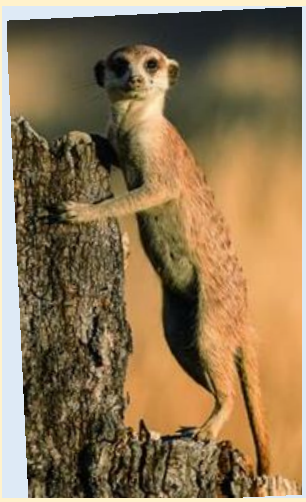
R

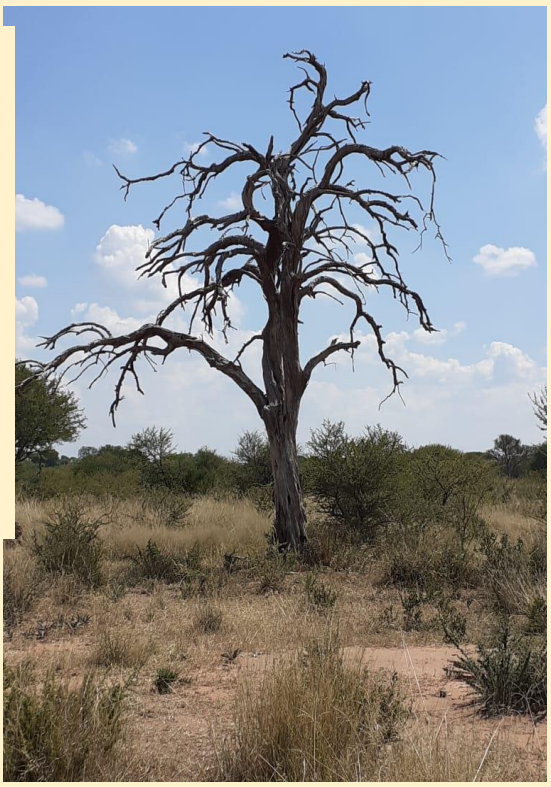
# APRIL 2020

## THE PACE OF THE CHANGING SEASON

Routine has been the name of the game for as long as we can remember. At school our routine was determined by a school bell. Later it was determined by our alarm clocks and watches. Time is money ……., don't waste time ……., time flies …….. In this "time" of lockdown, routine has significantly changed.
Alarm clocks and watches do not determine the next meeting, appointment or conference anymore. On Ditholo, it seems, that nature has become the metronome that determines the pace.

For some reason this pace makes one breath easier, relax more and leave one with strength and hope for the future.
Autumn is now in the air and just as the season are changing, we believe that our season of lockdown and uncertainty will also pass and be replaced with one of hope, love and peace





## ESTATE RULES

If you do not have the rules of the Estate displayed in your house, please pick up laminated copy / fridge magnet and key holders at the gate

# NATIONAL LOCKDOWN – COVID-19 VIRUS

The National lockdown came suddenly and we trained and educated the staff on how to keep safe. All the staff members of the Homeowners Association volunteered to stay at Ditholo during this time. Great thanks to Dawid, Phillemon, Joseph, America, Wilson and Phillemon (Philly at the gate) for being on standby during this time.

NERSA confirmed a 8.67% increase in the Standard Tariff effective from 1 April 2020. Meter Mate charges for Summer are:
Monthly fixed charge R102.90. Summer rate per unit R2.01. Winter rate not yet confirmed.

**Why is there a monthly fixed charge?**

**Fixed charges on each of the 3 bills include:**

| |
|---|
| Fixed service fee p/d and per transformer |
| Network capacity fee p/day and per transformer |

**Energy charges are then based on:**

| |
|---|
| High demand season [Jun - Aug] Standard Rate per kwh OR Low demand season [Sep - May] Standard Rate per kwh |
| Ancillary service charge [c/kWh] |
| Network demand charge [c/kWh] |
| High / Low Season Land Rate 1,2,3 / Ruraflex. Reactive energy Charge is based on Peak/Standard/Off-Peak for specific periods on specific days and at different rates for winter and summer. Meter Mate takes all the above into consideration when determining prices. |

CRIMSON BREASTED SHRIKE
ROOIBORSLAKSMAN

**Please share your sightings & photos of Ditholo with us.**

**Email to gerda@wbpm.co.za**

# INTERESTING FACTS

# THE BLUE WILDEBEEST

The blue wildebeest occurs in five distinct subspecies, each subtly different in size and colouration. The western white-bearded wildebeest of the Serengeti has a white beard, for instance, while the beard of the larger common wildebeest, found in southern Africa, is black.

Around 80–90% of blue wildebeest calves are born within a synchronized two-to three-week birthing window, usually at the start of the rains when there is plenty of fresh growth to enable females to produce milk.

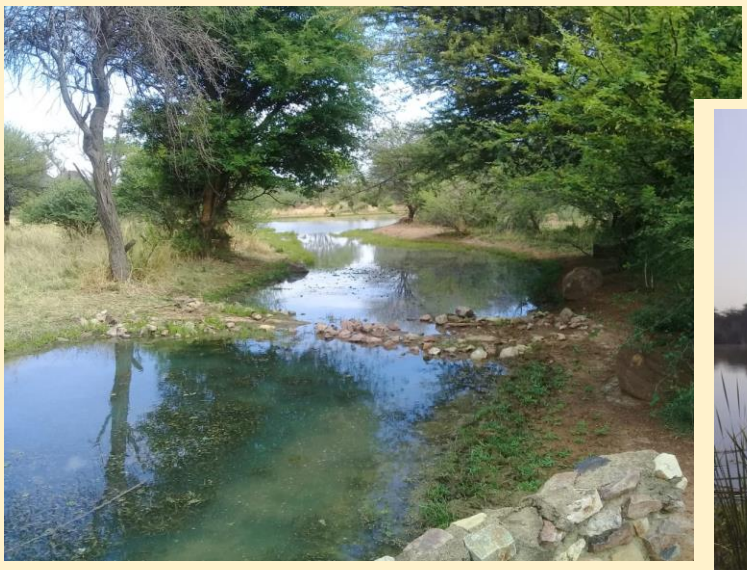
Blue wildebeest avoid competition with the plains zebra that often graze alongside them by eating different parts of the grass. While zebra prefer the longer grasses, using their tougher digestive systems and shearing front teeth to process this coarser diet, wildebeest prefer the shorter grasses down low, where their broader muzzle allows them to maximise their grazing efficiency.

The Blue Wildebeest, a grazing herd animal has achieved fame as the key player in the Serengeti's 'Great Migration', which is routinely described as the greatest

**Mike Unwin :** Mike is an award winning wildlife writer, editor of Travel Zambia magazine and author of the Bradt Guide to Southern African Wildlife.

# GENERAL NEWS

- SES Anti-Poaching is patrolling the fence together with the HOA staff who are also doing regular unscheduled patrols. The anti-poaching unit is focussing on showing presence of patrols and sweeping the Estate for snares.
- Major bush clearance is planned for 2020. The team have already cleared the fence boundaries and treated with chemicals. The plan is to make use of temporary workers to cover larger areas, but is on hold until the National Pandemic is stabilised.
- Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the staff are not allowed to continue with any other normal work other than patrolling the fence line, removing refuse and monitoring the security. All of them are on standby in case of an emergency



## Entrance Gate

The Staff at the gate is there to provide and monitor entrance of all owners, staff, guests, suppliers to the Lodge and contractors.

The times that the gate is manned is from 6H00 in the morning until 18H00 in the afternoon. As the staff member is staying in the accommodation facility at the gate for the duration of his duty of 7 days, he is available to open for anyone who arrives after 18H00. Please ring the bell at the gate.

We requested the Lodge to supply the staff at the gate with a daily arrivals list with expected time of arrival. We would also like to request that home owners contact the gate for late arrivals to their houses. Please use the standby contact number during the day to make arrangements for late arrivals.

# WEATHER

| January 2020 | High | Low | Ave |
|---|---|---|---|
| Temperature | 34.3 C | 15.9 C | 23.8 C |
| Dew Point | 24.5 C | -8.3 C | 14.8 C |
| Humidity | 99 % | 10 % | 62 % |
| Precipitation | 152.90 mm | -- | -- |

| February 2020 | High | Low | Ave |
|---|---|---|---|
| Temperature | 33.1 C | 15.4 C | 23.3 C |
| Dew Point | 19.8 C | -6.1 C | 6.6 C |
| Humidity | 94 % | 10 % | 40 % |
| Precipitation | 48 mm | -- | -- |

| March 2020 | High | Low | Ave |
|---|---|---|---|
| Temperature | 33.4 C | 13.1 C | 22.5 C |
| Dew Point | 16.4 C | -8.4 C | 3.0 C |
| Humidity | 94 % | 10 % | 33 % |
| Precipitation | 152.90 mm | -- | -- |

| April 2020 | High | Low | Ave |
|---|---|---|---|
| Temperature | 30.3 C | 11.9 C | 19.7 C |
| Dew Point | 16.2 C | -8.8 C | 3.9 C |
| Humidity | 98 % | 10 % | 40 % |
| Precipitation | 19.05 mm | -- | -- |

# IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Estate Support | 24 Hours (voice calls only)<br>24 Hours (calls and WhatsApp) | 064 838 6916<br>078 171 2210 |
| Estate Supervisor | Dawid Slabbert | 083 432 5542 |
| WPM Property Managers | Gerda Barnard (Managing Agent)<br>gerda@wbpm.co.za | 083 291 6113 |
| Pieter Engelbrecht | Anything game related | 072 450 1502 |
| Ditholo Game Lodge | Restaurant and Game drive bookings | 014 001 7023 |
| Police | SAPS Bela-Bela | 014 736 9700 |
| **Medical (Emergencies)** | | |
| Ambulance | Provincial ambulance Bela-Bela | 014 736 2121 |
| Provincial Hospital | Bela-Bela Provincial Hospital | 014 736 2310 |
| St Vincent Private Hospital | Private Hospital in Bela-Bela | 014 736 2310 |
| Trauma | Private ambulance service | 014 736 2831 |
| **Medical (General)** | | |
| Van Heerden Pharmacy | Weekdays 08:30 – 18:00<br>Saturdays 08:30 – 13:30<br>Sundays and Holidays<br>10:00 – 12:00 & 17:00 – 19:00 | 014 736 2301 |
| Drs Bergh & Coertze<br>Drs Emslie & De Jonge<br>Drs Grobler & De Villiers | Local doctors based in Bela-Bela | 014 736 2290<br>014 736 2032<br>014 736 2220 |