

# Honorary Rangers public awareness campaign

**THE recently formed Honorary Rangers – Johannesburg South hosted its first public awareness campaign earlier this month.**

The display, at the Trade Route Mall from June 14 to 16, attracted young and old visitors.

It was hosted by the Lenasia-based Honorary Rangers – Johannesburg South, which is part of the more than 500 South African National Parks (SANParks) volunteers nationally, who promote nature and wildlife conservation.

Among the displays were various animal skulls, such as that of a white rhino, hippo, buffalo, impala and lion. Visitors could touch and feel some of the smaller skulls, like that of the crocodile, tortoise and vervet monkey.

The two huge model elephant tusks proved popular, as well as an array of animal skins. This complemented the colourful visual displays

of the wide range of animals found in SANParks.

Among the various videos throughout the weekend was a DVD screening of *Stalking Leopards*, and a display of snakes which prompted one visitor to remark that he was scared of the creatures.

There was an intriguing display of Kruger Park elephants, called the Magnificent Seven. These were elephants recorded with the largest tusks.

Visitors were also made aware of the harm poachers caused in the parks, with exhibits of the cruel and deadly devices used by the animal thieves.

The honorary rangers from Lenasia were assisted by experienced rangers from the Johannesburg region, whose chairperson, Ashraf Sayed, was pleased by the way people supported the SANParks' Public Education and Awareness Project

(PEAP).

"This is a first for our community and the response has been phenomenal," he said. "The outreach programme will benefit those interested in nature conservation."

Also impressed was the Johannesburg Region's Rob Beckwith.

Many showed keen interest in the efforts of honorary rangers. While some people donated funds towards the cause, others were keen on joining them.

To become an honorary ranger, one has to complete certain courses, undertake field trips, submit assignments and attend monthly meetings.

Persons interested in becoming honorary rangers should contact Ashraf Sayed on 083-290-7963.

Pics courtesy of LENZINFO

