His journey to selection is just as intriguing as his explanation of how the game works. He started playing back in 2001 at a bowling club in Pretoria and 10 years later was spurred on by someone who encouraged him to start competing. He took up the challenge by competing in what he calls ‘bread and butter bowls’ playing against local teams in Irene (Pretoria). His eyes light up as he explains the trick to mastering the sport. “The competitive edge in bowling lies in muscle memory and more than average practice. The bowls bend, they don’t run straight down the line. What I like about bowling teams is that athletes with disabilities get to play in the same team as able-bodied ones,” he says.

Now, as a member of the Knysna bowling club, he will be flying the flag high for Knysna!

SANParks is used to the winning pattern where Chris is concerned. As far back as 2003, he put the organisation on the map by trailblazing projects with infrastructure suitable for physically challenged people.

As Chris is techno-savvy, readers can follow his postings and developments on the SANParks twitter accounts: @SANParksGRNP and @SANParks
Compliments received

Addo Elephant
I wish to commend the gentleman by the name of Kleinbooi who works in the camping area of AENP. This neatly-dressed gentleman always has a smile, even in the February heat and is more than willing to ably assist campers to set up camp. He is a true gem and brilliant ambassador for SANParks.

Garden Route - Wilderness
Ons is die afgelope paar jaar gereeld besoekers aan Ebb en Flow gedurende Januarie en ook gedurende die jaar wanneer ons n wegbreek nodig het. Ek wil graag van die geleentheid gebruik maak om almal betrokke deur die park harte te bedank vir uitstekende en vriendelike diens. Van ontvangs wat ons elke jaar verwelkom tot die netjiesse kampplaats en huisies, tot die skoonmaak en sekuriteits personeel wat uitstekende werk verrig. Ons kan net met liefde praat van Ebb en Flow – die natuur, kamp en personeel – en talle vriende en familie het reeds by julie besoek afgele op ons aanbeveling.

Ons glo ons gaan nog baie goeie tye by Ebb en Flow deurbring in die toekoms.

Compliment of the month:
Hi there,

My name is Nathan Veitch and on 3 January, my mom and I went to Karoo National Park for a day trip. I feel it very necessary to write this email as we really had the most amazing time at the Park. We cannot thank SANParks enough for what they are doing at the Karoo Park. We were not sure what to expect when we got there, but we were blown away. The facilities at the Park are amazing and clean, the chalets look great and everyone that we were planning on staying the night when we go to Jo’burg at the end of this year. The park was peaceful and informative.

On top of this, I have to mention our interaction with the staff. I cannot stop telling my friends how amazing, friendly and eager to help all of them were, especially Patricia at the front desk and Jan Jacobs at the Interpretive Centre. If SANParks has any kind of employee good work notice, please can you give those two a special mention?

Patricia was amazing at the front desk. From the moment my mom and I entered, she was willing to help, had an amazing smile all the time and her enthusiasm about the day and what the Karoo Park had to offer was so refreshing to experience. When we got to the Park we were already excited, but the joy and pleasantness with which she greeted us just made the start to our morning all the better.

Jan Jacobs was yet another pleasant, full of life, exciting and informative SANParks gem. I say gem because to call him an employee would diminish what he meant to my mom and my experience. We were just about to leave the rest camp and go for a drive around the Park when we saw a sign to the Interpretive Centre and we wondered what that was, so we went to investigate. That was when we bumped into Jan Jacobs and both of us were so glad that we did. His love for nature and conservation goes above and beyond what we ever would have expected. I could have listened to him speak all day. His passion really shone through in what he was telling us about the Park and the amazing work they do with the education of the locals regarding conservation and the need for it. SANParks is very blessed to have someone like Jan working for them. You can see when someone loves their job and I noticed that the more Jan spoke, the more his eyes lit up.

All in all, we had an amazing time and would really like to send a special thank you to all the staff at the Park. Everyone from the staff member at the gate who let us in, the game rangers who were so willing to tell us where the game was, the friendly staff at the restaurant, the amazing ladies at the front desk, all the staff at the Interpretive Centre and the lady at the curio shop – they all made our day with their friendliness, happiness and willingness to go the extra mile for whatever we asked. It just made the ending to our holiday all the more special.

Thank you and may SANParks have an amazing year in conservation and may this year be amazing for all the parks around South Africa.

Warmest regards
Nathan Veitch
The SANPark’s Honorary Rangers in the Addo region recently conducted a bush clearing exercise inside one of Addo Elephant National Park’s bomas and at the Nyathi waterhole at main camp.

The boma area was cleared of shrubs and weeds along the electric fence and an acacia tree was undercut and cleared to provide shade for any new arrivals.

Most of the team’s work was done around the Nyathi waterhole, where two acacia trees which were obstructing the view from the lookout at the main camp, were trimmed. The shrubs and spekboom at the underground hide were also trimmed, ensuring an uninterrupted view of the waterhole.

SANParks rangers who were on high alert following a mugging incident in the Park at the end of February were alerted to a hiker who fell by other hikers who witnessed the incident and rushed to the scene.

Ranger in Wilderness, Jonathan Britton, confirmed that two French visitors were on the Brown hooded Kingfisher trail and went off it when they reached the waterfall on Sunday 27 February. The area off the trail where the hiker walked was slippery due to the previous evening’s rainfall. He unfortunately slipped and fell some 20-30 meters into the waterfall.

Rangers alerted emergency services partners including mountain rescue and volunteers from Plettenberg Bay who rushed to the scene. Rangers train in conjunction with emergency services and have first aid skills and other emergency training. The operation was tricky and it took the whole night to bring the young man up. He was transported to the George hospital with a broken leg and rib.

SANParks has invested in building good quality trails. Fourteen of them have Green flag status, which is a system that ensures hiking trails in South Africa meet standards in terms of ‘trail outlay, facilities and service, as well as the conservation of natural resources’. In turn, hikers are guaranteed that their expectations will be met and that they also receive value for money. Responding to the incident, Park Manager of Garden Route National Park, Paddy Gordon, said “Trails are a good investment in visitor safety and we urge all our visitors to not go off the trails but stick to walking the set out trails. We wish the young man a speedy recovery.”
World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on 2 February, with one of the aims of the day to raise awareness on the important role wetlands play in our daily lives. This year’s theme was “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”.

Addo Elephant National Park’s People and Conservation Department took the message to the nearby Malmaison and Selborne Primary Schools on 5 and 6 February. P&C student, Nonjabulo Buthelezi, engaged with the youngsters about the importance of conserving wetlands and kept them busy with a variety of fun, practical exercises which put their imaginations to the test.

Addo celebrates World Wetlands Day

Beaufort West Marathon

The SANParks Honorary Rangers from Karoo National Park manned one of the waterpoints along the Beaufort West Marathon on 10 February.

Rain, beautiful rain!
The majestic Sundays River flowing strongly in the Darlington section of Addo Elephant National Park after some good rain during February.
The Addo Elephant Trail Run took place over the weekend of 2 to 4 March with over 400 participants. The 100 miler course had a new record time of 19h48 set by Antoine Guillon. Bradley Hyman (24h58) came in second place followed by Eduan Adams (25h45) in third place. The 76km first place winner, Stewart Chaperone, completed the race in over 7h33, while the winner of the 44km, Mvuyisi Gcogco, finished first in 3h44.

Addo staff members, Deshi Mange, a general worker at Zuurberg, finished the 76km in 14h40 while Ranger, Clive Hendriks, completed the 76km race in 16h36. Congratulations to all who took part in the race, especially those who finished under wet, trying conditions.