



NEW ZEALAND
HIGH COMMISSION

Southern Africa File

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A view of Victoria falls from a Zimbabwe vantage point.

Photo: Ed Mclsaac



Street Musician in Cape Town

Photo: Richard Mann



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New Zealand commemorates Nelson Mandela

Kua hinga te totara I te wao nui a Tane

The totara has fallen in the forest of Tane

A totara is a native New Zealand tree that grows for hundreds of years in the forests of New Zealand. For one of them to fall is a great tragedy. This Māori saying is for when a person of great significance has passed away.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key led a high-level delegation to South Africa for the memorial events for former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela who passed away on 5 December. The official delegation included Leader of the Opposition David Cunliffe, Māori Affairs Minister Dr Pita Sharples, former Prime Minister Jim Bolger, and former Foreign Minister and Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Don McKinnon.



The New Zealand delegation attended the memorial service at the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg on 10 December, and viewed Mandela at the 'lying in state' at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 11 December.

PM John Key said that Mr Mandela would be remembered for two things – the fight against apartheid, and finding the direction of the country. “Mandela was a remarkable human being... There is a massive connection between Mandela and New Zealand, and between South Africa and New Zealand. We have over 54,000 South Africans living in New Zealand.”

Jim Bolger said it felt like “farewelling a friend”. He recalled that the last time he was in the Union Buildings was for Mandela’s inauguration in 1994. “In this way we are completing the journey.”

Dr Pita Sharples said that at the Union Buildings he performed a *poro poro aki*, a traditional Māori farewell for the dead, and that he had done it on behalf of Māori people and New Zealand.

David Cunliffe said that viewing Mandela at the Union Buildings was a very sombre time. Mandela “was looking like a big man at rest”.



From left: High Commissioner Richard Mann, Māori Affairs Minister Dr Pita Sharples, former Prime Minister Jim Bolger, Prime Minister John Key, Leader of the Opposition David Cunliffe, and former Foreign Minister and Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Don McKinnon.

The delegation warmly remembered then-President Mandela’s state visit to New Zealand in 1995, where he drew large numbers of New Zealanders to see him and hear him speak. They also recalled Mandela, wearing a Springbok jersey, joyously handing the 1995 Rugby World Cup trophy to his South African team after the gripping final between the Springboks and the New Zealand All Blacks.

Speaking about the 10 days of mourning, High Commissioner Richard Mann said that these “have been an emotional and fitting farewell to South Africa’s most beloved figure. South Africans and the world have paid tribute to a remarkable person, liberation leader and father of the modern, democratic South Africa.”

Presentation of Credentials in Mozambique

High Commissioner Richard Mann presented his credentials to Mozambican President Armando Guebuza on 16 October. The two discussed prospects for development cooperation in agriculture, renewable energy and scholarships.

President Guebuza expressed interest in New Zealand's sustainably-managed forestry and fisheries sectors. He also recognised that New Zealand is world leading in animal husbandry.

Mann also met with Foreign Minister Oldemiro Baloi to discuss ways of deepening the bilateral relationship.

Mozambique has one of the world's fastest growing economies, with increasing natural gas production coming on stream. It is New Zealand's 12th largest export market in Africa, with plenty of growth potential.



High Commissioner's visit to Cape Town

On a recent visit to Cape Town, High Commissioner Richard Mann called on the South African Speaker of the National Assembly the Hon. Max Sisulu to hand over a book of condolence for Nelson Mandela that was opened and signed in the New Zealand Parliament. Also present was the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces the Hon. Mninwa Mahlangu, who headed the South African delegation to the Commonwealth Speakers of Parliament Conference held in New Zealand last month.

"I visited Cape Town to attend the annual State of the National Address by the South African President in Parliament. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with South African government ministers, and political and business leaders. I discussed possibilities for economic and commercial collaboration with CEO Nils Flaatten of the Western Cape trade and investment promotion agency. New Zealand and Western Cape share synergies in a number of sectors such as agriculture, wine, marine industries and film production. Western Cape is also developing as a logistics hub for West Africa."



From left: Hon. Max Sisulu, High Commissioner Richard Mann and the Hon. Mninwa Mahlangu

New Zealand partnership with University of Swaziland



New Deputy Head of Mission Danie Beukman visited Swaziland in early February to attend the opening of Parliament. While in Swaziland, Beukman visited a project assisted by the High Commission's Head of Mission Fund. Organised in conjunction with the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) Foundation, the project gives Swazi women the opportunity to become entrepreneurs by teaching them how to run their own sustainable mushroom farming businesses.

The project is expected to benefit around 60 Swazi women, as well as generating additional jobs within their communities as their new businesses grow. We are grateful to Mr. Joshua Wycliffe (a New Zealander now running the UNISWA Foundation) and Dr. Diana Earnslaw from the University of Swaziland for their hard work in getting this project off the ground.



Deputy High Commissioner Danie Beukman with Joshua Wycliffe (CEO, UNISWA Foundation) and Mrs. Bella Khatamzi (Chair of the UNISWA Foundation)



Beukman speaking to class participants on the first day of lectures.



Dr Earnslaw showing the class how to use crop-farming byproducts to sustainably produce mushrooms at home.



Demonstrating the end product of a successful mushroom farming operation.

22nd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers

The 22nd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) was opened by the Governor-General, His Excellency Lt Gen, the Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, QNZM, QSO, in Wellington, followed by a spectacular procession of Speakers in their national ceremonial robes.

The conference ran from 21 -24 January at Parliament Buildings and brought together the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the parliaments of 48 countries to discuss topics of common interest across the Commonwealth and learn from each other.

“This is the first time in 30 years New Zealand has hosted CSPOC and the first time much of the conference will be open to the public,” said the Speaker of the House, the Rt Hon David Carter. “It’s a unique occasion and provides the opportunity for us to showcase our parliamentary system to the world. There’s a lot of interest in our successful transition to MMP and our strong select committee system. New Zealand is a model for other small countries that don’t have a two-house parliamentary system.”



Honorable Mninwa Mahlangu, Chairperson National Council of Provinces South Africa accepts the challenge at the CSPOC powhiri.

The conference also had a strong Pacific component . “Holding CSPOC close to home means many Pacific countries can participate and share their stories,” said Mr Carter. Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament, the Hon Niki Rattle gave a keynote address on the challenges facing small parliaments, along with keynote addresses from New Zealand’s Speaker of the House Rt Hon David Carter, former Speaker Hon Professor Margaret Wilson, and our Attorney-General the Hon Christopher Finlayson, QC.

“CSPOC contributes to developing parliamentary democracies so they can serve their citizens better,” said Mr Speaker. “Hosting this event is about being an active partner in the international parliamentary community. It’s also about building New Zealand’s place in the world.”

Second Secretary makes accreditation visit to Kenya

Second Secretary Ed Mclsaac travelled to Kenya in November to help progress with Kenyan officials a proposal for a cooperation arrangement in the areas of geothermal energy and agriculture. New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully discussed this with Kenyan Foreign Minister Amina Mohamed a few months earlier in Nairobi. Kenya, sitting on the eastern rift valley, has great potential in the area of renewable energy, as well as agriculture.

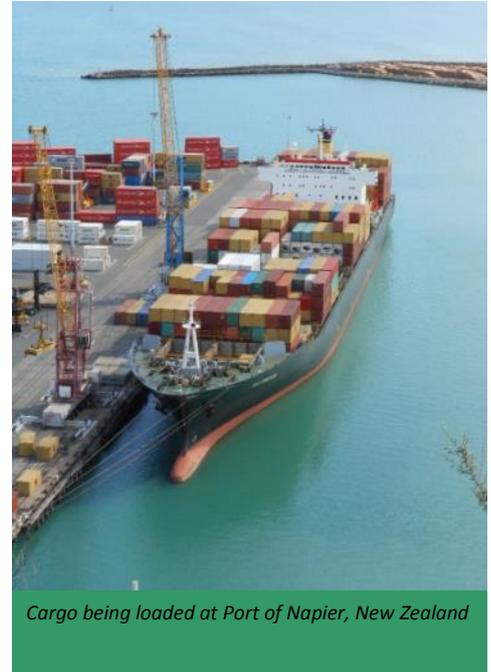
New Zealand is a country that believes in the benefits of trade liberalisation. Accordingly the views of Kenyan trade officials on developments in the East African Community, and progress towards a regional agreement joining the EAC with the Southern African Development Community and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, were also of interest.

Mclsaac took the opportunity to offer condolences on behalf of the New Zealand Government to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Westgate mall terrorist attack in September that killed at least 67 people. A New Zealand national was also injured in that attack.



Sub-Saharan Africa: Growing Trade and Investment Opportunities

The new year has seen a flurry of 'Africa 2014 Economic Outlook' forums as Johannesburg-based consultancies and business schools have looked to tap the widely shared narrative of 'Africa-rising'. The New Zealand High Commission is looking to prioritise attendance at such events, and to expand our business outreach more generally, in an effort to develop a better sense of trade and investment opportunities in the region, and provide a better service for New Zealanders and New Zealand businesses.



Cargo being loaded at Port of Napier, New Zealand

The South African market, Africa's largest (for the time being) and most sophisticated, continues to present good opportunities for trade and investment across a variety of sectors. Economic growth is expected to pick up into 2014 and 2015, although unemployment, inflationary pressures and labour market concerns present challenges. New Zealand exports to South Africa grew from 2012 to 2013 and are now over NZ\$250 million (ZAR 2.27 billion). South African exports to New Zealand recorded an impressive jump of over 12% over the same period to over NZ\$143 million (ZAR1.3 billion), with cars and wine making big gains.

The broader sub-Saharan African market continues to hum, with average growth forecasts picked to challenge Asia, at around 6%. Some of the High Commission's accredited countries, such as Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia are tipped to grow even faster. Governance and infrastructure challenges across the region remain but are showing sustained improvement. New Zealand companies are starting to take notice. New Zealand exports to Angola, for example, jumped by 27% last year to just over NZ\$41 million (around ZAR370 million). Seafood is a big contributor. Exports to Mozambique in 2013 meanwhile increased by over 40% from 2012, admittedly off a low base, and have almost doubled since 2011.

The New Zealand High Commission expects the positive news stories about economic opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa to continue.



Infrastructure development in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Business Profile: Jetpatcher

Jetpatcher Corporation Limited is a New Zealand company that has been specialising in innovative road repair machinery since the mid-1980s. The technology reduces the cost of repairing roads by 30-40% and can be driven over within hours. Over the past 26 years Mr Jim Turnbull (Managing Director) and the team at Jetpatcher in New Zealand have sold their units into more than 15 countries, and Africa is increasingly on the radar screen.

Mr Chris Hooman has been Jetpatcher's distributor in South Africa since 2008, and is based in Centurion, Pretoria. In the initial stages Chris notes that they faced many challenges, including the difficulty of getting uptake in the local market, which had not seen this type of machinery before. Over the last couple of years however sales of Jetpatcher's technology into South African provinces, such as the Northern Cape, and countries around the region, including Uganda and Zimbabwe, have seen the South African company and the Jetpatcher product take off.



Second Secretary Ed Mclsaac and Policy Adviser, Nokubulela Lindani, from the High Commission, with Jetpatcher South Africa Managing Director Chris Hooman (middle), in front of a Jetpatcher unit in the Free State.



Jetpatcher unit in operation, repairing African roads in a way that saves money and time.

Chris is proud of the Jetpatcher product, furthering development outcomes in a region facing infrastructure challenges. Jetpatcher's innovative intellectual property and manufacturing brings other wins, generating jobs and investment in both South Africa and New Zealand. Says Chris "Jetpatcher not only delivers an effective solution at a very affordable price, it offers a solution that is easy deployable at any site and work is done with the minimum disruption to people and traffic." Jetpatcher in South Africa employs around 20 staff full-time and 180 other workers on a contract basis. Chris sees these workers as part of the Jetpatcher family in Africa.

Doing business in the region, with a New Zealand supplier, is not without its challenges. Chris points to the complicated rules of origin requirements to attract duty preferences from other SADC markets. A further challenge is the need to meet growing demand from regional clients in a timely fashion. Chris cautions that Africa is not an easy market for those looking to make a 'quick buck'. It requires persistence and patience, but it can offer lucrative returns to those who do break through and offer truly worthwhile products and services.



The High Commission joining forces with the Jetpatcher team and an infrastructure engineer to inspect the new road.

Jetpatcher has proven to be a piece of New Zealand technology that has a tangible social and developmental impact and is a positive example of the growing trade linkages between New Zealand and this part of the world. You can find out more about Jetpatcher in Africa at: <http://jetpatcher.co.za/> or <http://www.jetpatcher.com/>

If you are a New Zealand company doing business, or looking to do business in South Africa or the region, or a South African company looking to partner with a New Zealand enterprise, please contact us at enquiries@nzhc.co.za or give us a call on +27 12 435 9016.

ELTO Africa

The inaugural English Language Training for African Officials (ELTO Africa), was undertaken from 21 October to 13 December 2013. ELTO Africa provides an opportunity for Foreign Ministry officials from a range of African countries to undertake an intensive English language course in New Zealand. The course was offered in response to expressions of interest from a number of partner countries. The awardees were nationals of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo Brazzaville, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger and Togo. The objective is to enhance the English language skills of participating officials to enable them to represent their countries effectively in international fora where English is the medium of communication, and to strengthen ties with New Zealand and between participating countries. ELTO awardees had the opportunity to visit Parliament and have afternoon tea with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully. Further ELTO courses are planned for 2014 and 2015.



ELTO Awardees at afternoon tea with Minister McCully



ELTO Awardees visit New Zealand Parliament

African energy specialists' renewable energy study tour of New Zealand

Nine participants from Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania, including representatives from the Eastern and Southern African Power Pools, undertook a 10 day renewable energy study tour of New Zealand over 13-22 November 2013. Participants visited key renewable energy sites, met with energy industry representatives and attended the New Zealand geothermal workshop.

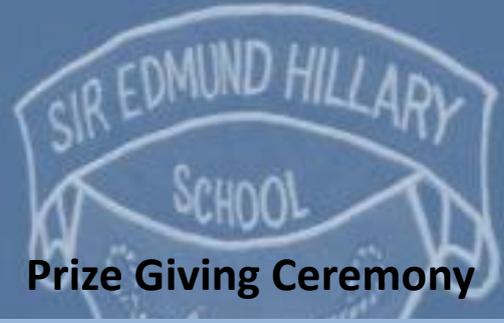
The tour was organised in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and builds on the Africa Clean Energy Corridor workshop convened by IRENA in Abu Dhabi in June. It is intended to highlight New Zealand's energy model as a practical demonstration of the integration of renewable energy sources into a shared grid system, and use this to further discussions regarding the continued development of the African Clean Energy Corridor.



Participants of the renewable energy study tour are taken on a tour of the Kawerau geothermal power station



Participants of the renewable energy study tour visit the Waiotapu geothermal area.



Prize Giving Ceremony

High Commissioner Mann and Mrs Michelle Mann were warmly welcomed by staff and scholars from Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School at their annual prize giving ceremony which was held on 3 December 2013.



New Zealand's famous mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary visited the school not long after he became the first person to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain, Mt Everest. The New Zealand High Commission and New Zealand dairy company Fonterra are proud to continue their association with this high-achieving school in east Johannesburg.



International Wheelchair Rugby

2013 Asia-Oceania Championships, Pretoria

South Africa hosted the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) 2013 Asia-Oceania Championships, Pretoria from 16-23 November 2013. Former Deputy High Commissioner Georgina Roberts attended the opening ceremony and took the opportunity to meet the New Zealand team. The tournament was of particular importance to all participating teams, as it was an official qualifier for the 2014 World Championships.

New Zealand's Wheel Blacks (#10) showed immense grit and determination during the high-paced, tournament, which pitted them against such teams as Australia (#2), Japan (#5) and South Africa. South Africa advanced to a ranking of #17, following the completion of the tournament.



New Zealand featured at local school Cultural Day

In October the High Commission welcomed a group of students from the Hatfield Christian School who had chosen to learn more about New Zealand for the school's cultural day.

The boys interviewed Second Secretary Ed Mclsaac about life in New Zealand, and then had a tour of the High Commission. The boys then welcomed Ed to their school for the cultural day where he gave a short speech to the school, and enjoyed the NZ-themed stall they had prepared and a rousing haka that the boys gave!



High Commissioner visits after school sports programme in Cape Town

High Commissioner Richard Mann visited Eluxolweni Primary School in Khayelitsa Township near Cape Town to see their school sports programme in action.

The sports programme is run by Dumisani Wambi, who studied in New Zealand and started to work on sports programmes for school children in 2006. His Real Youth programme is now in eight schools in Khayelitsa, and includes basketball, hockey and soccer.

The New Zealand High Commission donated 120 basketballs for use in the programme. Eluxolweni has over 900 students. A grateful Dumisani Wambi wrote on our Facebook page that the New Zealand High Commission in Pretoria is now known in Khayelitsa as "the coolest Commission".

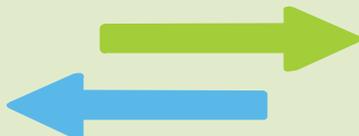


Art Classes in Lesotho

Michelle Mann, wife of the High Commissioner, and a group of diplomatic spouses spent several days in Morija, in the mountains of Lesotho, giving art classes to local school children at the Morija Arts Centre.

As art is not part of the school curriculum, the children were keen to show their creative talents.

The group provides continuous support to the Arts Centre.

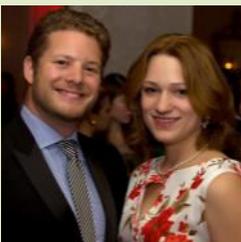


High Commission Staff Moves



Georgina Roberts

January was a month of mixed emotions as the High Commission farewelled Deputy High Commissioner Georgina Roberts. Georgina and husband Russell spent 4 years in Pretoria and their presence in the office will be missed.



Danie Beukman & Jennifer Walker

January also saw the arrival of the High Commission's new Deputy, Danie Beukman. Danie and his partner, Jennifer Walker, arrived mid-January. Danie was previously posted at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington and has enjoyed settling into his new position in Pretoria.

The High Commission also welcomed Nokubulela Lindani as the newly appointed Policy Advisor. Nokubulela was previously a Research Assistant at the University of Pretoria, working on South African foreign policy, emerging economies, and global economic governance.