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ZULULANDERS ABROAD

On top Down Under

B25WHFP-09EFC



The picturesque Perth skyline

Ronelle Ramsamy

WITH news flooding in from ex-Zululanders Down Under, we take another trip to Western Australia this week to touch base with former Richards Bay resident, Riaan Moolman.

The ex-Zululander, who lived in Meerensee, moved to Queensland in early 2006 before settling closer to the Indian Ocean in Perth a year later.

The former Manager, Electrical Systems at Richards Bay Minerals and Foskor and Bayside employee, is now the Capital Investment Programme Manager at BHP Billiton's Nickel Division in Perth.

Describing Australians as friendly and accommodating people, Moolman said he had fitted in very well with the Australian culture and customs.

'The biggest mistake people make is to think of Australia and Australians using their sporting teams as reference.

'Australia in a sense is very much the same as South Africa, but also very different.

'I fit in very easily with the corporate culture, which supports and nurtures

freedom of expression and thinking and leaves employees with a lot of authority and responsibility.

'Australians are also keen to cut 'tall poppies' to size, no big egos allowed here - unlike their sport teams,' said Moolman.

Lifestyle

However, he said, most expats missed their friends and the Zululand lifestyle the most.

'I particularly miss all the late nights I spent at the indoor cricket arena and the good friends in Richards Bay.

'Having been a regular at most Meerensee restaurants, I miss the good times at Martinos and Thai Wok.

'I do read the ZO online from time to time - great new website by the way!

'Most of my friends now are Australian, and we enjoy a 'barbie' and some good 'grog' (wine/beer) every now and then. Especially Bundaberg Rum!

Settling down in Perth, Moolman recently purchased a new house with his Australian girlfriend, Lorraine.

'To all my friends in the Bay - sorry mates, Oz grows on you and I won't be back to play indoor cricket for you guys again.

'As for everyone at RBM, Foskor and Bayside - good luck with all the challenges.

'You guys run a good show - especially the guys in the Main Sub at RBM.

'I often use you guys as an example of a truly exemplary team.'

To feature in the Zululanders Abroad page, former Zululanders can simply submit information stating where they formerly lived, their current location and exciting news about their new abode with interesting pictures under the title 'Zululanders Abroad' to zulobs@zululandobserver.co.za.

Family members are also invited to send through pictures and information or even links to their blog.

Pictures must be sent in their original size with a minimum size of 500KB.



The spectacular beaches around the Dunsborough region in Western Australia



Former Richards Bay resident, Riaan Moolman alongside the Sydney Harbour Bridge



Ex-Zululander Riaan Moolman with his girlfriend, Lorraine at King's Park in Perth



The breathtaking view at Kalbarri, Western Australia

HARVEY world travel
The Travel Professionals

Travel tip for this week
TAKE TIME TO TALK TO LOCALS.
I have had some of the best experiences just sitting idly chatting to people. I sat with a family in Vietnam for about four hours drinking their whisky and basically conversing in gestures and smiles.

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