

Sunset in South Africa

Sunset in South Africa is a beautiful yet strange phenomenon to me. Its beauty is breathtaking and the colours are amazing and all I seem to think about is how mysterious this sunset is to me.

Surely the sun sets in Brazil, but what makes the sunset in South Africa so special? Then it struck me, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Brazil doesn't have a western coast... Ah! That was it. I may have seen the sun rises on the ocean but never had I seen the sunset on the ocean before.

After this beautiful sight all the poetry about sunsets being romantic, finally had a new, deeper meaning.

A meaning that warms the heart and comforts the viewer.

by Orlando



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10 steps to becoming a South African

1. get comfortable with the South African accent and use "yah" as much as you can.
2. Never be on time. 20 minutes late is a minimum – but of course not for school!
3. Be interested in Rugby and Cricket and watch the matches in Pubs with other South Africans.
4. Don't be upset about the speed of the Internet – just accept it!
5. complain about the weather all the time - especially if you know that it is much worse in your home country at this time of the year
6. Drive your car any way you like. Don't pay too much attention to traffic lights or any other road signs. And as a pedestrian cross the streets and motorways anywhere – but be please still careful when you jay-walk.
7. Don't pay too much money at markets or to taxis. Bargain every time!
8. Always - and especially at night - have a jersey with you, because the weather can change very suddenly.
9. Have a braai once a week!
10. Love South Africa!



by Caroline

The Stadium

In 1657, a farm was granted to Jan van Riebeeck, but the soil between Signal Hill and the Atlantic Ocean proved unfit for cultivation.

Jan van Riebeeck had landed at the Cape five years earlier to establish a permanent settlement for the Dutch East India Company. 350 years later, his land, named Green Point, would have made of him one of the richest men in Cape Town.

The real estate value in this seaside suburb has soared after FIFA decided to build the new Cape Town stadium for the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The landscape is dominated now by many cranes, all working overtime. The stadium must be ready by 2009 for the Confederation Cup, a test event for the World Cup the following year. "It will be stunning," said Franz Beckenbauer, after having seen the project.

It will accommodate 68,000 people, and will feature a retractable dome, to protect players and fans from the unpredictable Cape winter. With a huge investment of over \$385 million, it will be a multi-purpose, technologically advanced, environmentally sustainable world-class stadium.

It is referred to as the African Renaissance Stadium, but there has been, and is still, lots of criticism against it. Residents don't want it. The City Council found the plan too expensive and wanted to choose a different site to promote a black, underdeveloped area of Cape Town.

However, it will host nine games in the World Cup, among them a quarter final and, if building is on schedule, a semi-final. All over the world, people will be watching and the name of Green Point will be well-known, and the stadium itself will become an icon for tourism in South Africa.

by Ettore



"Planet Earth"

I recently watched a new series on DVD called "Planet Earth". It was such a great pleasure to discover this documentary that I wanted to share my experience, and encourage other people to watch it.

"Planet Earth" is not like any other documentary I have seen. The manner/way in which it was made is remarkable:

Several camera crews and experts travelled all around the world/travelled the globe for five years collecting material/footage for the film.

The latest technology was used, like a camera with an "astronomic zoom", developed by the U.S. army, which allows the lens to zoom on a simple/small animal on the ground from a very high altitude.

Thanks to the co-operation of many experts and the patience of the crews, who often had to spend several weeks in the most isolated and wild spots on earth, this documentary contains footage which has never been filmed before.

The result is a wonderful documentary that shows you the earth as you have never seen it before, with stunning scenes, amazing stories and highly skilled production techniques.

The series consists of 5 two and a half hour DVDs. Each DVD is divided into 3 fifty min. sections covering on aspect of our blue planet, such as the oceans, forests and ...

by Emanuel

“How to Survive in C.T.”

Bible for Students

Cellphone info.:

- Check that your cell phone is not locked
- Ask for the cheapest SIM card (don't pay more than R10!) and pay for your airtime separately. You can get a SIM card and airtime at all Pick 'n Pays or at the Waterfront.
- You can use your cellphone as a modem for internet connection – ask your network provider for details.
- Avoid using your phone in the street – it could be stolen.

Taxi Info:

- Use “Rikki” or “Excite” taxis rather than the street taxis – especially at night.
- Don't worry about asking for a taxi if you are in a restaurant – they will call a taxi for you, and explain where you need to be fetched and taken.

Money:

- Never draw money from an ATM alone
- Don't carry large amounts of money on you – it could be stolen.

Restaurants:

- Don't forget 10% tipping – if it's not already included in the bill).

Shopping:

- You can't buy any alcoholic drinks from shops after 5.00 pm on Saturdays, and not at all on Sundays.
- You are not allowed to drink on the streets or beaches.
- If you buy drinks at Ultras Liquor Store, keep your slip! You will need it at the exit.
- The Waterfront is more expensive than Long Street for shopping.

INFORMAL VOCABULARY:

In English, we **never** “take a drink”: We ‘have a drink’, or we ‘would like a drink’.

by Andre, Axel, Carolina, Caroline, Emmanuel,
Fabio, Jacqueline, Orlando

MOVIE REVIEW

“Knocked Up”

Knocked Up is a comedy, directed and produced by Judd Spatow.

Ben (Seth Rogeu) and Alison (Katherine Heigl) meet in a bar and have a one-night-stand. Alison is career-orientated, responsible and tough, while Ben is in his twenties, lazy and chills with his friends all day.

The differences between them become clear when they try to have breakfast together the next morning. But three months later, Alison realises that she has fallen pregnant.

The film humorously depicts the way the couple try to manage the challenges they face over the next few months.

The movie criticises Ben's generation¹, which does not want to have any commitments or to have any responsibilities. They often change their jobs and relationships, and this movie shows in a very good way that there is more to life than that. At the end of the movie, Ben changes his behaviour and tries to be a good father and partner.

The best part of the movie is the humour. I promise ... you will be laughing most of the time. The end of the film is very obvious after the first five minutes, but funny dialogue and brilliant acting balance that out and hold your attention till the last minute of the movie.

I can truly recommend this movie – I'm certain you will enjoy it!

by Carolina

¹ See “Really the Odyssey Generation?” in the last newsletter, which talks about this ‘generation’.

Staff Side:

We'd like to introduce you to Isaac, the caretaker of the school residence.

Where did you grow up?

I.: I grew up in Steenburg. It's 15 stations out of Cape Town. How big is your family?

I.: We were nine children, but at the moment, I'm only in contact with my brothers.

What kind of jobs did you have before starting this job?

I.: I worked in a supermarket. I've been working at the residence for six years now.

How did you get this job?

I.: I got it through my sister

What are your tasks?

I.: I take care of the people and look after them, clean the residence and do the gardening.

What do you like about your job?

I.: Everything! I enjoy living and working with all the different nations. If I could write a book about living in the residence, I would do it!

What annoys you sometimes?

I.: Nothing! Really nothing can get on my nerves.

How much free time do you have, and how do you spend it?

I.: Sunday is my free day. I play sport, and work as a referee for soccer. I also see my children on these days.

How many children do you have?

I.: Four. Three girls and a boy. They live in Wynberg.

What's important for you?

I.: I want to be like a father for my students, so that they're not afraid to ask me anything. And if they have a problem, they can come to me and we'll sort it out.

What are your plans for your future?

I.: I want to start my own business with a barbecue service. And my dream is that my children can work for me, and not have to work for somebody else.

So you want to quit this job here?

I.: No, of course not! I'll continue working at the residence, while my children run the business ...



by Carolina, Caroline and Jacqueline

Staff Side:

Jenny's full name is Jennifer McSweeney, and she is Cape Studies' receptionist. Her real job is to be the "big sister to the students".

How long have you been working at the school?

J: I've been working at Cape Studies for six and a half years.

What is the most interesting thing in your job?

J: Meeting people from different cultures.

Where do you come from?

J: My father came from Ireland and my mother from Namibia.

Where do your relatives live?

J: My family lives in Sea Point.

What are your qualifications?

J: I studied Retail Business Management in C.T.

What was your childhood like?

J: I grew up in Sea Point with 2 siblings and we had a very happy childhood.

Where do you live and how do you get to school?

J: I live in Sea Point and I come to school by car.

What kind of activities do you enjoy?

J: I like to play basketball, to dance and to meet people. But my priorities have recently changed because I'm waiting for my "bundle of joy" (meaning: Jenny is pregnant)

Are you married, with kids?

J: I'm engaged, and for the kids – look at the picture!

What is your religion, and do you practise it?

J: I'm Catholic, and the only one in Sea Point!

What are your plans for the next 5 years?

J: It's difficult to say right now.

Have you been abroad?

J: Yes I have. I've been on holiday to London, Ireland, Turkey, Bolivia, Argentina, Namibia and Mozambique.

Who is the most important person in your life?

J: My mum.



by Andre, Emmanuel and Orlando

PLACES TO VISIT IN CAPE TOWN

Kirstenbosch

A really recommendable place to visit is the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. The Garden lies at the foot of Table Mountain, and is well-renowned for its beauty and diversity of Cape flora.

Last Friday, our class visited these Gardens. Solomon picked us up at school at 9.00 am, and after a drive of about 30 minutes, we arrived at Kirstenbosch. You have to pay an entrance fee of R20 if you take your Student Card, and R30 if you don't. You can join a guided tour through the garden (free of charge) or you can walk through the garden on your own. In the garden, you can learn something about Cape flora, or just enjoy the wonderful nature around you. There are also two restaurants at Kirstenbosch.

We first joined a guided tour, and then decided to have a drink at one of the restaurants. After that, we went through the garden on our own. One of the things worth mentioning is a yellowwood tree that broke in half, but continued growing!

After about three hours, Solomon picked us up and we returned to the school.

By: Axel

