



NEW ZEALAND
HIGH COMMISSION

Southern Africa File

January/February 2013

Issue 1



A MESSAGE FROM NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER, RICHARD MANN

Welcome to the first issue of our new quarterly newsletter, *Southern Africa File*, from the New Zealand High Commission in Pretoria. Through *Southern Africa File*, we hope to bring to you regular news on New Zealand's increasing engagement with southern Africa, both interactions at the government and diplomatic levels and also by New Zealanders on the continent.

"This is an exciting time in New Zealand's growing engagement with Africa".

Hon Murray McCully, New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs.

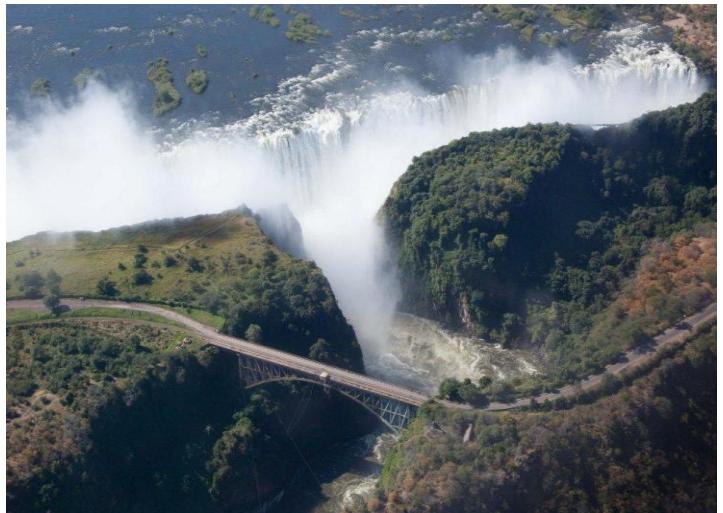


Madikwe Game Reserve in South Africa. Photo: Russell Chilton



Above: Pilanesburg National Park in South Africa.
Photo: Richard Mann

Below: Mosi-oa-Tunya: The Smoke that Thunders – an aerial view of Victoria Falls on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border.
Photo: Russell Chilton



125 Middel Street
Nieuw Muckleneuk, Pretoria 0181
Republic of South Africa

Tel: +27 12 435 9000 Email: enquiries@nzhc.co.za
www.nzembassy.com/southafrica

High Commissioner Richard Mann Presents Credentials in South Africa and Namibia

The New Zealand High Commission Pretoria is accredited to the following countries in addition to the Republic of South Africa:

- Republic of Botswana;
- Republic of Kenya;
- Kingdom of Lesotho;
- Republic of Mauritius;
- Republic of Mozambique;
- Republic of Namibia;
- Kingdom of Swaziland.
- United Republic of Tanzania;
- Republic of Zambia; and
- Republic of Zimbabwe.



High Commissioner Mr Richard Mann with President Jacob Zuma during his presentation of credentials ceremony.

Richard Mann presented his credentials as New Zealand High Commissioner to South African President Jacob Zuma on 3 October 2012. The ceremony was held at the Presidential Guest House in Pretoria.

Mann recounted, “I greeted the President saying “sawubona umongamele” (Zulu greeting) which brought a smile. As I handed my credentials to him, President Zuma laughingly said that New Zealand had better behave itself on Saturday night, in reference to the upcoming All Black – Springbok test in Soweto.”

“I met the President a week later at a state dinner to farewell Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission. “Mr President”, I said, “I’m sorry to say that the All Blacks did not behave themselves on Saturday night.” “No they didn’t” he replied with a broad smile.”

Mann also presented his credentials to Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba on 17 October in the capital city Windhoek. The ceremony, attended also by then Foreign Minister Nujoma, was held in the State House.



Mr Mann presenting his Letters of Credence to Namibian President Pohamba in Windhoek.

On both occasions, Mann wore the New Zealand Foreign Ministry’s korowai (Maori cloak) which is used for ceremonial events. “It was an honour to wear the korowai, which was created by weavers from the South Island tribe Ngai Tahu. I felt it gave mana to me and to New Zealand, and it was much admired by the host authorities.”

New Zealand's Candidature for the UN Security Council 2015-16

Prime Minister Key's Special Envoy on UN Security Council matters, Colin Keating, visited Southern Africa in late November to advance New Zealand's candidature for election to the UN Security Council. Mr Keating is a former New Zealand Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and chaired the Security Council during New Zealand's last term on the Council in 1993-94.

Mr Keating visited five countries – South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Rwanda and Uganda – to consult on UN Security Council matters. He promoted New Zealand as a small Asia-Pacific country that would come to the Security Council with a fresh, independent perspective and help to represent the interests of all the UN's small states. He emphasised New Zealand's commitment to the UN, our promotion of peace and security in the world, our support for UN Security Council reform, and the multicultural perspective we are able to bring to the table.



In Pretoria, Mr Keating met with Deputy Foreign Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim (above) and President Zuma's International Relations Advisor Ambassador Lindiwe Zulu. In the Namibian capital Windhoek he met with Deputy Prime Minister Marco Hausiku and then Foreign Minister Utomi Nujoma. And in the Botswanan capital of Gaborone, Mr Keating met with Vice President Dr Ponatshego Kedikilwe and senior foreign affairs officials.

This year Mr Keating will continue to visit Africa to promote New Zealand's candidature.



The Hobbit Premieres in South Africa, birthplace of JRR Tolkien

On Monday 10 December 2012, in collaboration with the film's distributors and local cinema chain, Ster-Kinekor, the High Commission hosted the South African premiere of 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey', two days in advance of the opening of the film to general audiences. There was a palpable buzz at the reception as Tolkien fans anticipated the movie - the 266 seat theatre was almost full to capacity.

Among the guests were representatives from the National Film and Video Foundation who had recently returned from a visit to NZ to look at film and creative industry collaboration in the follow-up to the signing of the NZ/SA bilateral film co-production agreement in 2011.

The High Commissioner spoke to the audience about The Hobbit as a joint venture, given JRR Tolkien's birth in South Africa! He noted three aspects of New Zealand's competitiveness in international film making as demonstrated by The Hobbit and its precursor Lord of The Rings trilogy: our spectacular natural landscapes which made for great locations, our cutting-edge post production capabilities (evidenced by Oscar award winning Weta Workshops), and the creative talent of our film makers, not least Sir Peter Jackson. Many of the audience commented afterwards that they were determined to visit the landscapes shown in the film.

New Zealand's participation in the premiere was heavily advertised through our branding on site and acknowledgment by executives from NuMetro Films and Warner Bros in their remarks. The CEOs of Ster-Kinekor Theatres and Warner Bros. both spoke about the ground-breaking technological features of the film, noting that only 4 venues in SA currently had the ability to screen HFR 3D movies, although the industry would be moving to this standard.

New Zealand Speaker of Parliament Visits Namibia



New Zealand's former Speaker of Parliament Hon Dr Lockwood Smith, together with Clerk of House Mary Harris (left), attended a meeting of Commonwealth Speakers of Parliament in Namibia on 10-11 January 2013. The meeting, held in the Atlantic coastal city of Swakopmund, prepared the agenda for the conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliament to be hosted by New Zealand in January 2014.

Dr Smith said "The meeting, which I chaired, was successful in endorsing the programme and agenda we'd proposed, and there is enthusiasm by Commonwealth Speakers to visit New Zealand next year. The conference in New Zealand will cover issues of Parliamentary privilege, transparency and freedom of information, accountability of members and connecting parliament with the public."

"The participants enjoyed generous hospitality from the Namibian Parliament and Speaker Theo-Ben Gurirab, and were impressed with the remarkable desert environment around Swakopmund and Walvis Bay", Dr Smith said.

NZ Aid: Contributing to Development in Kenya

The New Zealand Government provided US\$40,410 to Afri-Lift Kenya to support the Osiligi Rehabilitation Farm located in Kiserian, just outside Nairobi. Robin Aim, a New Zealand citizen, runs the project which accepts boys aged 14-18 years from Nairobi slums who volunteer to move into a rural setting in order to be provided with primary school level education, life skills and agricultural education. The youths are trained over a two year period and leave with skills to enable them to run their own small agricultural business or to secure jobs in the agricultural sector.

New Zealand funding supported the procurement of greenhouses, apiculture equipment (bee keeping), tree seedlings for small scale horticulture, a deep freezer and the establishment of a workshop. The greenhouse, apiculture and tree planting projects train the boys to successfully manage agricultural micro-enterprises. The produce supplements the farm's food requirements and the excess is sold to enhance the sustainability of the project. Farm tools and protective clothing were also funded by the New Zealand government to improve farming conditions for the youths.



Trainees explain about biogas collection as part of the farm project to Deputy High Commissioner, Georgina Roberts.



Ms Roberts visited the Osiligi Rehabilitation Farm in October 2012.

Launch of New Zealand-Africa Business Council

At a gathering of business people, African diplomatic representatives, and supporters of building NZ's relations with Africa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murray McCully, officially launched the Africa-New Zealand Business Council on 5 February in Auckland. Mr McCully noted that the Council is an exciting initiative and one that is long overdue for New Zealand. He has observed that strengthening New Zealand's presence and increasing our understanding of Africa are key tools to achieving increased cooperation. The Africa-New Zealand Business Council will be a valuable avenue for forging ties, creating openings and enhancing communication between Africa and New Zealand.

South Africa – New Zealand Bilateral Trade

The New Zealand and South African governments have agreed on a work programme to promote the expansion of bilateral trade ties. The work programme flows from a joint Track 2 Trade Study undertaken by the two countries in 2011 to explore opportunities for increasing two-way trade. Key elements of the work programme include encouragement of trade missions and participation in trade fairs, market surveys, and exchange of trade information and support of small and medium enterprises to take advantage of trade opportunities. The New Zealand High Commission in Pretoria works closely with NZ Trade and Enterprise to support New Zealand exporters in southern Africa.



In the year to June 2012, New Zealand exports to South Africa rose to NZ\$236 million. Key exports were dairy products, fish, beef and sheep meat, other food ingredients, energy products, wood products, information technology, electrical and harvesting equipment. South African exports to New Zealand totalled NZ\$123 million, including motor vehicles, prepared fruits and nuts, paper, wine and carpets.

Economic Growth Forecasts for 2013

Source: www.imf.org/external/country

New Zealand: 3.1%	Mauritius: 3.7%	Swaziland: -1%
Botswana: 4.1%	Mozambique: 8.4%	Tanzania: 6.8%
Kenya: 5.6%	Namibia: 4.1%	Zambia: 8.2%
Lesotho: 4.7%	South Africa: 2.8%	Zimbabwe: 6%

New Zealand Sport in South Africa



Mr and Mrs Mann with All Black centre Conrad Smith and Assistant Coach Aussie McLean after the Soweto clash.

New Zealand sporting performance in South Africa over the past four months has been, as All Black legend Sean Fitzpatrick famously said, “a game of two halves”.

The All Blacks arrived in Johannesburg from Argentina where they wrapped up the inaugural Rugby Championship. “NZRFU CEO Steve Tew, my wife and I were the only New Zealanders in the South African Rugby Union area of the magnificent National Stadium in Soweto,” Richard Mann said. “All around us were Springbok supporters. The glorious singing of the South African anthem by 90,000 spectators and the strong All Black haka set the tone in the stadium. Like me, Steve said that he was usually too nervous to talk during All Black games. First half possession was dominated by the Springboks; but the All Blacks got the ball twice and scored twice. We had scarcely got to our seats in the second half when the All Blacks scored another try, and they were compelling thereafter.”

The test was widely regarded as one of the All Blacks’ best performances of 2012. “The South Africans around us were very gracious in defeat, acknowledging that this was a champion team,” Mann said.

The New Zealand cricket team arrived in South Africa in December. It was a difficult assignment, up against the number one ranked cricket side in the world, including a fearsome fast bowling attack and a top order batting line-up who are averaging around 50 in tests.

“The two tests in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth were tough experiences for New Zealand” said Richard Mann. “But there were positives: the gritty batting of BJ Watling in both tests and Dean Brownlie’s maiden test century in Cape Town. The highlight of the tour for New Zealand was the one-day series win, the first for New Zealand in South Africa. I was impressed by the magnificent unbeaten century by Kane Williamson in Kimberley, as well as the bowling of newcomer Mitchell McClenaghan. But congratulations to the Proteas; they are becoming one of the great cricket teams.”



The Black Caps vs. the Proteas ODI in Potchefstroom

Business Profile: An Interview with Carl Bates of Sirdar South Africa Group

What sort of business are you doing in South Africa?

My primary business activity is the provision of business growth services to SMEs. Sirdar South Africa is the leader in the education and implementation of governance in SMEs - providing non-executive directors, along with a methodology and the associated processes to SMEs. Sirdar also provides a range of mentorship programs, legal services and strategic management advice.

I am also the independent chairman of Deltamune (Pty) Ltd, a biotechnology company focused on veterinary and public health solutions, mainly for the production animal sectors. And the independent chairman of Status Staffing Solutions (Pty) Ltd, a recruitment company in the Western Cape.

How did you personally come to be in South Africa?

In 2005 I came to South Africa on a private holiday, then in 2008, over breakfast in Hong Kong, a South African businessman asked me if we would bring our business model to South Africa. Six weeks later we launched in Johannesburg, and within six months it was the biggest part of our business globally. I now live in Rivonia, Johannesburg. You never know where a conversation is going to lead you.

How would you describe the business climate and opportunities in the region?

There is huge opportunity in South Africa and in Africa - and this is going to be there for many years to come. While the business environment has its challenges - the opportunities are there. With an entrepreneurial mindset, and a desire to contribute positively to the African continent, you can quickly find ways to overcome the challenges and make something of the opportunities.

What challenges have you faced and any lessons learned so far?

The biggest learning for me opening a business in South Africa was that you have to understand the regulatory environment and make sure you have the appropriate endorsements from government bodies such as exchange control.

Johannesburg, Centurion, Cape Town - they are not London or Sydney where other kiwis are easily found. South Africa has a relatively low concentration of New Zealanders and so with all my family, friends and contacts in New Zealand, building a base here has taken time and has had its emotional challenges.



*Carl Bates (L) with contacts at the Hobbit premiere
in December*

What advice would you give for New Zealand companies contemplating doing business with South Africa?

- firstly understand the regulatory environment and set up the structures properly from word go;
- understand that while there are many similarities between our two countries (such as rugby), they are two very different places as well - so it will not be as easy as you may think;
- South Africa in itself is a very challenging country - and you need to understand the regional dynamics that relate to your own business; and
- connect into the New Zealand community, KEA and the High Commission - you never know when you may need to lean on them.

Any successes you'd like to comment on?

Among all the challenges we have had here in South Africa, in 2013 Sirdar South Africa turns five years old. A milestone for us, a testament to the value of our service and an achievement for our entire team.

During that time we have grown a successful business support company that has grown in revenue and profitability year-on-year. Alongside this we have focused on the role we play in uplifting underprivileged communities in this country through our commitment to giving - a focus we continue to have.

A couple of personal successes for me have been the publishing of my book 'The Laws of Extreme Business Success,' the hosting of the inaugural Sirdar Annual Governance Awards and of course, climbing Kilimanjaro.