



# The Bush Telegraph

Volume 31: Jul - Sep 2017

*“No matter how few possessions you own or how little money you have, loving wildlife and nature will make you rich beyond measure.” – Paul Oxtan*

We send you fond bush greetings from our little piece of paradise!

Incredible to think that we are, once again, fully into our summer season. Mother Nature has spared us no mercy in sending us our summer temperatures of mid 30's, from August.

July (our last winter month) was consistently warm, with cool morning conditions.

You can see from the below figures, that we have had no measurable rain to speak of for August or September. The theory is, is that if we get rains in Sept, it will be a bad rainfall season, so theoretically this is good news.

There are a lot of predictions about what our rainfall season will be like and whilst we wait with baited breath for the “heavens to open”, we try not to get anxious about what might or might not happen. But we all eagerly wait, as do many of you, to see the earth slowly being regenerated again.

The bush is incredibly dry but it is still looking better in most parts compared to last year.

We are seeing some new growth shoots coming through in some of the trees, which is good news for our browsers.

The Knobthorns were in full bloom in August, filling the air with its sweet fragrance.

The Klaserie River is completely dry again in front of Kitara and Nyeleti.

Photo: Bumper Graham



Photo: Rusty Hallam

Rainfall figures (mm)	July	Aug	Sep
<b>2015</b> : Nyeleti	0	0	38
Nzumba	0	0	34
<b>2016</b> : Nyeleti	5	0	5.5
Nzumba	22	0	8
<b>2017</b> : Nyeleti	2	0	0
Nzumba	0	0	0

## GENERAL GAME SIGHTINGS

Photo: Carol Patterson



Photo: Terry Berube



Our general game sightings have been fantastic throughout the quarter.

We are seeing vast numbers of giraffe. One of our repeat guests observed that he had seen an increase in numbers from his stay in Aug last year.

Nyeleti remains a garden of Eden during this very dry time with warthog, bushbuck, klipspringers, grysbok and a Nyala bull being fairly resident and rather relaxed around people, apart from the Klipspringers who can't help but venture in for food, but dart off in a panic.

The Nyala moves between Nyeleti and Kitara, probably the most relaxed out of all.

The warthog moved off from Nyeleti towards the end of August, and are occasionally at Kitara.

Very happy to report that, at this stage, the animals are all still looking in good condition.

A very confident civet made its way upstairs at Nzumba one evening and ended up spending the evening in the guest loos – you can imagine our housekeeper's face when she saw him the next morning!

Arguably, the best general game sighting has to be the pangolin that Rika saw on her way home one evening and called Werner and his guest in. A very rare and unique sighting.

3 bull sable antelope have been seen on the Olifants property.

Also 3 different sightings of honey badgers.

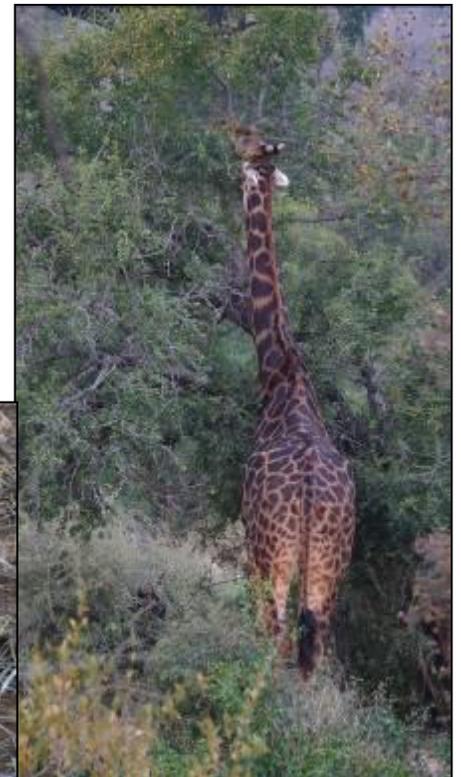


Photo: Rachel Ong (giraffe)

Photo: Carol Patterson (wildebeest)

Photo: Bumper Graham (pangolin)



## BIRDING

Photo: Kevin Penrose (barred owlet)



Photo: Ashleigh (juvenile fish eagle)



Photo: Carol Patterson (spotted eagle owl)



Our bird sightings, especially Raptors, has been prolific, including African Fish Eagles, Bataleurs, Marshall Eagles, Spotted Eagle Owl, Giant Eagle Owl, to name a few.

Werner and his guests saw 11 different raptors on their first day.

The Saddle Billed Stalk that I wrote about in the last newsletter have moved off since the river has dried up.

We are however still hearing a pair of African Fish Eagles calling from the riverbed.

The juvenile African Fish Eagle is still around Nzumba's waterhole (captured above by a patient Ashleigh). This clever raptor waits for the elephants to drink and bath in the water and rustle up the fish and then he swoops in, fishing made easy!

5 ground hornbills were also seen at Nzumba Waterhole.

The migratory birds will be returning again after their winter away.

The Wahlberg's Eagle has already been seen by Stefan.

Colourful sunbirds are still seen feeding on nectar from the winter wildflowers.

There is a pair of barred owlets nesting in the Knobthorn at Kitara by the boma.

## BIG GAME SIGHTINGS

### Rhino

Due to the severe high security risk on our rhino at present, we will not, until further notice, be updating our readers on any sightings or publishing any further pictures.

We urge you to please refrain from publishing any of your photos on any social media of any kind.

Thank you.

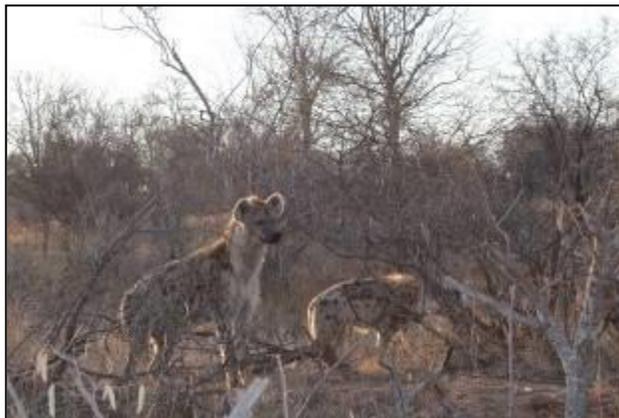


Photo: Jim Heyes

Our hyena sightings have been frequently recorded, with most guests having more than one sighting during their stay. Sightings have occurred over all areas of our property, as well as neighboring properties.

Some excellent sightings included 6 hyena on a kill with Werner, 7 hyena with a dead youngster with Stefan and 6 hyena following wild dog pack with Werner.

Photo: Stefan



Photo: Ed Waller



Photo: Davide & Katia Panepinto



This magnificent male on the left goes by the name of Duma – he is a (well-known) new male lion on the property & surrounds. He has come in from Balule Olifants West. He has not been seen since July but is known to roam a vast area.

Over the last quarter, our lion sightings have been frequent, with majority of our guests enjoying a sighting or more during their stay. The sightings have ranged from the Balule pride with cubs, on a giraffe kill (thanks Stefan for pic), to 3 females at Nzumba Waterhole, 3 adult males on a buffalo kill, a lot of sightings of various parts of the Dundee pride with cubs incl. 14 on an impala kill 500m from Nyeleti, to name a few.

Photo: Reuben Ward (9 yrs old)



Photo: Graham Racher



Photo: Stefan



Leopard sightings have remained good during the last 3 months. A definite increase in activity around Nyeleti; with about 3 different visuals from camp and a lot of audio. The best sighting has to be with Werner and his guests with 3 different leopards interacting, resulting in mom having it out with her older cub, whilst the younger cub was in the tree (captured above by Graham Racher). They got back to camp after that amazing sighting, to then see 2 more leopard at the waterhole! Werner also had visual of a female & male courting, as well as a male & female possibly mating in a different area.

Photo: Carol Patterson



Due to the continued drought, we are still not seeing the large breeding herds in any of the areas.

The largest herd we've seen was 40 at the Olifants.

However, there are sightings for majority of our guests. Sightings comprise of dagga boys and small breeding herds.

We had a sighting of 5 dagga boys in the riverbed in front of Nyeleti.

Most sightings are taking place at the Olifants River, and in the riverbeds at Timbila, Bernitz and Hot Spot

Photo: Bumper Graham



Elephants elephants elephants everywhere!!

Sightings have been constant throughout our properties & neighboring properties, comprising of small breeding herds, to breeding herds 65 strong, to lone bulls.

Guests have had the pleasure of enjoying frequent sightings during their stay.

There have also been some lovely herds keeping Nzumba Waterhole active, as well as in front of Kitara and Nyeleti.

We've also had 2 stubborn bulls that have each broken into Nzumba and Kitara, determined to keep Don, Werner and Stefan occupied.

Photo: Stefan



In my last newsletter, I reported that the pack of wild dog were denning on a property close by (that we don't have access to).

Well the great news is that in the last week of September, the dogs brought their pups onto our property for a phenomenal sighting: 3 dogs killed in front of room 1 at Kitara.

They then moved off onto Thompson's and killed an impala.

They met up with the rest of the pack and fed the pups. Guests saw the dogs hunt, kill & feed the pups!

In Werner's words "an excellent sighting".

The following day, the whole pack, with pups, spent the whole day in the river bed in front of Nyeleti – they took the kids to the beach for day!!

## BUSH THOUGHTS by Reuben Ward, 9 years old

Lisa, Reuben's mom, shared this story that Reuben wrote as part of his homework, on his return from his visit to South Africa (written exactly as he did):

### MORNING DRIVE IN KLASERIE CAMPS



At 6 o'clock you are woken up to go on a early morning drive. Sometimes you can hear lions or hyena on the rocky river calling.

To go on the morning drive, you are supposed to bring warm clothes, sun hat and sun cream for when it warms up.

Before you drive, there is a selection of delicious biscuits but you have to be quick because they will be gone very quickly.

When that's all over it is time to meet your drive and brilliant tracker who helps you see the animals, like lion, hyena, leopard, elephant, caracal and honey badgers.

Once you are in an open space you have delicious rusks and biscuits to dip in your coffee & tea and hot chocolate for kids.

At 11.00 you are back to do what you want until you go out again at 3.30.

*Lisa & Reuben Ward (Moriti Safaris, Jul 2017)*

## GUESTBOOK PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE!!!

Please check out our website ..... [www.klaseriecamps.com](http://www.klaseriecamps.com)  
Please write in our on-line guest book, your feedback is much appreciated!



For those of you who would like regular updates on exciting happenings and aren't already on our Facebook, please "like" our Klaserie Camps page. We look forward to seeing you there!



We are on Instagram, so for all the Instagramers out there, please follow us and keep up to date on the wonderful photos we share: klaseriecamps

### Photos:

Thank you Rusty Hallam, Rachel Ong, Carol Patterson, Terry Berube, Bumper Graham, Ed Waller, Jim Heyes, Davide & Katia Panepinto, Stefan, Ashleigh, Kevin Penrose, Reuben – thank you so much for sharing your story & pics with us – very special!, Ashleigh – thank you for re-doing our header and Werner – the gatherer of Nzumba guests photos

### Written by:

Lee-Anne Detert

### Contact details:

Website: [www.klaseriecamps.com](http://www.klaseriecamps.com)

Reservations: [klaseriecamps@rawifi.co.za](mailto:klaseriecamps@rawifi.co.za)