

TIPS ON MOVING TO NEW ZEALAND (Updated June 2010)

Temporary/Permanent migration

Many South Africans who are moving to New Zealand do not inform authorities in SA that they are emigrating. They obtain NZ Work Visas or Permanent Residency Visas and then live “temporarily-permanently” in NZ while they are still SA Citizens. This allows “emigrants” to return to S.A with the least implications should they decide not to become citizens of the new country. Thousands of South Africans are living abroad, endeavoring to become citizens of their new host country. Only a very small percentage living in NZ return permanently to SA. People with NZ Permanent Residence Visas who have lived in NZ for 5 years may apply to become NZ citizens. Please send an e-mail through the enquiry facility for more info on immigration agents and –services.

Look, See and Decide (LSD)



A “LSD” trip is recommended for those who can afford it and wish to first come and look. Bear in mind that the flights are very long and severe jetlag can be experienced. Jetlag seems to be more severe on the eastbound trip from SA to NZ than in the opposite direction, so provide for enough time and plan your trip in terms of what you want to see here. Although the country is small, traveling times by road is normally longer than what you may estimate. For example many visitors are surprised to learn that road travel between

Auckland and Wellington is approximately 10 hours.

Before Moving

Renew or obtain a SA credit card. Arrange the furthest possible future expiry date. Make sure it has a 4-digit pin, as this will make it possible to draw money at ATMs virtually anywhere in the world. Monies that are due to you in SA can then be paid into this account and you may draw it in NZ at most ATMs. Amounts exceeding the daily ATM may be drawn in cash over the counter at your local NZ bank. Consider obtaining 2 cards, one for each partner/spouse for in case your card may become damaged over time – especially if it has a long validity period.

Rules pertaining to withdrawal of funds abroad: Permissible cash withdrawals abroad are regulated through exchange control measures, determined and monitored by the SA Reserve Bank. SA banks and their clients need to comply with these rules. Find out from your bank what the permissible maximum is per year and per transaction and/ or per day to ensure that withdrawals are not questioned at your bank in SA.

Transfers from SA are either made in terms of traveling allowance, permissible offshore investments or emigration allowance. Speak to an expert in this field at your SA bank about this prior to leaving SA to ensure that you are fully aware of the exchange control rules and that your planned transfer of funds from SA are properly planned and catered for at your bank. Many changes to relax previous tight exchange control measures has occurred over recent years.



Foreign currency

If possible, obtain some NZ currency for peace of mind prior to leaving. Travelers’ cheques are not available in NZ\$ so Aus\$ is a good alternative, to be exchanged for NZ\$ on arrival in NZ. ATMs at Auckland International Airport can be used to draw NZ\$ with your SA credit card.

Bank accounts in SA

Provide a reliable personal representative in SA with a comprehensive power of attorney and also register this arrangement directly with your bank so that you do not have any worries about any (sometimes very unforeseen) unfinished matters that require your presence or signature in SA in your absence. Also change your address to that of your reliable SA representative and arrange to have mail forwarded to this address from your last address. Ensure you have a working internet banking facility so that you have access to your accounts from abroad.

Mail

Arrange with a reliable contact person in NZ to use his/her address as a temporary address for any mail that you may receive soon after your arrival while you do not have a permanent address in NZ yet. Our clients may use our address in Auckland as their temporary address. You may contact Fritz on fswart@xtra.co.nz to enquire about this free reliable temporarily physical mailing address in Auckland, even if you are not a current client of Fritz

SA Passports

If needed, renew your SA passport so that you have the longest possible validity to avoid having to transfer NZ Work Visas, and Permits to a new passport in future.

South African Tax returns & SA payable bills.

Ensure that your business with **SARS** is up to date and make arrangements for your future tax returns to be submitted even if you do not have any income to declare, simply submit a "nil" return. Ensure that all your outstanding bills are paid. This will prevent the possibility of bad surprises when you visit SA again.

Pets

It is possible to bring pets but it can be very expensive and require timeous planning. Extensive quarantine requirements may have to be met.

Temporary accommodation on arrival



Book your temporary stay while you are awaiting the arrival of your container with a guesthouse or self-contained flat run by South Africans. This way you will meet other SACans and be exposed to people who understand your circumstances. A 2 bedroom furnished flat rents for approx \$300 - \$350 per week depending

on the area and economy rate guesthouses will cost from about \$200 per person per week. Family discounts may apply. Contact us through the enquiry facility for info on the above

Shipping your furniture

Don't ship your stuff if you are not sure that your PR or work permit will be approved by the time the shipment reaches port in NZ otherwise you will be required to fork out import duties or pay for storage at the port.

If your PR is approved in advance then consider shipping of your stuff a few weeks before you leave, as you will then not wait for it so long in NZ. Frustration is higher in NZ waiting for your belongings than going without it for a period before you leave (our experience).

What to bring, and what not.

Bring white ware; that is fridge, freezer, microwave, dishwasher, washing machine and a big tumble dryer etc. if it is still in good condition. Those items are relatively expensive in NZ. If you buy new ones – consider quality well known names, which are unlikely to break because your guarantee will probably not be valid in NZ or hard to enforce. It may be worth your while to rather buy in NZ, ensuring warranties are valid and saving the shipping costs. See www.noelleeming.co.nz and www.harveynorman.co.nz for appliances and prices.

Bring your Webber or other braai if still in reasonable condition, but don't bring gas bottles, it cannot be refilled here as different types are used. Flat screen TVs have become affordable and the norm. Rather sell your old TV in SA. Old TVs may not receive the NZ signal and you may have to convert it here. New TVs, and DVD players are very affordable in NZ. Bring your 3-legged and flat bottom potjies. Hardware such as nails, bolts, nuts etc. is very expensive here, so bringing a selection of it may be worthwhile. Power tools on the other hand are very affordable. You can also bring garden tools and other hardware and tools. Remember to clean it in compliance with MAF (see links page) (Gardens are normally small in NZ as cost of labour to assist in keeping large gardens tidy is extremely expensive. There are numerous parks with gardens under keep of local authorities that can be enjoyed.) If you decide not to ship a container, additional luggage can be sent unaccompanied to avoid expensive penalties for exceeding standard luggage allowances.

Arriving in New Zealand

Food items in transit through the airport

New Zealand has strict laws to protect its agricultural industries from imported pests and diseases. If you bring in items such as food and plants, these must be declared to Customs officials. Fines can be given for illegally importing plants and animal materials. Do not bring any fruit, honey and definitely no biltong. You may even be fined for bringing in an apple that you have received with your meal on the plane. You can get a taxi or catch a shuttle-bus to your destination from the airport, but we may also be able to assist with arranging pick-up at Auckland International.

Telephones

Public phones are coin-operated, but some require the use of phone cards that can be purchased from most supermarkets, bookstores, and cafes (called dairies).

If you cannot find a number, the Directory Service (dial 018) can help.

Cell phones are known as “mobile phones” in NZ and the better alternative to public phones. Simply bring your cell phone along, and buy a pre-pay starter pack on your arrival here.

Time

NZ makes use of daylight saving by manipulating the time by one hour in March and in October. During summer NZ is 11 hours ahead of SA and 10 hours in winter.

Temporary own transport

When you arrive in NZ – rent a car for a time while you shop for a suitable vehicle. See “buying a car” elsewhere in this document.

General do's and don'ts in New Zealand

Changing from one country to another leads to a loss of “local” knowledge. Everything may seem the same, but they are not. Talk to other South Africans who have been here for some time, or ask us for advice on issues that are unfamiliar.

Shopping in NZ

Three things make the first few shopping days challenging.

- You are still paying with your SA Rand.
- Because the New Zealand Dollar is stronger than the Rand, some items appear very expensive in Rand terms while using your SA savings.
- You do not know the brand names and quality of many items and they could end up in the dustbin.



Mixed spice in New Zealand, for example, has a fair amount of cinnamon in. You discover this only after your first bite of a lovely oven roasted chicken!!

Prices can vary drastically. New Zealanders thrive on “Specials and “Sales” so it is sometimes a misused marketing ploy by retailers.

Meat is generally cheap if you buy at the right places. The Mad Butcher and Meat King are known for their good prices and quality. Boerewors is normally of poor quality unless bought at a premium from ex SAcans butchers. Ask us where to find them. For braai, Rump Steak is cheaper than other beef cuts such as Sirloin which is preferred by many locals. Frozen lamb chops are also more affordable as Kiwis prefer fresh meat and generally do not stock up on frozen meats as South Africans do in SA. Once a butcher need to freeze meat, the price may drop drastically. Fresh fruit and veges should rather be bought at greengrocers where it is usually much cheaper than at the supermarkets. A variety of Apples and Kiwi fruit in season are the “staple” fruits of NZ. Many fruit varieties such as pine-apples, mangos, paw paws and even bananas and citrus varieties are imported and quite expensive compared to SA prices. Avocados have become affordable since farmers started planting this in the Bay of Plenty a few years ago. We also have beautiful Strawberries in December and January.

Groceries are very affordable at Pak n Save, Count Down and New World while more expensive at Food Town however selection and presentation may be better there. Pak n Save also has reasonable priced meat and cold meats and an interesting fresh fish counter. (see links). Try the famous cheap fresh NZ green lipped mussels, and rich fresh salmon.

Buying a car

Used cars are cheap but people sometimes still pay too much as they are used to much higher car prices in SA and consider every other car that is for sale in NZ as a bargain. Be careful not to buy a private cheapy that may be on the verge of expensive repairs. Rather obtain an AA report on the vehicle beforehand. The NZ car market is extremely active, ranging from expensive European imported cars to very cheap imported 2nd hand Japanese cars.

For new car deals, there are reputable dealers and the cars come with guarantees and less risk than 2nd handcars.

Our advice focuses on purchasing a 2nd hand car, as we believe most new arrivals will start with this option.

NZ has no import tax on used cars therefore these cars offer good value for money if one can negotiate the pitfalls and knows the full cost of the purchase, such as that the radio may still be tuned to Japan's frequencies and that a band expander is needed to receive New Zealand stations.

Some luxury used European cars such as Mercedes Benz, BMW and Volvo imported from Singapore sometimes present with electrical problems following premature wiring wear due to exposure to the high temperatures there while apparently produced for cooler European conditions.

Mechanical warranties can be purchased through many MTA registered car dealers and workshops even if purchased privately, subject to age and mileage conditions.

Make sure what is covered, what not and about future service requirements.

A warrant of fitness (WOF) needs to be done yearly on new to 6 year old cars and 6 monthly on cars of 6 years and older. This is done by garage workshops who are licensed to do WOF inspections and cost about \$40 per inspection. Licensing fees are about \$200 per year.

New Zealand is very focused on websites and internet advertising so almost all cars (including private sales) are advertised on websites. See www.trademe.co.nz This site has more than 40 000 used cars for sale online at any time, either as online auction or at an asking price. Many dealers are also advertising on Trade-me. Prices and additions, such as new batteries, carpets etc may easily be negotiated from dealers as the car market is competitive. Find out more about car auctions on www.turners.co.nz

The regular **Car Fair** at Ellerslie Racecourse in Auckland every Sunday 9am to noon has many private sellers and most prices there are also highly negotiable.

Employment

If you find it difficult to obtain employment in Auckland or Wellington, consider other areas. There are South Africans nearly everywhere in NZ. Salaries may be lower elsewhere but housing is normally much cheaper in smaller towns and cities.



Do not expect to resume employment in NZ at the same level at which you left in SA. You will have to prove your ability to add value to your new employer and not to jeopardize existing positive office dynamics. Friendliness, little talk and hard work are the key words, especially in the beginning. The economy is small and made up of a large number of small private companies, so there are no free rides and nowhere to hide as it may have been possible in large corporate environments in SA in the past. On the other hand, many employers value SACans

for some being very hardworking and loyal. This may give you an advantage at interview time. Appointments are normally subject to a probation period.

Banking

An account can be opened on your arrival and you will normally be provided with an account number on the same day. It may also be possible to open an account while still in SA. Please contact us for advice on this. Banks with a wide national network of branches are ASB, Bank of New Zealand (BNZ), The National Bank, Westpac and ANZ. Eftpos debit cards are widely used, by virtually everybody and cash can be drawn at the supermarket by adding a cash amount onto your grocery bill at the till. Internet banking is also widely used. Banking hours are normally 9 till 4.30 Monday to Friday and most branches are closed on Saturdays. Banks also provide insurance services but an experienced independent insurance broker will be able to provide more options and better premiums. Use our enquiry page for quotes and more info.

Driving in New Zealand is similar to driving in SA but there are a few important, different yield (give way) rules. (these rules are under review for possible change at the time of writing of this update) Furthermore, left lanes are sometimes used for both driving and parking lanes, so sometimes parked cars may suddenly appear in your lane. Accidents are sometimes caused by parked cars being “clipped” by passing traffic so be aware of this.

Make sure you are aware of these differences to SA road rules before you start driving. Roads are generally narrower than in SA but well maintained and there are less long distant motorways such as the toll roads in SA as many Kiwis prefer affordable domestic inter-city air travel to long distant driving. Motorways can be congested especially at peak hours. Speeding is not common and drunk driving is not tolerated and results in heavy penalties and possible suspension of licenses, however there is a “boy racing” problem with some ill disciplined young drivers causing the majority of our road accidents. It seems that the traffic police are not effective in solving this problem. Roads referred to as ‘State Highways’ throughout the country normally have only one lane per direction with passing lanes at inclines. The equivalent to what is known as Highways in SA are called motorways in NZ. Rural roads can be narrow and winding and thus dangerous.

Built up areas normally have speed limits of 50 kilometers per hour and on the open roads including motorways the speed limit is 100 kilometers per hour. Be careful, it may take discipline adapting from 120km/h in SA to 100km/h and fines can be incurred. All passengers must wear safety belts and drivers are responsible for their passengers. Children less than 5 years old must be seated and restrained in an approved child seat. The only exception is when you are traveling in a taxi that does not have a child seat in which case the child must sit in the back seat.

Drivers Licenses

All drivers need a driver license and it is compulsory to carry it with you when driving. Any policeman in NZ may also act as a traffic cop. Your SA drivers license is valid for 12 months after arriving in NZ for the first time. You are thus not required to have an international license. If your SA drivers license shows an issue date of longer than 2 years in the past you can have a NZ license issued with this as evidence at your nearest NZ AA at a fee of about \$80. This should be done within a year after arriving otherwise your insurance will not be valid and you may incur a fine if caught as you are allowed to drive for up to 1 year with your SA license from arriving in NZ. If your SA license shows an issuing date of less than 2 years you also need to do a theory exam and a practical exam. Best is to enquire with the NZ AA what your NZ drivers license requirements are when you arrive as the rules pertaining to this may change as it has been changing over recent years.

Social values

Kiwis have similar values than other Western countries and tolerance of race, religion and sexuality is evident. The social welfare system is structured to prevent poverty, so you will not see hungry faces and beggars on the streets. Kiwis, like South Africans, are mad about sport and the outdoors and having a braai, which they call a Barbie, short for barbeque. It is advisable to avoid talking politics with Kiwis especially during your early days as you will not be knowledgeable about NZ politics and your opinions may differ about SA affairs.

Privacy and communication style

Personal privacy is respected and enforced by law through the Privacy Act. All types of personal violence are frowned upon. It is also illegal to physically discipline children. Stern words and grounding is the norm for the naughty. Loud voices and finger pointing may be considered aggressive behavior.

Sport & Leisure

Rugby is the national sport. It is advisable to know which players are in the All Black team and to be acquainted with the teams and local heroes in the NZ equivalent to the SA Curry which is the National Provincial Championship (NPC) and now also called the New Zealand Cup.



As New Zealanders are passionate about their rugby this would be a good icebreaker when talking to many Kiwis. Go to trouble in finding out the who is who of NZ rugby and how the national championships, the Ranfurly Shield, the Super 14 teams and the Bledisloe Cup against the Wallabies are set up so you can join and understand conversations revolving around the national sport.

Rugby League (13 man version with different rules to Rugby Union) is also important. The NZ club team participating against Aussie teams is the Warriors. The National league team is known as the Kiwis, and they play against their Aussie archrivals named the Kangaroos on a regular basis in season. Cricket, Netball, and Basketball are also important games and NZ have strong national teams competing successfully against their Aussie opponents in these sports.

Boating and Fishing

New Zealand has the highest per capita boat owners of any country in the world. Kiwis are excellent sailors and rowers as proved by their historical dominance of the Americas Cup and medals in the Olympics.



Fishing and diving is a popular pastime for many a Kiwi. Most coastal areas on the eastern side of the country have calm seas that the Pacific Ocean is known for and many safe bays and anchorages contribute to numerous boats being put to water especially over weekends. Pristine lakes and rivers offer some of the best trout fishing in the world.

Although cities are densely populated, the overall population density of the country as a whole is low. With a total population of only 4 million and roughly the size of the UK or Japan, the comparative population density is more than 10 times lower than those countries. There are thus pristine wilderness areas across the country and dense forests or lonely beaches are not far from even the busiest city centre.

Telephone connections and Internet

New phone connections are normally done within a day from ordering service telephonically by literally dialing 123 from any other phone. The moderate basic line hire rate includes unlimited free local calls. Fast uninterrupted internet sharing phone lines also known as broadband has becoming the norm for households in NZ today so that phone lines are no longer engaged continuously due to people surfing the net. There are a number of service providers for landlines and cell phones (called mobile phones in NZ).

Bring your cell phone along and buy a starter pack on your arrival. It is important that you can be contacted at all times if you are job searching. Cell phone calls are expensive. The use of SMS known as Text is widely used. International calls are cheap if you make use of specials or certain phone cards. Calls to SA by card can be as cheap as 15 NZ cents per minute and about 30 cents or less by using a convenient special pre-dial code through Telecom. Contact you service providers here or ask other SAcans about current specials to SA. Skype is widely used to communicate with loved ones abroad.

Regions

It is good idea to study the NZ map to form an idea of the different regions. If watching the news or listening to conversations and you hear terms such as Taranaki, The Coromandel, Rodney, Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty (to name only a few) it helps if you have an idea where it is.

Different words

“Grab your brollie and come and join us mate. It’s my shout.” What would you grab? Would you shout back?

As much as things are the same in New Zealand, so many things are different. A brollie is an umbrella. The person “shouting” something will pay for the round of drinks or coffee or the meal. “BYO” on signs outside restaurants means you may bring your own beer or wine. The term “couple” to describe a number may mean “a few” to you, but in NZ, this actually means 2, for example, if you say that you will be away for a couple of hours, to a Kiwi, this means that you will be back in 2 hours, not in an uncertain number of hours.

It may be a good idea to study the NZ unique language terms.

Visit <http://www.chemistry.co.nz/kiwi.htm> for an extensive list of Kiwi slang.

Earthquakes and tsunamis

Although a few tremors are felt each year, New Zealand does not have a bad recent history of loss of life or property due to the above.

Media

In addition to the “NZ on Air” sponsored TV 1; 2 and 3 that has been available for years, numerous other free to air digital TV channels have become available in NZ recently subject to purchasing a satellite dish and decoder. See <http://freeviewnz.tv/> for more info on this.

Many Kiwis subscribe to the pay channels through Sky TV which is broadcasting mainly from Australia and is the equivalent to DSTV or M-Net in SA. See <http://www.skytv.co.nz/> for more on this. The rugby channel on Sky, channel 36, provides 24/7 rugby including most Curry Cup matches and other Rugby programs from SA . There are more than 120 radio stations mostly music and a few talk back stations. New Zealand’s larger cities and towns have daily newspapers, and there are two national Sunday papers. The NZ Herald is the most popular daily paper in Auckland. There are many national magazines, both weekly and monthly.

Rubbish Collection and Recycling

The method and frequency of collection depends on where you live. Special colored pre-paid rubbish bags provided by councils and available in supermarkets are the norm. More convenient wheelie bins are hired and emptied through private companies. Recycling items such as plastic, glass, tins and paper are removed free of charge if put out on the pavement in the manner prescribed by the council. This is removed fortnightly in our area while Rubbish is removed weekly. Talk to your neighbors or contact your local council for details

Maintenance and Home Help

Unless hired for only a few hours per week, few can afford to hire home cleaners at about \$20 per hour. Garden services are widely used mainly for mowing of lawns. Registered tradesmen must do electrical and plumbing work. When you need the services of a trades person, it is best to ascertain costs first. Labor is expensive and families normally have certain hours each week on which the whole family clean the house and with many helping hands each doing a particular chore, it is quick and easy. You will find that big gardens are not popular as it takes up valuable time to maintain. .

Making a Will

Your SA will is not valid for your NZ assets. New wills are drafted free or at a small fee for our clients. Contact us for assistance with this.

Matrimonial act

Your SA matrimonial agreement may not be acknowledged and enforceable in NZ. After 3 years of marriage or de facto relationships, equal sharing of assets are generally ruled at breakup.

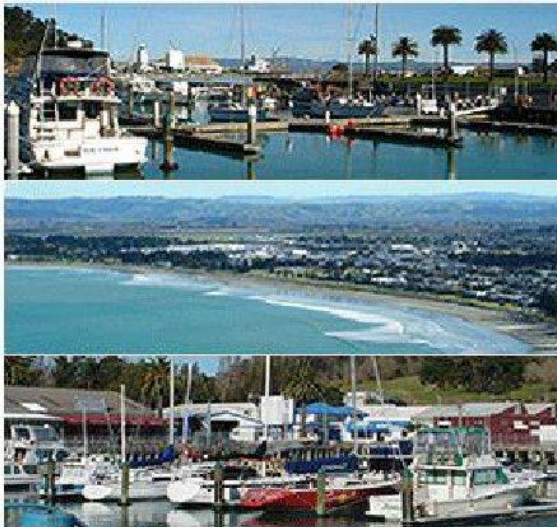
Alcohol and the Law

Wine and beer is available 7 days a week from most supermarkets. Spirits is available from liquor stores that are also open 7 days a week except on a few public holidays such as Easter Monday. People younger than 18 are not allowed to purchase alcohol or cigarettes. Liquor is more expensive in NZ than in SA mainly due to higher excise duties.

Smoking

It is generally not socially acceptable to smoke anywhere else but in your own privacy. Most houses are smoke free. Tobacco is very expensive due to high government duties, to such an extent that many SA cans who arrive here give up because of the affordability of the habit also taking into account smokers loadings on Life Insurance premiums.

Renting a property



It is advisable to rather rent a house for about 6 months before buying. Building methods are different in NZ. Most houses are made of wood, not of brick and mortar. Some designs have higher risk than others and may be prone to leak. It is important to know where you will work and where children will attend schools when making a decision to buy. Some areas have better capital growth potential than others. All these factors can only be learnt and understood with time. Many new arriving SACans rent houses before their containers arrive and “camp” in the house awaiting their furniture. They normally find that people of the SA community have spare mattresses, kitchenware etc to borrow.

Rental Costs

Most properties for rent are unfurnished but may have items such as dishwashers and fridges that are called “white ware” in NZ. Rent is expressed as a \$ rate per week and normally payable fortnightly.

Herewith the approximate average **weekly** rental rate for a standard unfurnished 3-bedroom house for different areas:

North Island

Auckland North	\$450
Auckland East	\$420
Auckland Central	\$550
Hamilton	\$300
Wellington Lower Hutt	\$350
Wellington Upper Hutt	\$270
Wellington Mt Victoria	\$460

Smaller cities such as Napier, Palmerston North, and New Plymouth will have lower rates.

South Island

Christchurch Riccarton	\$280
Christchurch Central	\$310
Christchurch Papanui	\$320
Dunedin	\$270
Invercargill	\$210

The above are only rough guidelines and rent rates will differ depending on the suburb, condition of the house etc. Be aware that there are additional costs that are incurred when renting a property such as a deposit, called a bond, which is kept in a trust account with the Tenancy Board. Water, lights and gas, if applicable, are additional to the above.

Buying a house.

Housing in NZ is relatively expensive compared to SA. Prices vary drastically from area to area for example the average price for a 3 bedroom house in Auckland may be between \$400K and \$600K depending on the suburb and multi million dollar houses are found across the country while it may be less than \$200K to \$250K in some smaller towns. Flats, called units are also available at more reasonable prices but many are rather compact and hardly suitable for those who are used to space. A deposit is normally required to obtain a home loan and the bigger the deposit the easier it will be to negotiate a loan on favorable terms.

The majority of NZ property is sold through real estate agents who work for the vendor (the seller). Commissions are somewhat lower than in SA on average less than 5% of the price. No transfer duties are levied by the government, only registration costs payable to the lawyer (called a solicitor in NZ) averaging about \$1 500 per transaction, for the account of the buyer. It is important to know which areas have better historical growth rates, schools zones and building methods and materials. All these play an important role in the potential capital appreciation of property. No capital gains tax is levied on house sales at this time unless the seller is engaged in property speculation. Many houses are registered in the names of family trusts. Contact us to find out more about family trusts in NZ.

Living expenses

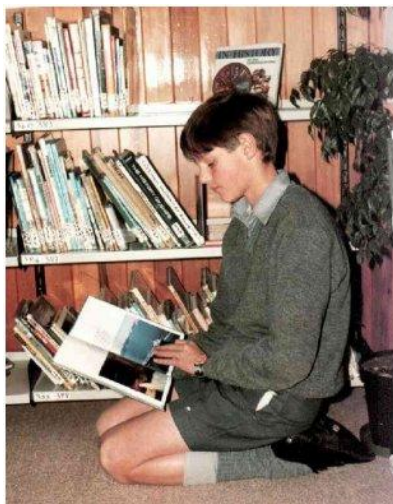
Fresh fruit and veggies are expensive, and some items that are plentiful in SA such as watermelons, mangoes en paw-paws are not farmed in NZ and imported and offered to the public, sometimes at ridiculous prices. Apples and Kiwifruit in season are cheap, so is cheese, red meat and potatoes all year round (provided you buy at the right places) It is thus quite affordable and popular to have a braai, called a barbie, (short for barbeque) Gas barbeques are popular but for the connoisseur insisting on SA style there is wood and charcoal available even long lasting Charka briquettes imported from SA.

Rough estimate of prices of items in a typical grocery basket.

Keri Fruit juice 2 liter \$4.00	Freshpack Rooibos 100s \$ 4.00
Milk 2 liter \$ 3.00	Eggs per dozen \$ 3.50
Whole chicken, average size \$ 9.00	Lamb chops kg \$13.00
Lamp ribs kg \$7	Rump Steak kg \$10.00 to \$14
Boerewors kg \$14.00	Nescafe Classic 100g \$4.00
Crumbed fish fillets kg \$14.00	400g Tin baked beans \$1.20
200g tin tuna \$ 1.50	Impala Mealie meal 2.5kg \$5.00
Wine 3 liter box \$20.00, bottle \$8 to \$20	Beer dozen \$15 - \$18.00
Scotch Whisky 1 liter \$35.00 - \$40	Cheddar kg \$ 9.00
Coke 2.25 liter \$2.50	Weetbix 24 375g \$3.50

A family of 4 will battle to survive on a net income after tax of about \$850 per week becoming more comfortable at levels exceeding at least \$1 000 per week, (once again, depending on the area). In most instances both partners need to work to make ends meet. Part time work for one spouse is sometimes sufficient to supplement the income of the full time earner.

Schools



It is customary for kids to start school on the very day of their 5th birthday. Schools are zoned and schooling is of a high standard but discipline may sometimes be lacking. There are 3 levels of schooling namely:

1. Primary: Age 5 to 11
2. Intermediate: Age 12 and 13
3. College: Age 14 to 18.

School hours are from 9 am to 3 pm so students have to take their midday lunch to school.

NZ is renowned for the high standard of tertiary education. Thousands of international students visit NZ every year to take advantage of quality University and Tech training and study courses that are available, making this one of NZ's most important earner of foreign currency. Study loans for NZ citizens are readily available through the government for

those who qualify. School fees for permanent residents are reasonable at about \$300 per student per year, but may be very expensive in up market private schools.

Personal views: a look-back after more than 8 years.

Since moving to NZ in 2001 we have experienced the highs and lows of immigrating. Mentally, spiritual and financial challenges had to be faced and overcome in order to make resettlement and acceptance of this new country possible.

Early in this document, I mentioned the loss of “local knowledge” when emigrating. The regaining of new local knowledge comes with experience and the crossing of hurdles and it requires time. I have decided to share some “new local knowledge” thoughts which I consider important and which may be valuable to new immigrants to NZ.

Climate: In the beginning we were not bothered with high rain fall and a longer winter, as we viewed everything as a new adventure. After a few years we missed the regular sunshine that we had in SA. Amongst other reasons, I believe that the lack of regular sunshine is the most important reason why many SA-cans move from NZ to Australia after a few years. I believe that this is also the reason why many SA-cans who emigrate to colder countries such as Canada, Northern Europe and the UK return to SA, whilst only a small percentage move back from NZ and Aussie. NZ’s climate is mild compared to those countries. Vitamin D is provided by sunshine and a deficiency of this important vitamin results in depression. We have learnt to appreciate the sun when it is out, and not take it for granted as we used to do in the old country. If the sun is out, have your tea outside if possible. Younger people are more adaptable and thus less affected by this. Our children were 7 and 9 years old when we came to NZ and they are now 16 and 18 and they hardly complain of the climate.

We were in our mid 40s when we moved. I believe that we were physically adapted and set for a warmer climate over a long period and therefore we are less adaptable to a different climate. We are not planning to move to Aussie as we have made wonderful friends and built a business here. Our children are happy and we have also learnt to love the green hills and endless beaches of NZ. Many New Zealanders, and amongst them, also a growing number of ex SA-cans, visit nearby sunny Pacific Islands such as Fiji, Rarotonga and Vanuatu or the Aussie Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast for a Summer holiday during our late Winter in order to break away from a monotonous, ongoing, cloudy Winter. These holiday destinations are about 3 hours flight from Auckland and affordable for many locals. It appears that it may be cheaper for Aucklanders to holiday in Australia rather than in our own South Island.

When Summer eventually arrives, sometimes this is only really evident from about December, then NZ is blessed with no most beautiful skies . With daylight savings stretching sunset to about 9 pm, many Kiwis will be found strolling the beaches or having an evening picnic after a day at the office. These nice days may continue up to late April and even into May, with obvious regular breaks of wind, cloud and rain and one should utilize these opportunities to spend outdoors and enjoy the sunshine.

NB: Take care to use sunscreen for extended exposure to the sun as the UV rates are quite high in NZ resulting in a high occurrence of cancer.

Mental Wellbeing of immigrants relating to other factors. Many emigrants who are finding it hard to adapt to NZ may not realize or may not admit to the causes for a negative state of mind. Sometimes people blame everybody and the weather for their unhappiness, however I have never come across anyone who is unhappy while they are holding a good job, earning good \$s and have a large circle of good friends. In contrast, I have met many who are unhappy and blame everybody and everything including the Government, and the weather for being unhappy in NZ but at the same time they are battling to make ends meet due to being employed in a low paying or unsatisfactory job and or not having friends and moral support.

It is therefore important to reach out to meet new friends. If possible try to include some ex SA-cans in your new circle of friends, as a shared background will reduce possible homesickness. Reach out to Kiwis and other cultures to learn more about what is important to them.

Value the adventure of being in a new country, meeting new people and seeing new places. Do not stay in a job if you are not happy unless you have to bide time to temporarily satisfy work permit conditions.

Where do you make new friends? Best option, in my opinion, is at your local Churches. Whether you are a practicing Christian or not, I believe it is a good idea to seek spiritual enrichment as part of the big move. It is at your local church where you will also meet other immigrants such as yourself and quite possibly other SA-cans who may become your new friends. We are a family of 4 and we have no other relatives in NZ, therefore our close friends have filled some of this gap in our social support structure. We have unknowingly taken friends and relatives for granted back in SA. Over here we cherish friendships. Friends can also be met by attending local cultural events and of particular interest to Afrikaans speaking people, the Afrikaans Club of NZ have a number of events every year. Visit their website for more information on <http://www.afrikaans.org.nz/>

Kiwi Culture, Mentality and Political Correctness (PC)

As in any other country in the world, you will find many wonderful kind hearted and friendly people but unfortunately also those who are the opposite. A relative large percentage of the population are first generation immigrants.

I believe that a small percentage of locals are antagonistic towards immigrants because they may feel threatened in losing their jobs, position or potential promotion to an immigrant who may be better qualified or willing to work harder for the same or less money to get a foothold in the job market.

Beware that some Kiwis still have memories of Apartheid being upheld by Afrikaner Nationalism in the previous century. They may still associate white Afrikaans speaking people with this, especially those who were personally involved in boycott actions against Springbok Rugby tours to NZ of yester year. I have been confronted about this in New Zealand on different occasions in earlier years. The screening of occasional documentary programs on National TV sometimes unfairly depicting South Africans and in particular Afrikaners as backward, insensitive and stupid is probably contributing to negative sentiment. Fortunately many Kiwis acknowledge the value that SA-cans and other immigrants are bringing to NZ to grow the economy and many great friendships have evolved.

It is known that many SA-cans find it hard to adapt in the work place due to different local office protocol which is not well understood by some new immigrants. For instance, it is not strange for some workers to arrive and start working without looking at and greeting their co-workers. This is not meant to be rude but simply a culture where everyone wishes to mind their own business and get on with the job

Sometimes, children's friends may phone and abruptly ask to speak to my son or daughter without our customary "Hi, this is Johnny speaking, how are you, may I speak to Jacques please" Instead, I get "Hi, is Jacques there" This may not be perceived as poor manners by many and purely a matter of "let us mind our own business" The key words to cope with these situations are patience and tolerance. In some cases I have surprised the young callers with suggestions on how to improve their telephone manner. Some SA-cans opt to elaborately greet everyone at the office. Some colleagues may repond positively and some may simply be irritated by this.

Religion

During the 2001 census about 40% respondents reported no religious affiliation. Further to that, many who reported a Christian affiliation or any other religious affiliation may have based that on a historic affiliation and effectively practice no religion. Can it then not be said, based on those figures that the majority of Kiwis are Atheists? These figures may be interesting and important for some prospective immigrants to NZ.

Also, I find it strange and somewhat disturbing to what extent Christianity is being disrespected and sometimes mocked in the press and the media, especially on TV and radio where hair-raising jokes are sometimes heard with referral to Jesus Christ. I believe that Maori beliefs, traditions and legends are mostly respected. On a visit to Cape Reinga some years ago, I remember noticing that there was a sign prohibiting eating and drinking in a specific area in respect of the spirits of the deceased Maori who are believed to depart the physical world from that area. I did not notice anyone eating or drinking in that area. I also cannot recall anyone joking and mocking Islam, Buddhism or Hinduism. Why Christianity is singled out as a subject of disrespectful joking by some, while the majority of people with declared religious affiliations are Christians and the National Anthem consist of a prayer to God to defend New Zealand, is hard to understand.

Political Correctness (PC)

Some SA-cans may find it challenging to adopt new communication styles. PC could be quite difficult to understand and practice the New Zealand way. I realize from the way in which I have just worded this previous sentence that even I may have been slightly converted. Previously I would have written "Many SA-cans do not understand PC"

PC is practiced in NZ and defined as the avoidance of direct, and strong words to soften a message or instruction, not to invoke a negative feeling. A non-confrontational style so to speak. Examples:

"You have to meet the deadline at the end of today" The PC version: "Please consider the time frame that was suggested for the completion of this task"

"You have a shortfall and should increase your life cover" PC version "You may want to consider a revision of your financial priorities relating to your life risk"

"You have failed to do the job" PC version "There are indications that the task may not have been completed to the required standards."

PC has more facets than meets the eye in the above examples and practiced to such an extent in NZ that it is blamed for poor production and economic performance as it is sometimes used to avoid making timely decisions and to shirk responsibility.

Be prepared to encounter and recognize PC at your new job. Many SA-cans simply continue to communicate in the style that they are used to, and although probably irritating to some colleagues at times, my personal belief is that a clear to the point message results in more productivity and less misunderstanding.

Summary Personal views

After contemplating my awareness of some finer and unusual social undertones in NZ society I also realize now that I have become used to a life where I do not have burglar bars in my house and no high fences and barking dogs. My cars do not have alarms or gear locks and I often forget to lock them. I also do not worry about who parks next to me at the traffic light. I have forgotten that once, I was suspicious of all pedestrians and clutched my cell phone and wallet while walking down the street and worried about my family's safety while out to see clients in the evenings.

New Zealand, like any other country, is not perfect, but it is a great place to live and a good alternative to SA for me and my family. We will never forget our roots and even at this time I still continue to support the Springboks, however we also use the opportunities to enthusiastically show our support for the All Blacks when they do not play against the Boks. In general we have developed a strong sense of loyalty towards New Zealand over the years and we can honestly say that we love our new country. May God defend both New Zealand and South Africa.

Conclusion

If you are concerned about your family's future and you have an opportunity to adopt NZ as your new country, this is good place to come to. If we had the choice again, we would do it all over again.

Declaration of accuracy and indemnity

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We trust that readers will find this document valuable when planning their move to NZ.

Invitation to readers:

For further free personal advice please use our enquiry page and send an e-mail through this facility to request further information. Or simply send an e-mail to fritz@fritzswart.co.nz
For those who make their way to NZ without prior contacting me, please remember to contact us for advice and quotations on any Insurance and Home Loan services that you may need in NZ. I will visit you personally if practically possible. Clients are also welcome to visit me at my office in Auckland. Please contact me for an appointment for a cup of coffee and a friendly chat. I also have many clients in other NZ cities who are very effectively serviced through mail, phone and e-mail.

The National Anthem

God Defend New Zealand (English verse)

God of Nations at Thy feet, In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat, God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star from the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar, God defend New Zealand.
Men of every creed and race, Gather here before Thy face,
Asking Thee to bless this place, God defend our free land.
From dissension, envy, hate, And corruption guard our State,
Make our country good and great, God defend New Zealand.

Peace, not war, shall be our boast, But, should foes assail our coast,
Make us then a mighty host, God defend our free land.
Lord of battles in Thy might, Put our enemies to flight,
Let our cause be just and right, God defend New Zealand.
Let our love for Thee increase, May Thy blessings never cease,
Give us plenty, give us peace, God defend our free land.

From dishonor and from shame, Guard our country's spotless name,
Crown her with immortal fame, God defend New Zealand.

May our mountains ever be Freedoms ramparts on the sea,
Make us faithful unto Thee, God defend our free land.
Guide her in the nations' van, Preaching love and truth to man,
Working out Thy glorious plan, God defend New Zealand.

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