

A letter from Africa-end May 2011

Hi everyone,

We have had some visits to National Parks, UK visitors, hip replacement and local Government elections and other happenings since we last talked to you. So let's get the **hip** out of the way first.



This is my second one, being 8 years since the left was replaced in CT. At that time the surgeon diagnosed arthritis in the right hip and so it was just a question of time before it had to be done. This pic is after returning from St Georges in PE last week.

It will be 4/6 weeks before I can drive and at least 3 months before I can get on the golf course (with a cart). It will be 6 months before it is ok. In fact I found that it took around 1 year before I felt back to normal.

All of this should allow for the second in the series of **Ride A Cups** which we hope to set up in Nov at The Fish River Sun.



It will certainly put me into the right condition for Europe in 2012.

Having said all that, **Bev's knees** become the main inhibitor to getting around cities in 2012 but she continues her gym routine in an effort to strengthen the muscles and in turn the knee joint. The surgeon says an op will only be needed in 5 years time but this might be brought forward dramatically if the gym work fails. So that is the health area covered.



Melanie and Mackenzie came out from Ilkley to get some sun and to facilitate cousin togetherness for Mac and Courtney.

We spent time in the pool, at the beach and also overnighting at two of our favourite local Parks being Addo Elephant and Tsitsikamma.

Just before this The **Brown's** had their annual pilgrimage to Jeffreys Bay and we found ourselves also in the Addo Park making it the 3rd stay for us so far this year.

We had a night in the Safari tents and also the 4 bedded Forest Cabins. Both trips were similar in terms of braais, picnics and game viewing. The pics try to capture the moments.





We saw lots this time including this lone Lion. Richard and Jo are seen at the breakfast session at Jacks picnic site complete with bacon rolls. Lovely weather permitted great evening braais and al fresco eating in general, plus the essential glass or two of red as the sun went down over

cliff tops or mountain range.

Mackenzie and Courtney sit astride the Otter Trail sign following their completion of the day 1 route to the waterfall and back at Tsitsikamma.



I could write so much about these parks but I will spare you this time.

So on to other things. **The Local Elections.**

I know, I know, politics again. But local elections surely should be about serving the people in a non political environment? Anyway stand by...

I think it is common knowledge by all thinking people in SA that the ANC is incompetent, corrupt and riddled with nepotism. We could talk about why, but let us use this as a starting point.

They have failed miserably to provide services to the masses as per their promises. This does not mean that they have done nothing. But if by example they have a 10% achievement rate, whilst something, is overshadowed by the 90% failure. This has gone on since 1994 and just seems to get worse.

So a landslide win for the opposition parties? No, the ANC have some 62% of the vote.

Please try and explain this.

The Tri Partite Alliance in SA is made up of the ANC as the main player plus the Union movement by way of COSATU and then the Communist Party. Another major voice has been that of the youth of SA where a 50% unemployment rate seems to apply. This body is lead by the controversial Julius Malema as head of the ANCYL.

The ANC started 1994 with the credentials of a freedom party having liberated SA from the bondage of Apartheid. They are seen by the masses as the saviours and the only valid political body in the new South Africa.

In the 17 years in which they have been in power they have striped bare this mantle of moral high ground to reveal a body that is corrupt and incompetent.

But let us have a quick look at the numbers:

SA population perhaps 50mio
Black people 39.7 mio
Union members some 2 mio
Youths (up to 35) around 13 mio

White people 4.6 mio
Coloured people 4.4 mio
Asians 1.3 mio

It is a no contest situation for the ANC who have aligned themselves with the black community and ignored the voices from the minority groups. In fact they have gone beyond ignore to perhaps treating them with contempt ,hatred or indifference. At best they have mis- read the position and believe that their support is without challenge given the superior and relied upon black vote.

So the Local election results showed:-
ANC 61.95%
DA 23.94%
IFP 3.57%
NFP (breakaway IFP group) 2.41%
COPE 2.14%

So what seems to have happened?

The ANC, now positioning themselves as a party for black people have underestimated that the new South Africa wants a party that represents all groups within SA. We have moved from white control to black control and that was not the idea of the original struggle movement.

If you do the maths you will see that virtually all the minority population groups have aligned themselves to the DA. It is the DA that has support in all racial categories including perhaps 6% or so of the black vote.

The DA has retained the Western Cape outright with Patricia de Lille (coloured) as Mayor of CT, party spokesperson is Zindile Mazibuko. It is Helen Zille who has danced her way across SA in seek of votes that has captivated the voters of all colours. She has struggle credentials but has demonstrated that the DA structure has improved the lot of those in the Western Cape who were once under the incompetent ANC rule.

The DA have read the nation better and portrayed a picture of demographic representation even though we know that for now the core of the support is that of white voters.

In PE a poor COPE performance meant that a DA/COPE combination just failed to gain a majority position

ANC were 51.9%, DA40.2% and COPE only 4.95%

But where and how does the DA go from here?

The ANC should be worried.

Their support base is a powder keg ready to ignite. It has within it the poorest of people including most of the unemployed and are worst hit by way of broken promises of service delivery, houses, health care, education, sanitation etc. etc.

The ANC could look to North Africa for guidance but they need go no further than recall the struggles of the 70`s and 80`s to see how history may be repeated.

Will Zuma allow Malema and Manyi to indulge in racist and hate speech without censorship?

Will Zuma try and control union demands for above inflation salaries.

Will Zuma take serious steps to contain corruption?

Will Zuma start to lead and provide service delivery?

Clearly most of the population have given him some more time to respond to these challenges.

Enough, I want some pictures please.



Buffalo roam the grassy parts of Addo National Park.

We also had two deaths since the last letter.

My old colleague from Chapelat Jhb, Harry Batterham, saw his last years out enjoying retirement with family in Australia.

Here in PE Ernest passed away with the resulting wake not only filling our small house up but also providing the platform for much social interaction from across the country and outside.

Bev had another **Birth**day and we enjoyed lunch down at the coast (Blue Waters) with Andrea cooking /heating up a storm for dinner with Sushi for Bev, Calamari for us and lovely Malva pudding after a super home made chicken soup starter.

We will finish on this note.

Keep well

Love

Bev and Alan.