

Role model ranger arrives by bike

■ Fran Kirsten

Honorary SANParks Ranger Wayne Bolton arrived at the SANParks Ebb & Flow Rest Camp on Sunday 31 January. This stop formed part of his 6 000km cycle route that will take him to 19 national parks around the country.

Bolton is by no means alone in his venture. His much-needed support team consists of three Bolton generations - his mother, father, father-in-law, daughter, son and wife.

Bolton's wife, Nikki, an honorary ranger herself, has been at his side from the inception of the tour. His daughter, Laura (19), also an honorary ranger, and his son, Daniel (22), cycle certain legs with their father, while Nikki spends every minute with him on the road taking care of the finer details of the expedition.

"We are an ordinary family trying to do extraordinary things," said Bolton on his arrival in Wilderness where he was met by several SANParks rangers, honorary rangers, staff as well as the area manager for the Wilderness section of the Garden Route National Park (GRNP), Sandra Taljaard.

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Bolton's cycle expedition, One Land - Love it (OLLI), started on 28 November with a promise to strengthen ranger corps efforts against the plight of rhino poaching as well as the protection of other species and wetlands.

In welcoming Bolton to Wilderness, Taljaard told those present, "Wayne Bolton's visit to the GRNP highlights the significant role played by honorary rangers in raising additional funds for the parks that would

otherwise not have been raised. He also encourages rangers by showing them the role they play in the conservation of nature."

Following an informal welcome by the SANPark rangers and honorary rangers, Bolton presented a Scroll of Unity in Conservation to be signed by her, as was now the custom, on his bicycle seat. Bolton is carrying this Scroll of Unity in Conservation throughout his expedition.

At the end of his tour he would have collected the signatures of various conservation stakeholders around the country.

He intends to have included the minister of Environmental Affairs, the CEO of SANParks, the park managers of each national park,



Garden Route National Park rangers support the Wilderness Section manager of the Garden Route National Park, Sandra Taljaard (front right), on receipt of the Scroll of Unity.

RIGHT: Wayne Bolton, who is currently on a 6 000km cycle around 19 national parks in South Africa, attracted the attention of the media on his arrival in Wilderness on Sunday 31 January.

SANParks honorary ranger chairmen and representatives of participating corporates by the end of his journey.

Bolton urged collaboration from the public and invited them to partner with OLLI. For further information on Bolton's expedition and the One Land - Love it campaign visit www.oneland.co.za.

