



INGWELALA

GATE LETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

Dear Member,

Welcome back to Ingwelala, as always, the staff wish you and your guests a relaxing stay, with many memorable sightings.

For the reporting period the maximum temperature for October was 40 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature was 12 degrees Celsius. 23 mm of rain was recorded. While some of the trees have leafed up, the general veld condition remains dry.

Because of the dry conditions, it is anticipated that elephant bulls will continue to breach the camp fence until it greens up substantially more outside of the camp area. Please be aware that these elephants do pull up water pipes, frequently the main water 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 the 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.

Game sightings during the previous month were plentiful. Deserving special mention is the steady increase in buffalo sightings, as a bulk grazer their utilisation of the veld is a key factor in maintaining nutrient cycling. The presence of buffalo could well be the reason why the lions were active on Ingwelala, being seen every other day. A fight between two male lions resulted in one of the males picking up a nasty eye injury. These are natural processes in the course of nature, providing that natural selection takes place. Survival of the fittest, and ensuring the best genes are dominant when breeding takes place. Leopards were seen most days, several with kills, and inter-predator action reported between leopards and hyenas wrestling over carcasses.

A pack of wild dogs (up to 12) was seen on seven occasions.

Further sightings included side-striped jackal, giraffe, impala, kudu, nyala, bushbuck, klipspringer, warthog, genet, porcupine, honey badger, banded mongoose, baboon and vervet monkey. At the main causeway a crocodile was seen feeding on a nyala.

Birders recorded Martial Eagle, African Hawk Eagle, Fish Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Ground Hornbill, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, White-bellied Sunbird, Marico Sunbird, Little Beak eater and White-backed Vultures.

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

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.

8. The Ingwelala AGM is on 16 November 2017. Registration is at 17h30. The venue is Johannesburg Country Club: Woodmead.

John Llewellyn
Reserve Manager
Ingwelala Share Block (Pty) Ltd.