

TIPS ON MOVING TO NEW ZEALAND (Updated April 2014)

Indemnity

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It serves only as a guide and accuracy is not guaranteed.

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. Immigration advice may only be provided by Immigration Agents who are registered by NZ Immigration. Using an Agent or doing it yourself, to save money, has been the subject of many debates. To ensure you have the right to travel to NZ and to apply for a job requires up to date knowledge of continuous changing requirements set by NZ Immigration authorities. You may have only one opportunity to make sure you do this right. It is therefore advisable to contact a NZ based agent, to make sure the agent is fully registered by the NZ authorities. Many agents will do a free pre-assessment to determine eligibility to move to NZ and will provide a quotation to facilitate the process. See the links on this website for contact details of SA Expat Immigration agents who are based in New Zealand.



Look, See and Decide (LSD)

A “LSD” trip is recommended for those who can afford it and wish to first come and look. Before one embarks on such a venture it is best to first assess your changes of eligibility through a registered agent. 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, travelling 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. The link below provides a distance and travel time calculator between different cities and towns in NZ.

<http://www.tourism.net.nz/new-zealand/nz-driving-distance-and-time-calculator.html>

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 travelling 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 occurred over recent years.

Consider to formalize your financial emigration status with the Reserve Bank through your bank in SA as this will entitle you to cash in unmatured retirement annuities before the age of 55. Speak to your bank about current rules regarding official financial emigration and what the requirements are regarding proof of eligibility of your right to live abroad to be considered a financial emigrant. Official financial emigrating from SA does not imply giving up SA Citizenship. SA Citizenship is retained unless you officially take up Citizenship with the new country. It is only possible to apply for citizenship after living in NZ for 5 years with Permanent Residency status. Only at that point may you forfeit SA Citizenship, but it is possible to apply with the SA authorities to retain double citizenship if that is what you desire to do.

Foreign currency

If possible, obtain some NZ currency for peace of mind prior to leaving. Travellers' 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 and everywhere else can be used to draw NZ\$ with your SA credit card.

Bank accounts in SA

Appoint 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. You may contact Fritz on fritz@fritzswart.co.nz to enquire about this free reliable temporarily physical mailing address in Auckland.

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 requires 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 \$350 - \$400 per week depending on the area and economy rate guesthouses will cost from about \$200 per person per week. Family discounts may apply. See the links on SA2NZ for some options.



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 your stuff a few weeks before you leave, as you will not wait for it so long in NZ. Frustration is likely to be higher in NZ, waiting for your belongings than going without it for a period before you leave as you are likely to have family support with borrowing

furniture there before leaving or staying with family that may not be the case when you arrive here.

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. TVs are very affordable

rather sell your old TV in SA... DVD and Blue Ray players with surround sound systems are also affordable.

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 worth your while if you have space for odds and ends in the container. Power tools on the other hand are very affordable in NZ

You can also bring garden tools and other hardware and tools. Remember to clean it in compliance with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in NZ (MAF) specifications (see links page) Gardens are normally small in NZ due to expensive labour cost if not self maintained. There are numerous beautiful public user friendly parks under keep of local authorities that can be enjoyed so your own walled or palisade garden will not need to serve as your own little safe paradise here, you can just safely relax in a public park. 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. That is why we have no fruit flies here and we do not have to spray crops for those pests. Declare any food items to Customs or face hefty fines.

Do not bring any fruit, (not even those that you receive as part of your meal on the plane) and no honey and definitely no biltong there is plenty to buy in NZ. Beware; visitors are being

fined heavily at the international airports in NZ airports on a daily basis for bringing in foodstuffs and other items that are not permissible. Declare everything on you arrival card and leave it up to the inspecting customs officials to determine if items that you are bringing are permissible. If it is declared then there is no fine and if found to be not permissible it is destroyed by the customs officials.

You can get a taxi or catch a shuttle-bus or ordinary bus to your destination from the airport, unless you are lucky to have family or friends waiting for you at the airport.

Telephones

Public phones have been going out of fashion due to cell phones that have taken over its function. For those who still need to use it, some 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. This can be bought at the airport so that you have immediate phone and sms (called txt in NZ) facilities

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.

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. It has been said that the normal price is an inflated price and that the sale price is the actual; price of items. When buying Furniture and Whiteware from anywhere, including large furniture chains stores it is acceptable to ask for additional discount and it is often possible to negotiate up to 10% discount on prices.

Meat is generally cheap if you buy at the right places. The Mad Butcher, Meat King and Pak & Save Supermarkets are known for their good prices and quality. Boerewors is normally not of good quality unless bought at a premium from ex SAcan butchers. See the links on SA2NZ under Expat businesses. For braai, Rump Steak is cheaper than Sirloin because the latter is the preferred cut of most locals. Frozen lamb chops are normally more affordable as Kiwis prefer fresh meat. Once a butcher needs to freeze meat, the price may drop as Kiwis generally do not stock up with much frozen meat. Fresh fruit and veges are sometimes a lot cheaper at greengrocers compared to Supermarkets but it can be said that those from large grocery supermarkets such as Pak and Save has a better shelf life due to faster turnover of stock and strict freshness rules with their providers and due to high volume purchasing power.

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 in recent years due to increased local production in the Bay of Plenty. NZ have beautiful strawberries and heavenly sweet fresh cherries from about December to January.

Groceries are very affordable at Pak n Save, New World and Count Down stores. There are pricier boutique supermarkets such as Nosh and Farros with a larger variety of exotic local and imported products.

Pak and Save is normally the biggest store in any suburb or town and seems to be the most affordable while offering a wide selection for all food and other groceries needs. Their fresh fish counter will include the famous fresh NZ green lipped mussels and South Island salmon.

Gilmours is NZ's equivalent to Makro in SA where wholesale prices are offered. One needs to apply for a Gilmour's card but they are not strict on issuing. Small items at Gilmours are not always cheaper than normal supermarket prices and purchases there are normally only economical if large containers of foodstuffs are bought and this exposes small users to the risk of waste due to having unconsumed excess after expiry dates. At Gilmour's all goods are priced excluding GST so take this into account as the actual price at the till will be 15% more expensive, whilst at all other stores, the price you see includes GST.



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 new 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. Advice in this document focus on 2nd hand cars, as we believe most new arrivals will start with this option.

NZ has no import tax on used cars so these cars offer value for money for a new immigrant, if one knows the pitfalls and full cost of the purchase, such as the radio that may not receive all the NZ radio stations due to different band width in Japan and that a band expander needs to be purchased.

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

Mechanical warranties can be purchased for used cars 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 for cars older than 3 years and 6 monthly for cars older than 12 years. These regulations have eased in 2014, previously all cars older than 6 years needed to obtain a WOF every 6 months. A WOF inspection is done by a licensed WOF station and costs about \$40 per inspection. WOF involves mainly aspects that is relevant to safety such as tyres, brakes shock absorbers etc. It can become increasingly difficult to obtain a WOF for old cars with structural rust and it may become uneconomical to keep such old cars on the road due to the WOF requirements. Licensing fees are about \$250 per year depending on the model type.

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, tyres etc may 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

Finding employment is the key for most prospective immigrants to New Zealand that will determine if they are eligible to obtain a right to work and live here. 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. Christchurch may have more opportunities in the building and civil engineering field due to the rebuild following the disastrous earthquake in 2011.

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. Many employers value SAcans for some being very hardworking and loyal but on the other hand, expect that a local may be preferred due to his/her local experience and knowledge. In many cases an employer is only permitted to make a job offer to an applicant who needs to apply for a work permit if the employer can prove that they are unable to find a suitable local resident for the position. Prospective immigrants should obtain professional advice through a registered immigration agent. (See links on SA2NZ for SA Expat immigration agents based in NZ.

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 Fritz at fritz@fritzswart.co.nz to be referred for assistance with this.

Banks with a wide national network of branches are ASB, Bank of New Zealand (BNZ), 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 by simply asking for a "cash-out" Internet banking is widely used. Banking hours are normally 9 till 4.30 Monday to Friday and most branches are closed on Saturdays. Few branches offer services at later late hours and on Sundays normally in large shopping Malls.

Banks provide insurance services. An experienced independent insurance broker will be able to provide more options and better premiums. Enquire at Fritz on fritz@fritzswart.co.nz about this.



Driving in New Zealand is similar to driving in SA. Roads are narrower and left lanes are sometimes used for both driving and parking lanes, so sometimes parked cars may suddenly appear in your lane, and may result in accidents by crashing into or “clipping” a parked car.

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. There is a “boy racing” problem with some ill disciplined young drivers causing the majority of our road accidents. 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 and there are not many of those apart from around the major cities. Rural roads can be narrow, winding, slippery and outright 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 will 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 (except in Taxis)



Drivers Licenses

All drivers need a driver’s license and it is compulsory to carry it with you when driving.

Any policeman in NZ also acts as a traffic cop. Cop cars are usually white Holden Commodores and clearly marked but there are also a number of unmarked police cars.

Your SA driver’s 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 driver’s 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 your arrival 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 to other Western countries including tolerance of race, religion and sexuality. NZ has been voted the most socially advanced country in the

world in April 2014 according to The Social Progress Imperative whose advisory board is led by Harvard economist Professor Michael Porter. It measures 130 countries based on 54 indicators of social progress.

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 not tolerated. It is 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. What may be considered a normal communication style back in the old country could be considered as intimidating in a new workplace in NZ, so toning down on an assertive communication style may be advisable, especially in early days of a new work environment in NZ.



Sport & Leisure

Rugby is the national sport in NZ and Kiwis are passionate about it. It is advisable to know which players are in the All Black side and to be acquainted with the Super Rugby sides in NZ and local heroes in the NZ equivalent to the SA Curry which is the National Provincial Championship (NPC).

Go to trouble in finding out the who is who of NZ rugby and how the national championships, the Ranfurly Shield, the Super 15 teams and the Bledisloe Cup against the Wallabies are set up so you can join and understand conversations revolving around this.

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 (Pacific

Ocean side) have calm seas with many safe bays and anchorages. Large numbers of boats are being put to water over the summer when wind and wave conditions allow safe boating. 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 just above 4 million and roughly the size of

the UK or Japan, the comparative population density is more than 10 times lower than those countries. Pristine wilderness areas, dense forest, and uncrowded 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. Such as elsewhere in the world, broadband internet has become the norm for households in NZ today. 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 but it is slowly becoming more affordable following an increased number of service providers entering the market resulting in increasing competitiveness. The use of SMS known as Text is widely used as elsewhere in the world. International calls are cheap if you make use of specials or certain phone cards. Skype is a good option to chat to the relatives back home but do talk to other Saffas once you are in NZ for cheap options to phone abroad. There are numerous options including pre-pay landline phone cards that are so cheap, you will be able to talk to the folks back home for hours without having to worry about the cost. If you pre dialing 0161 27 instead of 00 27 from a Telecom landline, the rate may be as low as 11 cent (NZ) per minute. Check with your service provider for special options.

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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 know where it is.

Before you move to NZ, it is strongly recommended that you study the map in the link below, showing the location of the different cities and districts.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_New_Zealand



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, coffee or the meal. “BYO” on signs outside restaurants means you may bring your own 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.

<http://www.chemistry.co.nz/kiwi.htm> offer an extended list of Kiwi slang and many expressions may be familiar.

Below are a few NZ unique words and expressions that you will encounter in conversations.

bach: small holiday home or bungalow, pronounced "batch"

boy-racer: Young hoon in fast car, normally modified and with a loud stereo.

brekkie: Short for 'breakfast'

capsicum: green pepper

cheers: In Kiwi this means "thank you" and not "good bye". So "cheers mate" means "thank you".

chilly bin: Insulated cooler box for food or drinks.

chook: chicken

chunder: to vomit

cracker: very good. "It is a cracker today" could mean "it is a beautiful sunny day".

crisps: potato chips

crook: sick, unwell

cuz: as in male or female cousin

flash: sensational or "that's flash" meaning it looks really good.

good on ya, mate!: congratulations, well done

hosing down: raining heavily

jandal: thongs, (Plakkies in Afrikaans) flip-flops

judder bar: speed bump

knackered: Exhausted "I am knackered" or broken "that bike is knackered"

nana: female grandparent, granny and **poppa** means grandfather.

pakeha: A white person of European decent or Caucasian.

rellies: family, relatives

scull: drink beer rapidly, to down it in a single go.

sealed road: paved road, tarred road, and likewise a dirt road is called an unsealed road.

she'll be right: not a problem, it'll be O.K.

sickie: "took a sickie" to take sick leave, likely not because one is sick but tired or hung-over.
a **fun day!**

sparkie: electrician

spit the dummy: To lose your temper, to throw a tantrum or get mad.

suss: to figure out

sweet-as: a term people say instead of "cool" or "awesome".

take a hike: Expression of anger, as in; "Go away!" "Get lost!"

tasty cheese: sharp cheddar cheese.

tea: dinner - generic name for evening meal.

tip: dump or recycling depot.

togs: swimsuit, bathing suit

Ketchup: Tomatoe sauce.

wellies: gumboots

wop-wops: out of the way location

yarn: spin a yarn, means telling a story.

yack: general conversation held between friends; as in "have a yack".

Yeah right: Sarcasting response to a lie or to an unrealistic comment.

Earthquakes and tsunamis

A study of earthquake related deaths in NZ per 100 000 citizens over the last 100 years and compared it to other current causes of deaths in NZ and SA revealed that there fear of earthquakes should play no role in a decision to move to NZ. Because:

- You are 29 times more likely to die in a car crash in NZ and 4 times more likely to be murdered in NZ than being killed by an Earthquake in NZ.
- You are 93 times more likely to die in a car crash in SA and 106 times more likely to be murdered in SA than being killed in an Earthquake if you rather lived in NZ.



Media

NZ has a number of free to air TV channels including TV1 and TV3 in High Definition. They screen popular programs including Sport and News bulletins. Numerous additional free channels are available through freeview but subject to the purchasing of an affordable top box/decoder. See <http://freeviewnz.tv/>

Many Kiwis subscribe to the pay channels through Sky TV which carries substantial Australian content and is a similar concept as M-Net or DSTV in SA. Popular live sport broadcasts such as Super 15 and Rugby test matches are only available on Sky and

most are also in High Definition. See <http://www.skytv.co.nz/> for more on this. The Rugby Channel on Sky provides 24/7 rugby including most Currie Cup matches and other Rugby programs from SA. There are more than 120 radio stations mostly music and a number of 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.

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. .

Rubbish Collection and Recycling

The method and frequency of collection depends on where you live. Some Councils use special pre-paid bags available from supermarkets, other use wheelie bins. Recycling plastic glass, tin and paper is done in removal days by putting it out in special containers. Ask your neighbors about the rules and about larger containers that can be hired and emptied by private companies in your area.

Making a Will

Your SA will is not valid for your NZ assets. Talk to a NZ insurance adviser about drafting a will.

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 is 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 and to as late as 10 p.m, and they are only closed on a few public holidays such as Easter Monday and Christmas day. 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.



Housing

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.

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 to \$550
Auckland East	\$400 to \$500
Auckland Central	\$550 to \$650
Hamilton	\$350 to \$450
Wellington Lower Hutt	\$350 to \$450
Wellington Upper Hutt	\$300 to \$400
Wellington Mt Victoria	\$500 to \$550

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

South Island

Dunedin	\$300 to \$350
Invercargill	\$200 to \$250

In Christchurch the situation is desperate for rentals due to the loss of houses from the 2011 earthquake and the number of builders who have moved there for the rebuilding. It resulted in a sharp rise of rental rates. It may take years for this to normalize. 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.

For more up to date rental figures in the above and other areas you can visit to see adverts of property for rent by following these links

http://www.realestate.co.nz/rental/search/property_types/10 or visit www.trademe.co.nz and navigate to their property for rent section.



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.

For an idea of house prices you can visit www.trademe.co.nz and navigate to their property for sale section.

Living expenses

Fresh fruit and veggies are expensive, and some items that are plentiful in SA such as watermelons, mangoes and paw-paws are not farmed in NZ and quite expensive due to import costs. 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 including long lasting brands that are imported from SA and Namibia.

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

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 \$12.00	Lamb chops kg \$13.00 - \$20
Lamp ribs kg \$9	Rump Steak kg \$10.00 to \$16
Boerewors kg \$15.00	Nescafe Classic 100g \$4.00
Crumbed fish fillets kg \$16.00	400g Tin baked beans \$1.20
200g tin tuna \$ 1.80	Impala Mealie meal 2.5kg \$5.00
Wine 3 liter box \$20.00, bottle \$8 to \$20	Beer dozen \$15 - \$20.00
Scotch Whisky 1 liter \$35.00 - \$45	Cheddar kg \$ 10.00 to \$13
Coke 2.25 liter \$2.50	Weetabix 24 375g \$3.50

A family of 4 will battle to survive on a nett income after tax of about \$900 per week becoming more comfortable at levels exceeding at least \$1 000 per week, (once again, depending on the area as rent or mortgage normally takes up a large proportion of living expenses). 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 \$350 per student per year, but may be very expensive in up market private schools. Be prepared to fork out extra money per occasion for school events and trips that students are expected to take part in.

A Retrospect view of a SA Expat who moved to NZ.

(This article is written in the first person by someone who moved to NZ from SA in 2001.)

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.

The main reason that makes daily decisions hard in early years is a lack of local knowledge.

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 contributes a lot to the decision of many SA-cans who move from NZ to Australia after a few years.

This is also a likely reason why many SA-cans who emigrate to colder countries such as Canada and UK, return to SA, whilst only a small percentage move back from NZ and

Aussie as NZ's climate is mild compared to those countries. Vitamin D deficiency due to less sunshine results in depression. We have learnt that if the sun is out, have your tea outside if possible or even better rush to the beach if you can. 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 20 and 22 and they do not complain of the climate.

We will not move to Australia as we are happy here and we have developed a strong loyalty for NZ. Apart from that, we made wonderful friends and built a good business here. Our children are happy and we have also learnt to love the green hills, mountains, forests and beautiful 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 and Rarotonga 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 happening in December, and then NZ is beautiful beyond description. With daylight savings stretching sunset to about 9 pm, many Kiwis will be found strolling the beaches sailing or fishing the turquoise water 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 breaks of wind, cloud and rain. Always try to be out when it is sunny but take extreme care to slap on the sunscreen as the UV rays are very high 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 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. If one battles to make ends meet, the outlook towards the country and people are different. Go to trouble to meet people and work on a positive attitude.

It is 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.

Also the more people you know, the more possible contacts for work opportunities.

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.

If you can afford it financially do not sit around only in your own town on a sunny weekend. Drive out and see other beautiful places. Explore your area and your new country if possible. The more I travelled in NZ the more it nurtured my love for NZt. Is it not easier to love a girl if she is beautiful and how will you know if she has beauty if you do not look at her.



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 Kiwis, 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. Of particular interest to Afrikaans speaking people, is that there are more than 20 Afrikaans Church services being held across NZ every Sunday, and the numbers are steadily growing. .

Negative sentiments and “cultural” differences.

A relative large percentage of the population is first generation immigrants such as yourself. In Auckland, about 50% of people were not born in NZ. .

It seems 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.

There are Kiwis who still have strong 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 was confronted with this here in

New Zealand on different occasions in earlier years. The screening of documentaries on National TV in the past unfairly depicting South Africans and in particular Afrikaners as backward, insensitive and stupid has not helped to diffuse these sentiments. I believe that in time that this will fade and doubt if our children will be confronted with this.

Most Kiwis acknowledge the value that most SA-cans and other immigrants bring to NZ and many great friendships have evolved.

It is known that some immigrants find it hard to adapt in the work place due to different local office protocol which is not well understood by some new immigrants. Be sensitive, friendly and be careful to judge, as you much to learn. Local knowledge comes with time.



Religion

About 35% of the population has no religious affiliation. Christians are the majority. Due to the melting pot of immigrants from every corner of the globe, apart from a substantial number of Maori who are practicing respect and honoring of the spirits of their forefathers, Buddhism, Hinduism and Muslims are also prevalent. It was interesting for me to learn that a number of Asian immigrants from countries such as China, Korea and India are Christians who have been motivated to move to NZ to

escape from the influence of other religion that are practiced in the previous country, and where there is less tolerance of Christians being minority religions in those countries.



Political Correctness (PC)

Some SA-cans may find it challenging to adopt new communication styles.

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 it may be experienced as forward or insensitive by some, my personal belief is that a clear to the point message results in more productivity and less misunderstanding.

Ethnic inequality in NZ

It is advisable to research NZ history so you can better understand the political landscape.

A brief history and a must to know for a new immigrant is as follows: It is believed by many Maori and by others that Maori were not treated fairly in a previous century when the British negotiated a Peace Treaty with the Maori, the first settlers of this land. Waitangi day is celebrated every year on 6 February to commemorate the signing of the Treaty between the British (referred to as the Crown) and Maori Chiefs, representing their people. It was signed at Waitangi a settlement in the Bay of Islands area on 6 Feb 1840. You can read the Treaty on <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/treaty/read-the-treaty/english-text>

The major yearly celebration event takes place at Waitangi and over the years some Maori have used the opportunity to show protest against their unfair treatment that resulted from the Treaty in the years that followed the signing.

Celebrations at Waitangi was marred in recent years by distasteful incidents such as the Prime Minister been spat in the face by protestors.

Those believe that they were done short as the translations of meaning from English to the Maori language was dubious and mislead Maori as to the real intentions and later outcomes when the British did not honor their side of the deal especially when it came to selling and utilization of Maori land.

To address this, as much as \$2.5 Billion or more has been paid to Maori in land claim settlements. During the decade that I have been living in NZ hundreds of millions has been paid.



A former National Party leader, Dr. Don Brash expressed his concerns about New Zealand's future under a system where rights and privileges are based on whose forefathers were here first and calling for all to be treated the same resulted in him being annihilated by the press afterwards. The speech became known as the "Orewa Speech". It can be read on the following link.

<http://www.national.org.nz/article.aspx?articleid=1614> these events may pale into insignificance if compared to racial divides and injustice that are prevalent in other countries today and in the past. It seems that most new immigrants are not aware of these political sensitivities but with time as one survives financially and mentally from the big change and start carving out your life and have the opportunity to cast your vote here, this starts factoring into your overall experience of NZ.

How much the current taxpayers of New Zealand including 1st generation immigrants who make up as much as a third of our population, will still be punished for errors of forefathers in previous century's remains an open question.

With population growth and economic development and building of infrastructure on the land, the \$ value of land has changed dramatically over the centuries as it has in other "new worlds" such as America and Australia and it is hard to factor this into \$ figures today of an historical injustice. Many believe that Maori has gained much more than what they lost due to development such as roads hospitals etc that came with British settlement and this while their culture is still strongly acknowledged and financially supported by the majority of NZ who are non-Maori.

A few years ago the Maori Party was established as a minority party. It has a substantial influence on decision making while serving as a coalition partner with the previous and the current ruling Government. Victorious parties needed to negotiate a governing majority with minor parties who sometimes drive hard bargains and often this leads to a measure of the proverbial "tail that wags the dog." Coming from a country with a grim history of racial divides and turmoil, you do not expect to find a political party in NZ that is based on promoting the interests of a specific race group.

Maori seem to be advantaged in NZ today due to their heritage. A new immigrant may thus ask: If privileges or status is measured on whose forefathers were here first, are new immigrants then considered the lowest class of citizen? The question becomes more relevant if taken into account that prior to being allowed, an immigrant need to prove their worthiness taking into account health, skills, qualification, character and age.

The Clean Green NZ Image and Possible implications there-of today and in future



In order to protect the beauty and natural resources of NZ, Kiwis have gone to great lengths to Design legislation to entrench the protection of resources to ensure it is protected for future generations and to be utilized in the best interest of NZ. The most significant piece of legislation that evolved from this is called "The Resource Management Act". (RMA) Protecting resources through good legislation is commendable. The reverse side of this coin can be a dilution of land owner's property rights and it has and still is

contributed in economic stagnation and hampering economic development and job creation. It should not be assumed that every citizen does not respect nature and ecology and that development has to be strictly policed. RMA allows any Tom, Dick & Harry to officially protest against development leading to delays and legal cost.

You will sometimes see people petitioning against new developments, everybody wants the buildings, wharfs, malls and parking lots built far away from their Edens, so there are sometimes long and expensive legal battles for developers (including the Government) before they can proceed with work. This has an impact on the cost and contribute to the already expensive cost of buildings and development of building sections. Apart from this the Greens and others are against Mining and Exploration and they have a substantial following.

NZ has mineral resources that are not being mined due to fear of harming the Clean Green image. Meanwhile neighboring Aussies are utilizing their mineral wealth, and exporting to the emerging economic mineral hungry giants named China and India, contributing to the increasing living standard gap between Aussies and Kiwis in favor of Australia.

For me this is not as important to jeopardize my safe and peaceful life here, however for our children and grand children, they may find that they need to move on for better opportunities elsewhere if the standard of living is important to them.

Summary Personal views and Conclusion

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 any 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 away for business. Just maybe I have slowly started taking this for granted and that lead me to become more aware of factors that, in my opinion prevent New Zealand from being the perfect place, such as its own political headaches, economic problems and climate.

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. 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.

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

This document is provided as a free service to assist those who are considering moving to

New Zealand. Some personal views particularly those relating to politics may be controversial however an honest take on issues that may be relevant to new immigrants.

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



The National Anthem

God Defend New Zealand (English verses)

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 defends 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 Freedom's 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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