



BILTONG BULLETIN

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Greetings to all 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. 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.

This newsletter is late, but we hope that you will still enjoy the contents. The May/June issue will reach you within the next week. Thank you for your patience!

BOOKWORM'S CORNER

There is a great new magazine for bookworms, namely **Books & Leisure**. Its web site states:

Books & Leisure is the first-ever consumer magazine for all those book fanatics around **Southern Africa** who love to read. B&L is a quarterly magazine with over 200 book reviews, interviews with authors and other fascinating articles that deal with books and related subject matter. B&L takes books and reading where it's never been before – making it fun and desirable. This unique publication is targeted at all readers of magazines and books from all age groups. The magazine also features book club reviews and who is reading what. All the TOP 10 reads by all kinds of people, retailers, professions and MUCH more. The beauty about books is that they cover all genres and all topics – which means that there is something for everyone. The content comprises of 70% book issues, PLUS 30% leisure related topics that go hand-in-hand with books and reading. These include wine, food, travel and good living. To add real excitement for those competition junkies B&L has a host of cunning crosswords relating to the magazine's content and the most popular titles. B&L is the perfect platform for publishers to reach their reading audience and expose all those marvelous new books, including the titles that often do not make it onto the store shelf. It is not only a magazine, but a useful reference for all those books that are never reviewed anywhere else. Your reading experience is about to explode ... Visit www.booksandleisure.co.za today!

WEB SITES



Ougat.co.za is an Afrikaans internet community which focuses on the language Afrikaans and the development of Afrikaans entrepreneurship. The Ougat web site sells products developed by Afrikaans-speakers and/or of which the end-product is Afrikaans. **Ougat.co.za** inter alia runs various social programmes such as Klets gat (for chatting); Debat gat (a debating forum); Opsitk ers (for finding romance) and much more. Ougat requires that members have to register, but registration is 100% free. Members get free access to a @ougat.com email address with a fax-to-email facility which they may use as they please.

For subscription information, see the home page of www.Ougat.co.za or use the shortcut http://www.ougat.co.za/winkel/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=89&Itemid=136.

The Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention has launched a new web site where general crime statistics can be found, organised according to suburbs. It will help visitors to see how crime influences a specific neighbourhood – see www.cjcp.org.za. The police have also just launched a new, interactive web site in addition to their existing site. The address is www.sapsjournalonline.gov.za.

CAUSE OF THE MONTH: MINSTER PALLO JORDAN TELLS AFRIFORUM: “THE CAPITAL’S NAME IS PRETORIA”



“The name of the capital of South Africa is Pretoria and Potchefstroom’s name is Potchefstroom.” This clarity was given today by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Doctor Pallo Jordan, at a meeting in Pretoria between himself and a delegation of AfriForum, the civil rights initiative established by Solidarity. During the meeting, Jordan also stated that he will not take any decision regarding the name of Pretoria while emotions are running as high about the issue as is presently the case. AfriForum’s delegation which met with the Minister comprised of Kallie Kriel and Alana Bailey of AfriForum, artist Steve Hofmeyr and Theo Venter of Action Potchefstroom.

During the meeting, Minister Jordan in addition undertook to request the Mayor of the Tshwane Metropolitan Council, Doctor Gwen Ramokgopa, to meet with AfriForum in order to try to find solutions for the Pretoria name dispute. Jordan gave this undertaking in response to AfriForum’s objection about the fact that the Mayor thus far has ignored all requests for such a discussion.

In reaction to AfriForum's complaints about subjective decisions and recommendations about place name changes by the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC), Jordan indicated that he would reopen the nomination process for the composition of a new SAGNC in order to ensure that a broad spectrum of people will be represented in this council.

During the meeting, Jordan took note of the ruling of the Supreme Court of Appeal regarding Louis Trichardt, as well as the intention of AfriForum and Action Potchefstroom to defend the names of Pretoria and Potchefstroom in court if necessary. However, all parties agreed that the ideal would be for solutions to name change disputes to be found out of court. The Minister indicated that he is in favour of public participation on a local level regarding name changes.

According to Kallie Kriel, CEO of AfriForum, he is reservedly positive about the progress made during the meeting with Jordan. The prospect that AfriForum and the Tshwane Metropolitan Council will, at the request of the Minister, at last be able to discuss the Pretoria name issue, in Kriel's opinion is a definite step in the right direction. "The fact that Jordan after the meeting is now on record as having confirmed that the name of the capital officially is Pretoria and that no changes have been made in this regard, will also help AfriForum in efforts to enter into discussions with SABC TV News with regard to the latter's use of the name Tshwane in news bulletins," Kriel added.

NATURE CONSERVATION

Adopt a Cape Parrot – visit the web site of **Birdlife Africa** at www.birdlife.org.za. In May 2007 the spotlight of the activities of **Birdlife Africa** falls on sea birds and the web has more information in this regard. The future of the jackass penguin causes grave concern as their numbers in South Africa have decreased from 38 700 in 2004 to 21 000 in 2006.

Dr Guy Midgley of the SA National Institute for Biodiversity warns that 250 million people in Africa (including South Africa) will experience serious water shortages within the next 13 years. This will primarily be the result of human-driven changes.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS SNIPPETS — APRIL / MAY 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.
- A new national traffic registry system known as eNaTIS has just been launched. It is supposed to facilitate the renewal of drivers' and vehicle licences, but huge implementation problems have brought the system to a virtual standstill. The Department of Transport has now announced that the price of all vehicle licences will be increased in June 2007 with R30-00 to fund the system ... Motorists are furious and long queues form at all licensing offices, so we can only hope that things will improve soon!
- According to Synovate's *Domestic Tourism Barometer*, a survey focusing on more affluent tourists, the general satisfaction of travellers in South Africa stood at 78% in the first quarter of 2007. In the same period of 2006 it however was 81%. Reasons for the decrease are not supplied.
- Helen Zille is the new leader of the DA. She succeeds Tony Leon and will also remain in her position as mayor of Cape Town.
- Gauteng experiences a shortage of about 175 schools.
- Veteran actress Hannah Botha passed away in April. At the time of her death, she was still starring in the soap-opera *Egoli*.

- Lindiwe Chibi, the soap-star who played in *Muvhango* and was shot in the face about 2 years ago by her friend, also passed away during the past month. After the incident she never returned to the set and was cared for at home by her friends and family. Her attacker will appear in court on charges of culpable homicide again soon.
- Eskom indicated that tariff increases of 13-18% have become necessary.
- The IMF has announced that it does not expect South Africa to reach an economic growth rate of 5% this year.
- Three South African books were awarded *Gourmand* international publication prizes. They are *To the banqueting house* (for best culinary history book in the world); *The essential guide to South African wines* (best book on wines from the New World); and *Vin de Constance with Michel Roux Jr* (best book on both wine and food).
- The South African wheel-chair athlete Ernst van Dyk's dominance in the Boston Marathon has come to an end. He has won the marathon's division for handicapped athletes for 6 consecutive years, but this year was beaten by Masazoemi Soejima of Japan and Krige Schabort of South Africa.
- The University of Pretoria awarded 9 honorary doctorates in April, amongst others to author Elsa Joubert and Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson.
- During the Easter Weekend (from 5 to 9 April 2007) 276 people died in road accidents in South Africa, compared to 257 in 2006. A great number of these casualties were inebriated pedestrians.
- In 2008 South Africa will host its first international dancing competition, the SA International Ballet Competition. It will take place from 14 to 19 January 2008 in Cape Town. Enquiries may be directed to Dirk Badenhorst at dirk@saibc.co.za.
- A musical about the life of Steve Hofmeyr will be produced towards the end of the year. Steve will star as himself in the musical.
- The gender audit of the SA National Editors' Forum has found that the number of men and women in the South African news industry are more or less the same, but that senior positions are still dominated by men.
- Transnet has announced that it will sell the Blue Train as a part of its restructuring strategy. Its price will be somewhere between R49 and R140 million. Orient Express Hotels (owner of amongst others the Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town and the Westcliff Hotel in Johannesburg) has shown interest in the train.
- Given Chauke (12) of Shoshanguve was responsible for the sentencing of two people who set a live dog alight. In court his evidence ensured that they were found guilty. He was awarded a certificate for bravery by the SPCA.
- A man has just received a fine of R102 000-00 after being caught driving at 295 km/h with an unlicensed motorcycle without number-plates near Scottburgh. It is the highest fine given to date in Kwazulu-Natal. R50 000 of the fine has been suspended for 5 years.
- The local demand for cement is growing with 12% on an annual basis in South Africa. Local producers however state that no shortages are expected before 2010. PPC has for example already spent R367 million to construct new plants and to increase production in order to be able to meet the growing demand.
- Research has proven that Cape Town is one of the 30 most expensive cities in terms of property prices. This study of the Knight Frank Property Group and Citi Private Bank found that homes on the Atlantic seaboard cost an average of R42 151-00 per square meter.
- A proposed new publication act is currently being debated. This act has allegedly been introduced to control child pornography, but media lasers feel that it has the potential to cause a revival of the past's draconian censorship legislation, will therefore be unconstitutional and will curb media freedom seriously. Read more about the proposed legislation and ensuing debate at www.news24.com.
- A field-mouse accidentally ended up in the studios of the radio station Highveld Stereo and causes chaos. Presenters regularly see him, with resulting blood-curdling yells on air. He has been dubbed "Sir Earl" because of one of the presenters' love of Earl Grey tea. Hopefully he will soon be caught and released back into the wild.

- The South African baritone Jacques Imbrailo currently appears in the Covent Garden production of Benjamin Britten's opera *Owen Wingrave* together with numerous famous international opera stars. He was born in Henneman in the Free State.
- A drastic shortage of milk is currently experienced in the country as a result of the weather, low dairy prices and the large number of cash-strapped dairy farmers who are leaving this industry.

WELFARE

The **Helping Hand Fund** now has an own web site – visit www.helpendehand.co.za and read more about their activities directed at helping the underprivileged, as well as curbing child abuse.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Brinjal Dish



2 brinjals, peeled and sliced into slices of 5cm
 4 tomatoes, peeled and diced
 salt and ground black pepper
 2ml thyme
 125ml grated cheddar cheese
 250ml milk

4 tablespoons butter
 1 medium-sized onion, chopped
 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
 1 green pepper, diced
 2 eggs

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease an oven-proof dish. Place the brinjal slices in a colander, sprinkle with salt and leave for half an hour. Rinse, drain and dry. Sprinkle lightly with flour. Heat 2 tablespoons butter and fry the brinjal in it till soft. Remove and drain on a paper towel. Add the remaining butter to the butter in the pan and fry the tomatoes and onions till all liquid has evaporated. Place the brinjal in the oven-proof dish, sprinkle with salt, pepper, parsley and thyme. Cover with the onion and tomatoes, then the green pepper, with the cheese on top. Beat the eggs and milk, pour over the cheese. Bake for 35 minutes or until the egg-mixture has set and turned golden-brown. Serve hot.

LETTERS, MARKET SQUARE AND REQUESTS

For information about affordable flights between Australasia and South Africa, contact Evert & Delia van Dijk. Their new contact details are evertvandyk@worldonline.co.za or 0027-12-3445748. They can now also book flights to Perth via Mauritius. They are already busy with bookings for December 2007.

Neville writes from New Zealand: Being in NZ for the past 6 years and am really grateful to what we have achieved over the past 6 years. The experience gained would never have been achieved back home, promotion and money. Thanks to NZ for my progress, I never forget where I come from and our sports boys. Still wear my colours with pride at all events.

Scott Calvert of the Johannesburg office of the Baltimore Sun writes: *I am trying to find a family that has decided to emigrate BUT won't be leaving SA until maybe the end of the year and that has at least one teenage child (15- 19 years old). I'm interested in doing a story about such a family and am particularly interested in looking at the whole leaving from the perspective of a teenager. (I am doing several stories this year focusing on South African youth). Ideally, the family would be headed to the US since that's where my paper is, though I realize most go to Australia, UK, New Zealand or Canada. The closer they live to Johannesburg or Pretoria, the better for me just in terms of convenience. Do you know of a family that fits the above description? Or if not, could you suggest someone I could ask about it? Obviously the family and the teenager would have to agree to be interviewed for a newspaper story. Thanks for any assistance you can provide!* Scott can be contacted at scottmcalvert@gmail.com, tel 0027-72-1375735 or 0027-11-8806529.

In April we received the wonderful offer from Dr. Adriaan du Plessis in Australia that we may distribute his guide on migration and denization in a new country free of charge. Anybody who would like to receive this guide electronically should send an email to us at alana@solidariteit.co.za with the subject BOOKLET. We would like to emphasise again that it is free. Adriaan says that he is too busy to be contacted personally, but the guide should address most questions. Thank you once again, Adrian!

By this time those of you who are still registered as tax payers in South Africa are probably wondering when you will receive the tax forms for 2007. The income tax returns for individuals will only be issued on 15 July by the South African Revenue Service this year. Last year, as you may remember, the returns already had to have been submitted by 14 July. This year the returns only have to be in before or on 31 October. Further postponement may be possible once again (an announcement in this regard will be made at a later stage). Trust and company returns will only be issued on 31 August and will have to be submitted between 6 and 12 months after the specific entity's year end. You are welcome to contact Fanus Jonck at tax@jonck.net for more information and advice regarding tax matters.

Kind regards from Pretoria!

Alana & colleagues

AfriForum

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