

SANPARKS HONORARY RANGERS BOARD NOMINATION 2026

Election Manifesto: Riaan Potgieter (SHR2646)

If I am re-elected to serve another term on the SHR Board I will aim to further my commitment to represent the interests of the members of the SHR, ensuring that the volunteer character of the organisation is maintained. I believe in consultation and consensus as essential building blocks of decision-making, and that transparency in all we do is not negotiable, from Board-level, through executive management and committees, to the regional level.

I believe the Board needs to enable an organisation that can stand the test of time with excellence, credibility and integrity. The developments on the conservation front in the light of SANParks' Vision 2040 and the concept of Mega Living Landscapes demand more of the SHR than previously, and the optimal use of our resources will ensure that we remain relevant. This impacts on our fundraising capacity and the ability of members to perform the wide array of activities and duties. This implies that the organisation should simultaneously strengthen its accountability to sponsors, SANParks, and members, whilst streamlining bureaucratic processes in the SHR, with innovative ideas which can be found within the expertise of our membership.

In ensuring that I keep abreast of the concerns of members, I have remained actively involved in regional activities, e.g., fundraising events and duty, in among others, the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, and in hosting of Sandriver Bush Camps. This is an aspect that I believe should be essential for all members elected to the SHR Board. The concern raised by many members that the increasing costs of membership is inhibiting continued membership to the SHR, is a worrying factor for me, and the current economic reality of the fuel price is a case in point.

I will endeavour to strengthen cooperation between regions and all SHR structures, so as to ensure that the dire needs of SANParks can be addressed more equitably. This can assist in ensuring the credibility of the SHR throughout the network of national parks and MLLs. I also believe that cooperation between different organisations and bodies within the conservation field, is a key component for the success of the conservation drive in the diverse South African landscape.

Curriculum Vitae : Riaan Potgieter



Charl Riaan Potgieter: born on 31 January 1962.

Academic Qualification: BA Social Sciences.

Married to Abramie Potgieter (Grobelaar)

Work experience:

- National Intelligence Service/National Intelligence Agency (1985 – 1996)
- Director of Nucleus Import & Distributors (1996 – 2001)
- Business Manager at Engen Bloemfontein (2002 – 2011)
- Moved to Berlin, Germany where my wife was employed at the SA Embassy as a Counsellor.
- Work experience in project management, investigations, training, personnel management, retail management, client liaison, stock control and procurement, financial aspects, operational aspects in the business environment, information technology (IT) and retail security, as well as liaison with a broad range of people from different cultural and ethnical backgrounds.
- Training received during this period included investigation skills, project management and various managerial courses, IT, First Aid, and marketing strategies, protocol, etiquette and language skills.
- I also obtained a level 1 FGASA qualification, an indication of my love of and commitment to nature.

SHR Experience:

- Joined the SHR in 2016.
- Elected to the RMC Pretoria Region 2017
- Elected as Vice-Chair 2018
- Acting Chair since September 2019
- Elected as Chairperson in 2020, served as Chairperson up to September 2024 when I was elected to the Board.
- Served on several CC Committees and on the National Remuneration and HR Committee (NRHRC) Board Committee from 2019 to 2024 where valuable SHR management experience was gained.
- Elected to the SHR Board in 2024.
- Served as committee member and Chairperson of the NRHRC Board Committee since September 2025.