

# Founders Awards Evening

*Many of you may or may not know that there are sadly only 4 ( four) of the original Honorary Rangers Founder members left namely: Dudley Schaaf, Arthur Jaffe, Eric Holtzhausen & Harold Resnick.*

JHB region along with some members of SANParks ( Glenn Phillips—Managing Executive Tourism & Marketing Development, Joep Stevens—General Manager Tourism Operations) and NEC members ( Janssen Davies NEC chairperson and a member of JHB region, Andre Vosloo—Vice chairperson of the NEC, Andre van der Merwe—Vice person of the NEC, Johan Brankin—NEC member, Cedric Haopgood-Strickland—NEC member) and also the East Rand region ( Clive Webber—Chairperson of East Rand and other members that attended) all had the great honor of honoring 3 of the 4 members on the 20th July 2009 in a small but pleasant awards ceremony:

The evening started with a brief JHB regional monthly meeting. Thereafter Alison Esterhuysen (Chairperson of JHB Region) invited all our guests from SANParks, NEC members, members from the East Rand Region and of course members of the JHB region, Alison then handed over to Janssen.

Janssen had the privilege to hand over the first ever HR Platinum award to Glenn Phillips. Before doing so he explained why Glenn was receiving this award: 7 years ago Glenn started at SANParks as the

Tourism Director, he was later appointed the task of taking over the repositioning of HR's within SANParks from being a "police force" and into more of a position of contributing to SANParks. During this time there was a lot of change and transformation within SANParks management structure. The new board wanted to dissolve HR's and start afresh with "friends of SANParks" instead. However Glenn Phillips became our "hero" and won the board over when he took HR's "under his wing" and created what our vision and mission statement to SANParks is today.

That is why we have honored him with the HR Platinum award.

After accepting the award Glenn said that never in his life time has he seen so many people who are so devoted to something as much as what HR's are and virtually for nothing, he quoted: "It has been quite a ride". Glenn thanked everybody and said that he really appreciates what HR's do.



Janssen Davies—NEC chairman & a member of JHB HR



Janssen Davies handing Glenn Phillips the first ever HR Platinum award

## Handing out of the Lifetime achievement awards



Janssen Davies, Harold Resnick, Glenn Phillips

Before handing out the awards to 3 of our remaining founder members, Janssen gave a quick run down as to why these awards are being given and the meaning behind them. A lifetime achievement award means there has been 45 years of continuous service, no sabbaticals, no missing of Indaba's, and full active participation in every way. "Which also means that they no longer have to pay yearly subs." Let us not forget the most important fact - these four gentleman are the reason that HR still exists today.

Honorary Rangers was started in July of 1964 .

Dudley Schoof was given his life time achievement award at the Indaba held at the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park held on the 9th May 2009.

Harold Resnick from East Rand Region was the first to receive his award, he jokingly said that he has been married for 42 years but when he got here and saw all the wonderful faces but could not remember all the ladies names, he was going to take out a pen and paper, write down all the names and then at the end of the evening have a lucky draw and which ever name was pulled would

get to take him home. On a more serious note he thinks back to humans, animals and how many people he has met over the years been a member of HR. He has 2 great grand children and is pleased to be able to have given them and others something of himself in the form of been an HR member as well as helping to conserve our land. Harold's closing words touched me as they are so true: *"The future is in our hands, lets not make the animals of today the dinosaurs of tomorrow"*

The second award went to Arthur Jaffe from JHB region. Arthur remembered back to the days when HR's were "the police force" and they all had ticket booklets for people who misbehaved, speeding, climbing out their cars etc. He told us a story about one of the times when he and Val (his loving wife) met up with two elderly ladies that had just arrived at Skukuza camp and went on to explain that they had hired a car from "Jan Smuts airport" as it was known back then. As they had driven to Skukuza and wanted to know where the lions were? Obvi-

**"The future is in our hands, lets not make the animals of today the dinosaurs of tomorrow"**



Janssen Davies, Arthur Jaffe, Glenn Phillips

ously shocked as we all know we don't have tracking devices ourselves for where each animal in the park is, he went on to try and explain to these two ladies how big the park was and said it was about the size of England. But luckily for these two ladies, it just so happened that on their way from Satara, Arthur and Val had seen some lions and explained to the ladies where they were and how to get to them. A while after Arthur and Val had finished their lunch they were off again on their merry way. But about 10km up the road they saw the empty vehicle of these two ladies, with the windows open and car abandoned, they thought well they must have had some car trouble. Arthur, being the gentleman that he is, thought he would just close their car windows as the baboons can be quite something and didn't want any damage to come to their rented car. Low and

behold; about 10 feet into the bush from their car, there were these two ladies sitting on a blanket in the middle of the bush having a picnic not very far from where Arthur and Val had spotted the lions earlier that day. After Arthur gave the ladies a "rapping" on their knuckles, the ladies explained that they were so excited about been in the park that they never read any of the information brochures or pamphlets they were given, so they had no clue that they weren't allowed to climb out of their car.

Arthur's closing words of wisdom was that not only has he been engulfed by a wave of animals, but also by a wave of fellowship and love by everybody. He quoted " Thanks to management and the "big knobs". Good luck to all"

Last but not least, the youngest member of the 4, Eric Holtzhausen was handed his award. Eric said Arthur had already mentioned the ticket booklets earlier. So he wanted to share a story with us about a jackal that had been reported to them (Eric and his lovely wife Betty). The Jackal had been knocked down and killed. They were staying in one of the bungalows in Satara. In the bungalow next to them, Eric noticed that the car parked there had blood stains on it and in the car was a hunting rifle in plain view, not even covered. Eric did his HR duty and reported him to Piet Botha, but he sadly does not know what the outcome of the reporting was. Eric went on to say that he has met many people, rangers and head rangers while he was on duty or just visiting the park including the late Bruce Bryden. One of the Head Rangers that Eric had met, Hannes Klopper, wrote 3 books, "Veld Wagter, Gee my n man, My Vader was n held". Eric was given all 3 of these books that had been bound in leather to form one book as a gift from Andre Kloppers (Hannes Kloppers son)

Andre wrote an inscription in the book to Eric that he shared with us: "

*"Aan Eric..*

*Daar's n plek waar jy niks besit nie...  
Maar waar ook niks jou ont breek  
nie.....Omdat God daar is.....*

*Die Wildtuin is so n plek! Dankie vir  
jou aandeel, om die "tuin" vir die  
nageslag so mooi te bewaar!"*

*Groete Andre Kloppers "*

*"To Eric....*

*There's a place where you own nothing...  
But also where you are not in  
need of anything...because God is  
there.....*

*The Kruger National Park is such a  
place! Thank you for your part in  
preserving the "Garden" for future  
generations to enjoy"*

*Signed Andre Kloppers*



Jonathan Davies, Eric Holtzhausen, Glenn Phillips

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A special thanks to Alison Esterhuysen and everybody else that was involved in making this an evening to remember. "That would include the "paparazzi"



3 of our Founder members: Arthur Jaffe, Harold Resnick, Eric Holtzhausen



Arthur & Val Jaffe, Harold & Edna Resnick, Eric & Betty Holtzhausen

written by Angie Zietsman