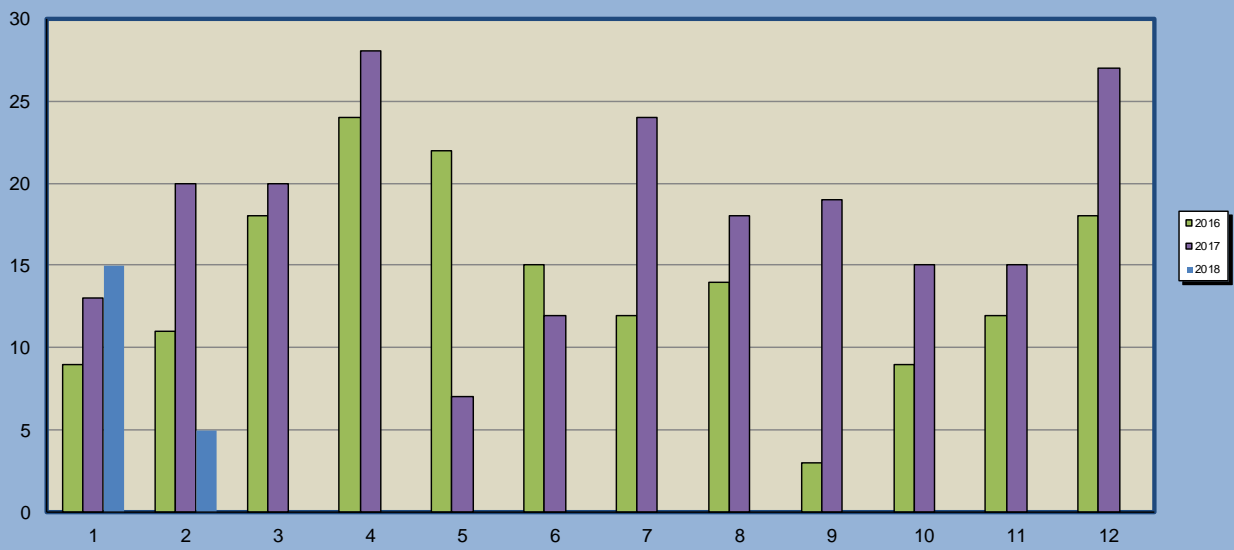
GATE STATISTICS	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17	MAR 17
VEHICLES	138	128	347	135	174	230	282	263	251	162	397	245
MEMBERS GUESTS	356	357	1060	399	601	727	945	940	818	465	1328	798
UNACCOMP GUESTS	0	0	7	2	9	7	4	4	3	0	34	0
UNITS OCCUPIED	75	136	177	81	117	140	161	147	150	114	222	140
AIRBORNE VISITORS	3	9	1	6	9	4	5	17	16	2	17	3

COTTAGE NIGHTS	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17	MAR 17
HORNBILL	5	15	27	15	15	19	18	24	12	7	28	20
FRANCOLIN	4	10	18	7	12	12	11	26	17	0	19	13
GUINEAFOWL	7	5	15	3	11	11	20	26	12	6	17	4

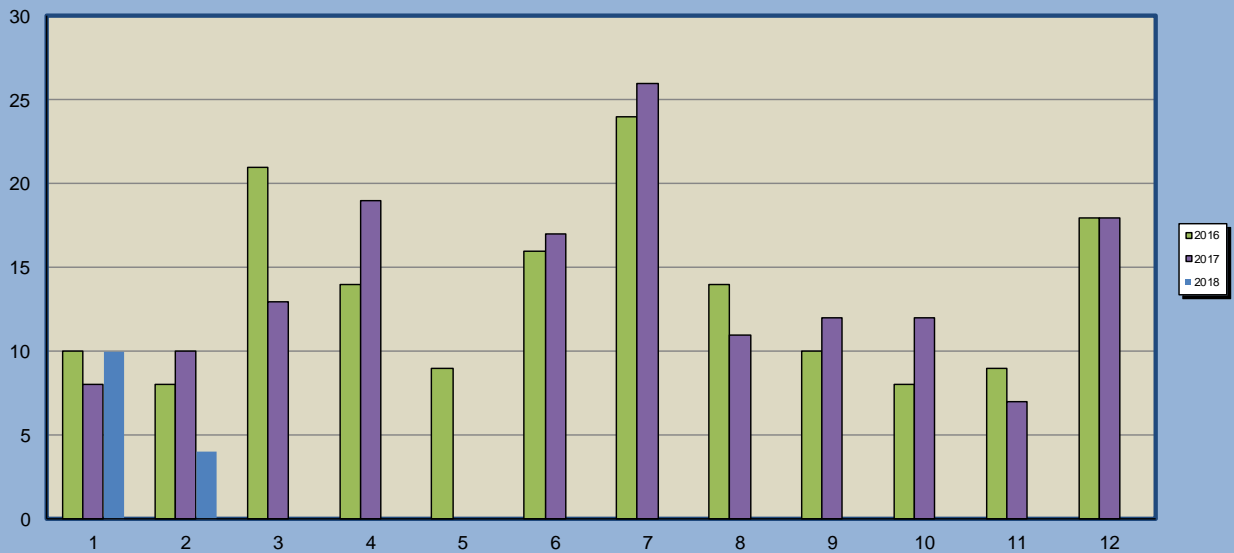
Annexure 1: Graphs



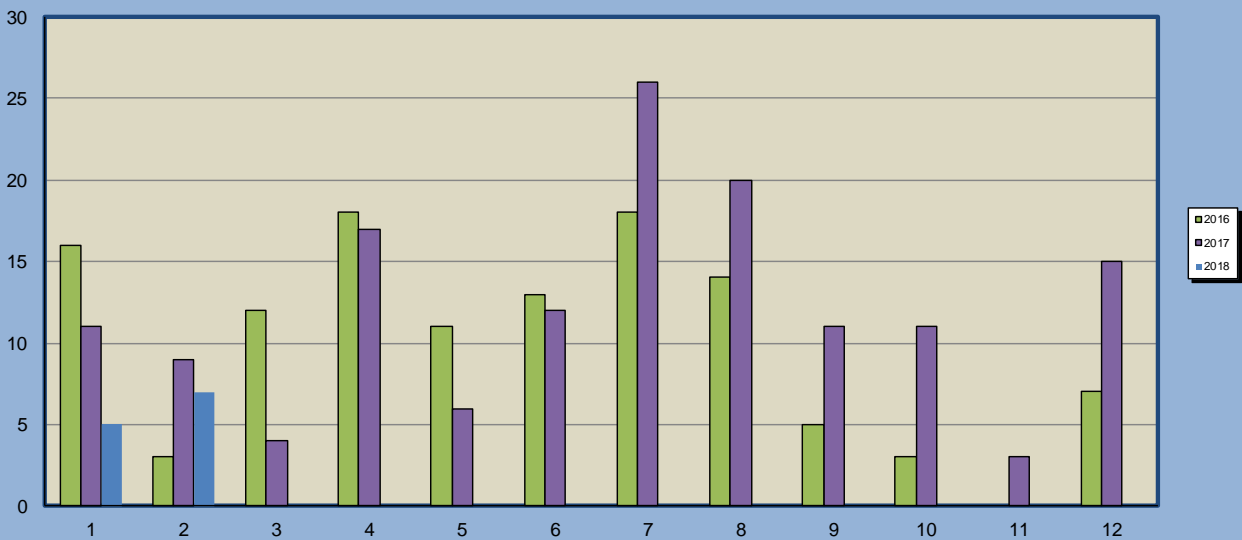
Hornbill Occupancy (nights per month)



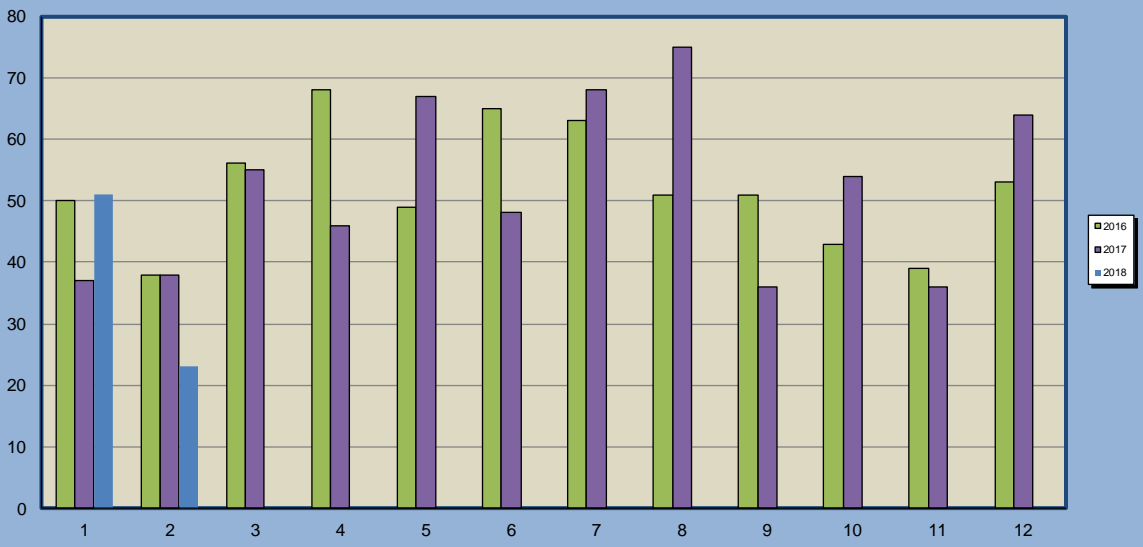
Francolin Occupancy (nights per month)



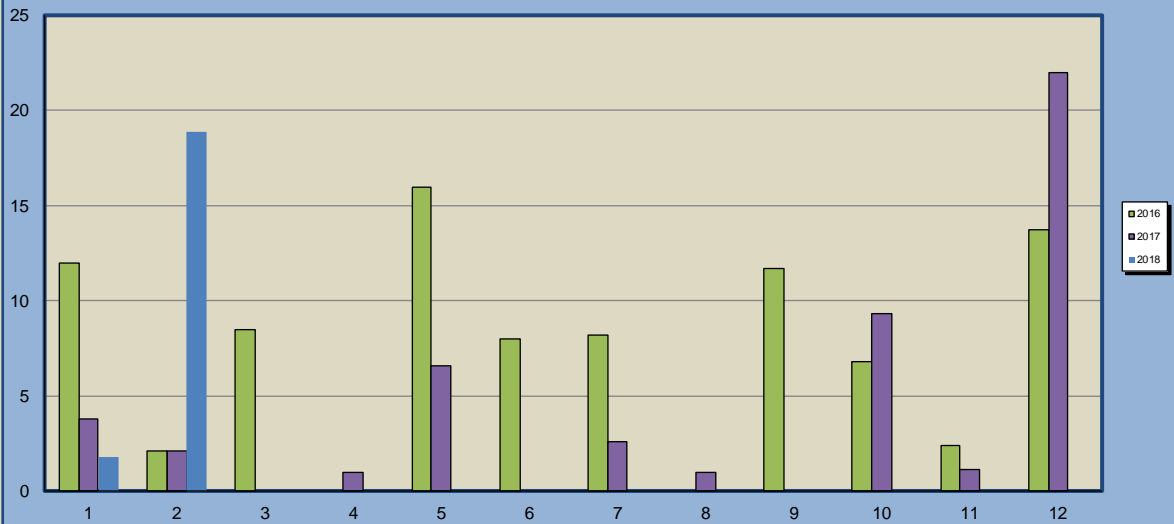
Guineafowl Occupancy (nights per month)



No. of job cards opened (per month)



Generator Hours (per month)



Ground Water Extraction m³ (combined boreholes per month)

