



# BILTONG BULLETIN

Number 19 - March 2007

**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](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 very carefully, we cannot guarantee their services and cannot be held responsible for their actions.

Last time I complained about time passing so quickly. One of our readers responded with a great letter and explanation for this (see below). Do you agree with his theory? Anyway, it is Easter already and the first South African school term is history already. It seems as if you had enjoyed the history contribution, so we are including a bit once again. Enjoy and feel free to send us your contributions too please!

## **BOOKWORM'S CORNER**



South African music and Afrikaans books can now be delivered to your doorstep! **Kalahari.net** is South Africa's leading online retailer, offering a world of books, CDs, DVDs, games, electronic products, health products and more. It also makes gift buying for friends and family in South Africa hassle-free – send a voucher or let kalahari.net deliver a gift to their doorsteps – wrapped and with a personal note. Five different payment options, door-to-door delivery, wish list facilities, gift-wrapping, e-vouchers and printed vouchers, free local delivery on orders over R350 and 24 hour delivery on top products make **kalahari.net** the only option for convenient shopping.

## **WEB SITES**

**AfricaNews Wire** is a new development of the free e-mail newsletter **AfricaNews** which gives readers the opportunity to send their contributions with an African flavour to be published on the internet. Send your text, photographs or videos to [info@africa-news.net](mailto:info@africa-news.net)



The Gautrain's web site's page for children has been awarded a prize as being one of the three best sites in the world for improving the image of public transport amongst children. On this page animated animal characters called the Gauties - Swift and Slo-Mo - tell the story of the Gautrain in an educational manner. The address is [www.gautrain.co.za/kids/](http://www.gautrain.co.za/kids/).

### NATURE CONSERVATION

- It happens more regularly that elephants attack vehicles in the Kruger National Park. One of the possible reasons for this is the fact that the elephants are overpopulated in this area. Currently there are more than 14 000 in the park and this causes stress amongst the animals. The debate about the solution of this problem continues and it seems as if culling is becoming unavoidable ...
- Six of the poisoned vultures about whom we reported in a previous issue, have been rehabilitated fully and released back into the wild. They were left in an area close to Krugersdorp, as food is very scarce in the Delareyville area from which they originated.

### SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS SNIPPETS — MARCH 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).
- Woolworths now sells organic coffee and tea from Africa. The coffee is produced in a labour intensive manner in order to create maximal employment opportunities. It is also healthier than inorganically produced coffee.
- Teachers in Gauteng are most upset because the list of teaching vacancies in the province will be published late once more. It is therefore hard for schools to fill vacancies and even harder for teachers to find employment opportunities.
- More and more cyclists are being injured or killed in road accidents on South African public roads. Cycling is growing in popularity in the country and ways are sought in which cyclists can be protected from other road users.
- The Christian rock group, *Tree63*, is achieving more and more success abroad. Tickets for their concerts in the USA, UK and elsewhere sell out quickly and they have even bought a house in Nashville because they are spending so much time in the USA. Their latest album, *Tree63 Worship Volume 1*, has just been rereleased in South Africa. They intend to get involved in local housing projects to make a social contribution to South Africa.
- Construction and industrial development is taking place so rapidly in South Africa that local plantations cannot meet the need for wood. The country will therefore have to import wood on a large scale in future.
- Actor John Kani currently appears in 2 productions in London – *Nothing but the truth* (his debut as writer for the stage) and *Sizwe Banzi is dead*. Both his acting and play are applauded enthusiastically.
- In March 2007 business confidence reached the lowest point in 2 years in the country. The JSE's general index also slumped with 2,3%. The lack of business confidence can be ascribed to the interest rate increases of the past months, as well as a weaker rand. It is however expected that the economy will eventually readapt to these changing circumstances.
- A recent study found that South Africans, both rich and poor, are quite generous. This study, entitled *A nation of givers? Social giving amongst South Africans* by David Evratt and

Geetesh Solanki indicates that 54% of the respondents give money to charities on a regular basis, 31% donate food or goods and 17% volunteer at charitable organisations. The financial contributions amount to about R930 million per annum!

- A growing number of South Africans are driving around with no number plates in an effort to avoid traffic fines. In Gauteng they will face a fine of R200 in future. Number plates also have to be approved by the SABS and fancy fonts may not be used unless specifically approved by the SABS.
- Traditional law pertaining to royal succession in South Africa currently is under the spotlight because of the way in which it often discriminates against gender. Chief Justice Pius Langa agreed that a case of the Valoyi tribe in Limpopo may be referred to the constitutional court in order to determine whether their king's daughter may succeed him. The late king had no sons and now both his daughter and his brother's son want to take his place. The case will be heard on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 and will be of great significance for traditional law in future.
- The Supreme Court of Appeal ruled against the changing of the name of the town Louis Trichardt to Makhado and now the town will again be known as Louis Trichardt. This ruling was the last step in a drawn-out process in which residents of the town complained vehemently that they were not consulted about the changing of the town's name. The court also ruled that the Minister of Arts and Culture, Pallo Jordan, and the Chairperson of the Geographical Names Council are responsible for all legal costs pertaining to the case.
- As in December 2006, the production of fizzy cold drinks is once again being hampered in South Africa by a shortage of carbon dioxide. A mere 45% of the required gas is currently produced by the supplier and producers of fizzy drinks are now considering constructing their own plants for the production of this gas. Less popular cold drinks such as Fanta Free, Iron Brew, Stoney and Lemon Twist will not be produced the coming weeks until the problem has been solved.
- Tourist safaris are being planned for the Johannesburg CBD! The experimental Cascoland Project involves that tourists will spend the night in tents on the roof of the former Defence Force barracks in the CBD. They will then also take a guided tour on foot in the adjacent vicinity and eat a meals prepared by local cooks. This safari will cost R25-00 per person per night and has the potential to create jobs for many local residents who are currently unemployed.
- It is expected that South African food prices will increase sharply in the coming weeks as a result of the drought, politicizing of the agricultural sector, higher fuel prices as well as the fact that few young South Africans consider a career in agriculture.
- First-time home buyers will find it increasingly difficult to enter the property market. In February 2007 the nominal home price growth of 15,4% was reached on an annual basis and accommodation is still getting more expensive all the time. Entry level housing therefore is way beyond the reach of most first-time buyers.
- Ever heard of SATMA? It is the South African Tissue Manufacturers Association. Together with the SABS, SATMA ensures that South African tissue paper products meet legal production standards. Toilet rolls for example need to have a minimum of 500 squares per roll and a certain quality of paper and cardboard must be used to manufacture the rolls. The illegal toilet paper trade – in other words the sale of paper which does not meet these standards – is growing at a rate of 10% per annum in South Africa and currently amounts to R300 million.
- Doctor Hansgeorg Niefer, Chairperson of DaimlerChrysler SA, warned that if South Africa does not address its crime problem soon, we can expect foreign investment in the country to drop to 0.
- The South African life insurance industry has taken the huge step of scrapping all HIV/Aids exclusion clauses in its policies. This seems to be a first in the world.
- The South African Parliament has just unveiled its new symbol. The design includes a protea and a drum. It replaces the symbol used during the previous dispensation.
- Some beaches along the coastline of KZN will be closed for up to 4 weeks after an exceptionally high spring tide caused huge damage there.

- The construction of the De Hoop Dam has officially started. The project is expected to cost R8 milliard.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES ...

Tertius Bartmann tells us more about South Coast place names:

Geographical names of the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal reflect an interesting history and interaction between various cultures over a long period. Several historical incidents or legends can also be associated to these resorts and villages on the coastal area. Obviously many names originated from the Zulu tradition, but others do have a European connection or association. In his publication on place names, *A Dictionary of Southern African Place Names*, Peter Raper, South African expert on geographical names, reveals the origin of nearly 4 000 names of Southern African cities, villages, mountains, valleys and rivers. Paging through this indispensable guide, one is in particular fascinated by the origins of some of the geographical names of the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal.

According to Peter Raper the coastal resort Marina Beach is said to have been named after Princess Marina, the Duchess of Kent, in the 1930's. Founded in 1924, the village at Port Edward was named after the then Prince of Wales who later became King Edward VII. Established in 1867, the town of Port Shepstone was named after Sir Theophilus Shepstone (1817-1893) who was Administrator of Zululand from 1884 and who played a major role in provincial affairs from 1856. Margate, established in 1941, was named after the seaside resort in England. Ramsgate most probably took its name from the borough on the North Sea, north of Dover, in Kent, in England. Hibberdene, north of Port Shepstone, was named after a former Postmaster-General of Natal, C Maxwell-Hibberd.

The name Marburg, a settlement near Port Shepstone, reflects an interesting European connection. Norwegian settlers, who helped to develop the harbour facilities at Port Shepstone, established a settlement in 1882. According to Raper it was probably named after a city north of Frankfurt in Germany.

Raper states that the name Uvongo refers to the Zulu *ivungo* and the verb *vungazela*, which means "the place of a low, rumbling sound". We all know the familiar site of the waterfall in the Vungu River near the popular Uvongo beach. Umtentweni, just north of Port Shepstone, takes its name from the "river that flows smoothly" and "river where pointed grass grows". The Zulu name Mpenjathi is a river entering the sea between Palm Beach and Trafalgar and means "place where buffaloes fight". Raper also reveals that the name of Zulu origin, the Mthamvuna River, is said to mean "reaper of mouthfuls" (referring to damage caused when in flood), or "river of reapers", or "easy harvest" (referring to the fertility of the area). These names clearly reflect the influence of nature and the wild life and experiences of the inhabitants of this area.

Paging through some older title deeds of local properties, it is surprising to find that, for, instance, properties in Marina Beach, are located in the County of Alfred. Enquiring into this matter, it was established that on 1 January 1866 Great Britain had annexed the area between the Bashee and the Umzimkulu rivers. The area between the Umzimkulu and the Umtamvuna Rivers were incorporated into Natal as Alfred County. This was done to prevent the possible extension of the then Boer Republics in the interior of Southern Africa to the coast. A cairn to indicate the exact position of the proceedings was erected at a site in the Harding district. The place was also called Salute Hill due to the royal salute of 21 gun shots fired to conclude the annexation. A magistrate was appointed to manage the new territorial acquisition and it was named Alfredia (later Alfred County) after Prince Alfred, the second son of Queen Victoria. He visited Natal in 1860. Alfred County included the districts of Mount Currie, Umzimkulu, Ixopo, Port Shepstone and Bizana. Prince Alfred's Hamlet near Ceres and Port Alfred and the Alfred Dock in Cape Town were also named after this popular royal personality.

The abovementioned are but a few examples portraying the cultural and natural heritage of the South Coast, which is primarily known for its popular holiday resorts and destinations. Tragedy Hill (at Port Edward), Ivy Beach, Banners Rest, Southbroom, Oribi, Izingolweni, Old Pont, Marburg, Wild Coast – names such as these reveal yet another fascinating but not well-known heritage of historical events, legends, stories of tragedies and endurance, and pioneers in a foreign environment.

### **Bronne**

PE Raper: *Dictionary of Southern African Place Names*. Johannesburg, 1989.

BPJ Erasmus: *Op pad in Suid-Afrika*. Jeppestown, 1995 (English version: On route in South Africa).

*Southern Explorer. The exploration guide to the treasures of the South Coast*. 2005 Edition.

JJ Oberholster: *Die historiese monumente van Suid-Afrika*. Kaapstad, 1972 (p. 237)

WJ De Kock & DW Kruger: *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek II*. Kaapstad, 1986 (p. 8).

[Thank you, Tertius!]

## **WELFARE**

**The Helping Hand Fund** is Solidarity's social support action. The Fund's task is to reach out to people in need. The Fund identifies the plight of people, helps them to get back onto their feet and assists them in the process to recovery. It is not a charity fund, but rather a benefit fund. This means that the fund firstly endeavours to help people to help themselves by empowering the youth by means of education opportunities in order to be able to take care of themselves. The Fund also assists charity organisations to develop funds and enhance their levels of professional service-rendering.



### **What are the focus areas of the Fund?**

Because there is a great need for assistance, the Fund currently has various focus areas, which include:

- Feeding, clothing and housing projects;
- Emergency assistance to needy pensioners;
- Support to children's homes, old age homes, homes for the disabled and other service organisations;
- Community development and empowerment.

People in need approach Solidarity on a daily basis, asking it to start a feeding project, provide bursaries to their children or support some or other community project. In order to do this, the Helping Hand Fund requires enough money so that long-term sustainable funds will be available for projects of a larger scale. Each contribution made has the potential to improve the life of a person in need. Should you

wish to make a donation to Solidarity's Helping Hand Fund, you can pay it into the following bank account:

**Bank:** ABSA Account number: 09082262243 – "Helping Hand Fund".

**Branch code:** 632005 (Centurion).

You can contact the Helping Hand Fund via [www.solidarity.co.za](http://www.solidarity.co.za), by clicking on the "Helping Hand" button (left). Thank you to people who are already supporting the Helping Hand Fund!

## **RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

## Ginger Bread



250 ml	oil	3	eggs
250 ml	golden syrup	250 ml	lukewarm water
5 ml	bicarbonate of soda, dissolved in 60 ml lukewarm water	750 ml	cake flour
5 ml	baking powder	2 ml	salt
10 ml	mixed spice	15 ml	ground ginger
		250 ml	sugar

### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease two bread tins with margarine.
2. Beat the oil, eggs, golden syrup and water together well.
3. Sift the dry ingredients into the egg mixture and add the sugar last of all.
4. Beat till mixed well, for about 5 minutes. Pour into the bread tins.
5. Bake for about 45 minutes.
6. Leave to cool and when completely cold, serve with butter.

### 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](mailto: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.

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From a **reader** in Ireland about time flying by: *Last night I once again sat watching my little boy as we were all, with the exception of my eldest, sitting around the dinner table. His development at this age is absolutely amazing. It is as if he knows that he has to grow up to make room for a new baby. Whatever his reasons may be, he demands to drink his milk from a cup like his brother does. We tackle the process, little bits at a time, and the more he tries it, the more determined he is to do it. For me personally the most striking thing is the astounding process of automation and auto tuning which is taking place. I have spent the largest part of my life building machines and systems which can handle diverse processes automatically and I try my best to incorporate a certain amount of intelligence and automatic "tuning" in these processes and have a lot of respect for it. When I however look at this amazing little "machine" which masters the process of lifting the cup to his mouth and tilting it at just the right angle, while managing the flow of the liquid, I am left without words. The learning process is beautiful, because initially he ends up with more milk running down his tummy into his nappy than in his mouth, but soon improves and I realize once again what an absolutely marvelous engineer God is. We take so many of our daily motorized actions for granted. I find it incredible to study how this little guy takes Smarties from their box with one finger and even better to watch him picking up the Smarties from the table. He points his index finger, measures the distance between the Smarties and his mouth and then extends his thumb to pick it up and bring it straight to his mouth. That absolute concentration and almost robotic manner of action proves to you how much thought went into that process. We take and put down and write and go about our daily actions without ever considering how our brain has mastered all of these processes for years now. Just look at yourself when you are suddenly confronted by something unexpected in traffic, especially when you have been driving for more than a decade. My thoughts eventually brought me to a graph which I plotted this morning. It shows the % of the increased life experience on the left, plotted against the passing of years below. For me, this diagram explains the feeling we all have of time*

*passing faster as years go on. When I was a child, a year felt like forever. Even my high school years felt never-ending, but after matric the pace picked up and it still seems to be getting faster. If you consider the first 20 years of your life, you realize why time seemed to have been passing so slowly, as the experience of time, or relative time, is a function of your total life experience. The older you get, the more experience you have and the less impact will be made by a single year on the total sum of your experience, therefore a year will seem relatively short. The graph starts levelling out at about 16 to 17 years. This new insight seemed like the discovery of a whole new kind of technology to me. Just think – this may explain why the Bible states that a thousand years are like a day to God and a day like a thousand years. He had already been there since before creation, so just imagine what His graph will look like.  
Greetings from Dublin!*

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**Johan Olivier** sends his best wishes to all from Canada – and a great photo as well! He writes: *I have now written for some time – all is well here in Canada. Thank you for the painting of Pretoria – it is very special. After looking at the pictures of Mongolia I decided to send one of the sunrise here as seen from my home in winter. We are very adaptable people, aren't we? Easter regards from Canada!*



And with that, also with our best wishes for Easter!

*Alana & colleagues*

*AfriForum*

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