

LCBT awards top local businesses

Christine Rossouw

NELSPRUIT – On Friday night, the cream of the Lowveld’s business and tourism industries converged on the Emnotweni Arena for the 10th annual Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (LCBT) Awards Banquet.

The annual award ceremony is the most prestigious business function of the year and is the only platform in the Lowveld that specifically honours outstanding accomplishments in business and tourism operations as well as business and tourism leadership in the area.

As nominations are made in the public domain for these awards in a n adjudication process, facilitated by the LCBT, the awards form a significant way in which the business and tourism community gives recognition to excellence in these sectors and in so doing, build confidence in the local business community.

“The LCBT Annual Awards is always the highlight of the year. The success of this function here tonight speaks for itself and I thank every one of the many people who made this happen,” said LCBT president Mr Nick Elliot. Mayor Mr Lassy Chiwato praised all the nominees for making the shortlist and expressed his confidence in the business and tourism sectors in continuing to grow not only Mpumalanga’s economy, but its status as a world class tourist destination.

In a surprise accolade acknowledgement, LCBT president Mr Nick Elliot called all three nominees for the Community Service Award up on stage, Ms Flicka Goslett of the Umjindi Jewellery Project, Ms Annesta Hofer of the Greater Rape Intervention Project (GRIP) and category winner ms Benita Nel of Childline to receive a donated cash prize and handed over the cheques and certificate in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments and valuable contribution to the Lowveld community.

In his keynote address Mr Nick Elliot highlighted the major achievements and projects undertaken by the LCBT during the course of the past year. No less than 23 networking events and training workshops were hosted during the year and the LCBT facilitated monthly visits to the Mbombela Stadium for members of the public. LCBT also enjoyed a significant growth in their membership from 290 in October 2008 to the present figure of 340, constituting a growth of more than 17% from 2008. The chamber of business introduced an online advertising facility, which had a fantastic take-off, allowing members to offer their goods and services to one another.

“We will continue to serve our members by regular engagement with the authorities and other relevant organizations on a local, provincial and national level” promised Elliot.



Ms Sandra Jacobs presents Mr Sertorio Mshothola of Ntwanano Tours and Travel with his award for winning in the hospitality small category.



Ms Sandra Jacobs (LCBT tourism chairman), Ms Erika Human of Absa (sponsor of hospitality small award) and winner Mr Sertorio Mshothola of Ntwanano Tours & Travel.