



**AfriForum**

'n Inisiatief van Solidariteit  
An initiative of Solidarity



# BILTONG BULLETIN

Number 24 - August/September 2007

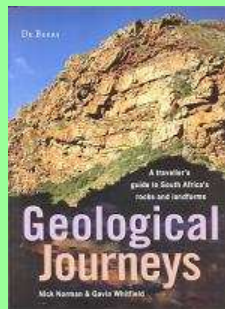
Dear Readers!

As usual, we start with the formalities: To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, send your comments or a contribution, contact us at [alana@solidariteit.co.za](mailto:alana@solidariteit.co.za). This free newsletter for South Africans living abroad appears on a monthly basis in both Afrikaans and English. New subscribers are always most welcome. Remember that even though we select our advertisers with great care, we cannot guarantee their services and cannot be held responsible for their actions.

## BOOKWORMS' CORNER

This week I bought a lovely book that will travel with me in South Africa in future. If you travel in South Africa often, or are interested in the country's geology, you will also love it. It is called:

**Geological Journeys: A Traveller's Guide to South Africa's Rocks and Landforms** by Gavin Whitfield and Nick Norman. It can be ordered from [www.kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net) at R170.96. It is a soft-cover book, published by Struik, with 320 glossy pages, 300 full-colour illustrations, 35 diagrams and 40 maps. It is described as follows:



**Geological journeys** - a traveller's guide to South Africa's rocks and landforms is an essential companion for car journeys. For those who wonder about the jaunty tilt of a mountain ahead, the unusual patterns of a road cutting, the colour and texture of the roadside soil, or the purpose of a distant mine head, this volume offers answers and explanations about features along all the major routes across South Africa, and some of the lesser, but geologically interesting, routes too. Also included are the three main metropolitan areas – Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban – so that city residents can understand the geological features surrounding them. Using familiar landmarks to pinpoint sites and subtle phenomena, the authors bring to light our rich geological heritage, its likely roots and often tumultuous history. Along the way, they also discuss the historical background, personalities and stories that relate to the landscape.

## WEB SITES

Do you know what is happening in the rest of the world as I am typing here and you are reading there? Visit [www.chippynews.com/worldclock.htm](http://www.chippynews.com/worldclock.htm) to find out – it is most interesting!

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Sandra writes from Italy to tell us that [www.kuduclub.com](http://www.kuduclub.com) is a great site for South Africans abroad who are interested in watching MNET. Thanks, Sandra!

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Do you know what to do to survive when your vehicle plunges into deep water (literally)? The Arrive Alive web site has tips in this regard under “In case of emergency”. Visit [http://www.arrivealive.co.za/pages.asp?mc=emergency&nc=Submerged\\_Vehicle](http://www.arrivealive.co.za/pages.asp?mc=emergency&nc=Submerged_Vehicle) for more information.

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24 September is Heritage Day in South Africa, but it is also (inter)national Braai Day!! Visit [www.braaiday.co.za](http://www.braaiday.co.za) for more details.

### **ISSUE OF THE MONTH: IMMIGRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA**

Many of you would know that South African consulates often recommend that foreign nationals should rather enter South Africa as a tourist and once in the country to change the visitor's visa to a temporary residence work/study/business permit. DO NOT EVEN CONSIDER DOING THIS – IT MAY NO LONGER BE AN OPTION! We discovered information in this regard after having been contacted in August by Norwegians who told us that they were now stranded in South Africa after following this advice from the consulate in Oslo. Enquiries at Home Affairs yielded no information, but with the ever-efficient help of the Department of Trade and Industry and of Mr. Julian Pokroy, lawyer and immigration specialist, we finally found the answer. Julian writes:

*Just a short note to follow through that it is indeed correct that the Department of Home Affairs issued a Police Directive [Immigration Directive 22 of 2007] which does restrict changes of status being done discriminately in South Africa.*

*This specifically applies in situations where an individual comes into South Africa on a visitors permit and does not declare his or her actual intentions for the visit such as application for a work permit.*

*Whilst changes of status are not prohibited in terms of the Act [reference Section 10 (6), the Directive suggests that good cause would have to be shown as to why they should be considering a change of status from inside the country.*

Enquiries in this regard are welcome. Please take great care when travelling to South Africa on a foreign passport to ensure that you do not become stuck here illegally as well.

### **NATURE CONSERVATION**



In September we will celebrate arbor week once again. The official information in this regard states:

Arbor Week is celebrated from the 1 - 7 September in South Africa annually throughout the country. It affords the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and other stakeholders the opportunity to undertake a major national awareness programme reiterating the value of trees and its key role towards sustaining our livelihoods, both now and for future generations. The theme of the 2007 campaign is "*Plant a tree - Grow our future*".

A major aspect of Arbor Week this year is that the campaign will be used to launch the [Trees for Food Programme](#) which will see a million trees planted annually, beginning in the current financial year.

The Arbor Week campaign is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- To promote better knowledge of trees particularly indigenous trees and their importance.
- To stress the necessity for everyone to contribute to the greening of South Africa by planting and caring for trees.
- To highlight the vital roles of trees in the natural environment.
- To contribute to the achievement of green dignified and healthy environments in all parts of the country.
- To encourage the youth to participate in tree planting activities and related environmental education programmes.

The two trees of the year are: *Pavetta schumanniana* (poison brides-bush) and *Rhus pyroides* (common wild currant – see picture above).

#### SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS SNIPPETS — AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

- Have you subscribed to ***Biltong Bites***, our daily free email with a summary of the main articles of the day as published in *Beeld*, *Pretoria News*, *Business Day* and *Citizen* yet? Not? Well, subscribe now by sending an e-mail with the subject "Bites" to [alana@solidariteit.co.za](mailto:alana@solidariteit.co.za).
- Between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007 a total of 136 police officials were killed in the execution of their duties – 13,7% more deaths than in the period 2005/2006.
- In spite of the national shortage of pharmacists, the number of pharmacies in South African chain stores is increasing daily. Shops such as Shoprite, Pick 'n Pay, Clicks and Woolworths now have pharmacies in some branches.
- The number of tertiary students have increased during the past 5 years with 20,8%, but academic staff have alas only increased with 3,7%. This imbalance increases problems in this sector and makes an academic career a less popular choice.
- Schools are not sure which method to use to teach children to write, as a clear national policy does not exist in this regard.
- Fashion designer Errol Arendz and his sister Gloria Theiler are currently involved in a court case re the ownership of Errol Arendz Fashion Design Ltd.
- During the first 6 months of the year, South Africa has already deported 117 000 illegal Zimbabwean immigrants back home. This is more than the total number of deportations of Zimbabweans in 2006!
- Toy shops have withdrawn toys manufactured for Mattel in China, as the lead-contents of the paint used, as well as smaller part of the toys, might be harmful to children.
- In August 2007, athlete Elana Meyer became a mother for the first time.
- Phillip Matthysen, infamous this year for killing his Husky puppy with a chain saw "because the puppy was naughty", died in a gruesome car accident himself in August.
- The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, is in hot water for the misappropriation of State funds, for example for buying flowers for his wife. No official action has been taken against him yet, though.
- The majority of dams in the Western Cape are 100% full!
- More than 3 months ago, South Africa's new national Aids policy was announced, but according to the media, nothing has been done to implement it yet.

- Eendrag student residence of the University of Stellenbosch has been razed to the ground by a fire. No-one died in the fire, but the 276 residents urgently had to find alternative housing and study material, as most lost all of their possessions in the fire.
- The 73<sup>rd</sup> World Library and Information Congress has just taken place in Durban. This is the second time that Africa hosted this congress and it was attended by approximately 5 000 people from 100 countries.
- The South African musical *Truth in translation* was awarded the Fringe First prize of the fringe festival at the Edinburgh Arts Festival in Scotland. The Soweto Gospel Choir also appeared there and was amongst the top 10 favourite programmes at the fringe festival.
- It is estimated that this year will be the worst year of the past decade for the South African property market. This is ascribed to high transfer duties, a less robust economy the results of the new Credit Act.
- The price of fuel will decrease from 5 September 2007 with 10c per litre.
- According to the Minister of Transport, Jeff Radebe, no provision has been made in the national budget for the cost of new roads (R23,4 billion) and maintenance of existing roads (R17 billion) in the course of the next 5 years.
- It is increasingly dangerous to go for a walk to or on Table Mountain. On a single Sunday in August 2007, 8 people were robbed while hiking in this vicinity.
- The community of Mitchells Plain is now embarking on an activist campaign against drug lords. Memoranda have been handed to people suspected of drug-dealing to warn them that the community is watching them and their addresses have also been handed to the police.
- People are warned to keep an eye open for sharks along the beaches, as sharks normally move closer to the coast-line at this time of year.
- Johnny Fourie, the country's foremost jazz guitarist, passed away in August. He was 70 years old and had just released his debut album called *Once upon a time*.
- Local airline Comair has applied for the right to introduce daily flights between London and South Africa. If approved, this will bring the national price war amongst local airlines to the international arena.
- Singer "Ouma" Grietjie Adams of Garies (80) has been awarded the annual national Prize for Reconciliation for bridging the gap between her community and other South Africans with her music.
- The monolingual policy of the Department of Home Affairs is currently being investigated on grounds of being unconstitutional.
- The number of foreign tourists visiting South Africa in the first 5 months of the year, has increased with 10% compared to 2006.
- It is political floor-crossing season in South Africa again, with chaotic results for the local electorate. AfriForum's comments in this regard is:

*On the eve of the floor-crossing season, AfriForum, the civil rights initiative established by Solidarity, appealed to all political parties in Parliament to ensure that legislation in this regard will be scrapped as soon as possible. According to AfriForum, which functions as civil organisation outside the realm of party politics, all civil organisations, as well as the civil society itself should bring pressure to bear upon politicians to ensure that the imminent floor-crossing season will be the last of its kind. According to Kallie Kriel, CEO of AfriForum, political floor-crossing in a proportional electoral system is nothing else than the legalised theft of votes by political opportunists. In a country where the moral revival of the total community should be a priority, it is unbearable in Kriel's opinion for politicians who cross the floor to set a bad example for the very community which they are supposed to serve. "It is immoral for politicians to cross the floor to another party simply in their own interest, in the process drawing a line through the franchise of all who voted for them," Kriel added.*

## **ECONOMIC NEWS**

The Free Market Foundation of Southern Africa has sent us the following interesting media release:

## South Africa loses ground in economic freedom ranking, Zimbabwe comes last

**2007/09/04 - Cape Town & Johannesburg, South Africa** — South Africa slipped to 60th in the latest international economic freedom rankings after ranking 54th in last year's report and 36th in 2005, losing 24 places in just two years. Zimbabwe has the least free economy of the countries ranked in the study.

"The reason why SA has dropped in the world rankings even though its overall rating improved from 6.7 to 6.8 is that other countries have overtaken us and new countries with more economic freedom have been included," explained Leon Louw, Executive Director of the Free Market Foundation.

"After impressive gains from greater political and economic freedom achieved in and after 1994, SA's overall economic freedom score has stagnated during recent years, although there have been significant changes in individual components in the index", he said.

Hong Kong once again tops international rankings for economic freedom, with Singapore a close second and New Zealand third, according to the ***Economic Freedom of the World: 2007 Annual Report***, released today by the Free Market Foundation (FMF). Zimbabwe (141) and Myanmar (140) came last out of the 141 countries measured.

The annual peer-reviewed report uses 42 different measures to create an economic freedom index ranking countries around the world. The cornerstones of economic freedom are personal choice, voluntary exchange, freedom to compete, integrity of the legal system, and security of private property.

People living in countries with more economic freedom enjoy more prosperity, security, freedom and life expectancy.

"These measures are part of a fundamental base needed to build a free and prosperous nation. A quick glance at the countries scoring lowest on the index quickly shows that without economic freedom, especially protection of property rights and the rule of law, there is little individual freedom and little in the way of prosperity," said Temba Nolutshungu, Cape Town Director of the FMF.

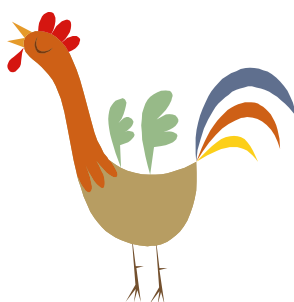
The full report is freely available at [www.freetheworld.com](http://www.freetheworld.com), and the printed version is available from the FMF at R150.00 (including VAT).

SA's scores in key components of economic freedom (from 1 to 10 where one indicates least and ten most economic freedom) were:

- **Size of government:** remained unchanged at 5.5.
- **Legal structures and security of property rights:** improved from 6.6 to 7.0.
- **Access to sound money:** declined from 8.2 to 8.0.
- **Freedom to trade internationally:** declined from 6.9 to 6.6.
- **Regulation of credit, labour and business:** improved from 6.4 to 6.8.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### *Chicken livers à la AfriForum*



250	grams	chicken livers	250	grams	white mushrooms
30	ml	butter / margarine	1	large	onion
10	ml	chilli powder	50	ml	lemon juice
12,5	ml	balsamic vinegar	100	ml	fresh, chopped parsley
50-100	ml	milk / cream			salt and pepper to taste

#### Method:

1. Dice the onion and fry in butter till transparent.
2. Dice the livers and fry with the onion till brown.
3. Dice the mushrooms and add to the frying mixture.
4. Add the lemon juice and vinegar.
5. Chop the parsley, stir, and add the chilli powder, salt and pepper.
6. Add the milk or cream last, stir well and remove from the heat if you are sure that the livers are done.
7. Serve hot with toast as appetizer for 4, or with pasta as main course for 2.

#### LETTERS, MARKET SQUARE AND REQUESTS

[Letters are published in the language received]

- **Leslee, previously from the USA, now in Johannesburg, asks:** Is there any interest in a support group for foreign spouses of South Africans living in South Africa? If there is, then let me know. I will be happy to help with the organization of such a group! Settling in South Africa can be a traumatic experience. It will be ideal to share your experience with others who are in the same boat. Any ideas in this regard? Please let us know at [alana@afriforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afriforum.co.za).
- **The SA Congregation in the UK writes:** SA Congregation is an inter-denominational, Christian congregation of mainly Afrikaans-speaking South Africans who are currently residing in the UK. Currently there are more than 5 000 Christians in our congregation! We have several service points all over the UK currently managed from four congregations – London, Suidwyk, Noordwyk and Middellande-wyk. If you are presently living in the UK, or intend to settle here, you definitely have to visit our website at [www.sagemeente.com](http://www.sagemeente.com).
- **Jannie & Judy writes from Toronto:** We will soon be returning from Canada to Pretoria. We would like to hear from anyone returning at the same time and interested in sharing a container with us, shipped from Toronto to Durban. You may contact us directly at [info@gloryofafrica.com](mailto:info@gloryofafrica.com).
- **Scott Calvert of the Baltimore Sun's office in Johannesburg** is still looking for a family on the verge of emigrating from South Africa to the USA. If you can help him, please contact him at [scottmcalvert@gmail.com](mailto:scottmcalvert@gmail.com).
- **Willa skryf uit Nieu-Seeland:** Ek het rondgeswerf op die net en die Kom Huistoe-webwerf raakgelees en geniet. Ons (my man, Kobus en my twee seuns Jakkals en Christiaan) het in 2000 immigrer na New Zealand vanaf die Oranje Vrystaat. Ons het beide in die Korrektiewe Dienste gewerk en was net moeg vir al die misdaad in SA en wou ons kinders 'n veiliger en meer normale lewe laat lei. Ja... dit is waar - dat ons verlang en ons familie mis maar ons geniet dit in New Zealand. Dit was vir ons amper asof ons in 'n veilige hawe vasgemeer het wat misdaad aanbetref. Elke land het my rose en dorings en ons is nie blind vir al die onheilighede wat ook in New Zealand aangaan nie - maar een ding het ons geleer en dit is om mekaar as 'n familie te ondersteun ...

ander Suid-Afrikaners as familie aan te neem en ons taal te beskerm hier in 'n totale Engelse omgewing. Ons het wonderlike Kiwi vriende en het 7 jaar in Wellington (Noord Eiland) gebly en nou onlangs verhuis na die Suid-Eiland - amper heel onder waar ons omtrent 'n klipgooi ver weg is van die suidpool. Die Kiwi's lag lekker vir ons omdat ons so koud kry en heelyd bid vir sonneskyn maar ons geniet hulle soveel want ons Kiwi vriende is oulik ... plat op die grond en vreeslik handig ... hulle het nou geen fiemies nie. As ons nog dink om iets te doen aan ons huis - dan is hulle daar en help ons om dit sommer vinnig te doen ... ongelooflik om sulke mense as vriende te kan hê. Ek glo soort soek soort en maak nie saak watter taal jy praat nie - jou vriende kies jy en word geken aan hulle. Ons kinders was 7 en 9 jaar oud toe ons hier aangeland het - en alhoewel hierdie skole baie liberaal is - het ons ons huis-standaard nooit laat daal nie - hulle weet waar die grense getrek is ... ons hou die leisels styf vas en bid hulle deur dik en dun. Ons vertel hulle dat ons trots is om Suid-Afrikaners te wees dat ons slim voorouers gehad het met baie moed en durf, ons leer hul om vrygewig en mededeelsaam te wees, om baie te lag en hard te leer, want hulle hoef nie skaam te wees om te se hulle is Suid-Afrikaners nie. Ek is lief vir my taal en hoop ek word gespaar om my kleinkinders Afrikaanse te kan leer praat, ek leef nie in weelde nie, maar dit pla my nie want ek is veilig ... ek stap saans elfuur om die blok saam met my manlief en kyk vir die maan en droom van warm veilige - goue strande waar ek eendag wil aftree. Op hierdie oomblik roep my vaderland my weer en my hart se "Ek kan nie teruggaan nie" - want ek is veilig hier in die koudste, mooiste klein eiland in die Stille Oseaan waar die son soms skyn - ek altyd veilig voel en my kinders kan laat opgroei in 'n huis waar hul Afrikaanse ma en pa vir hulle lief is en hul vertel van Jesus se liefde vir almal onder hierdie son. Bou voort daar in sonnige Suid-Afrika - jul is altyd deel van ons hart en ons gebede.

**Thank you so much for spending time with us – we are looking forward to hearing from you again soon!**

**With kind regards**

*Alana & colleagues*

*AfriForum*

**[www.comehome.co.za](http://www.comehome.co.za) / [alana@afirforum.co.za](mailto:alana@afirforum.co.za)**