



Friends of South Africa
The Austrian – South African Society

Newsletter No. 1 March/April 2005

Dear Members and Friends

We would like to start this newsletter off with a short introduction of the New FoSA Board, who were elected into office at the 4th Annual General Meeting held at the Looshaus, 1, Michaelerplatz 3, Raiffeisenlandesbank, Vienna on 2 March 2005. The AGM was well attended and a speech was made by the Ambassador of South Africa to Austria, Prof. Moleah. As this is the first newsletter with the new team, it is shorter than usual, but as soon as the ropes are learnt, there will be more.

The New President of the Board:

Hans Werner Autz



Born in Villach, Carinthia in 1948. Grew up and went to school in Villach. After that I moved to Vienna, attended a private school, and lived for some time in the Netherlands and Germany. Later I went to University to get a Diploma in Marketing, Advertisement and Sales.

I have worked for almost 30 years for international companies mainly as a Marketing and Business Support Manager.

I am married to Angelika - who has lived for some years in South Africa, and we have a son, Armin, who is 27 years old.

We live in Vienna, in a nice little house with a garden. We enjoy vacationing in Austria, but we love having holidays in South Africa at our relatives beautiful place from where we do all our fantastic trips. They also visit us in Vienna and love Austria.

I love cooking, playing golf, nordic walking and like to work in my garden.

Werner's duties as President of the Board are: to be responsible for Events, Marketing, Public Relations, Member Acquisition, Networking and he will also be the contact person for any questions on the Statutes or Legal issues that are related to FoSA.

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**The New Vice President of the Board:
Petra Jacobson**



I was born in Germany but my parents emigrated to South Africa when I was 11 months old, so ... I consider myself a South African. I mostly lived in Edenvale/Johannesburg.

I have two beautiful children, Clyde (22) and Bianca (18). Clyde lives in South Africa and Bianca is with me in Vienna. She plans on studying Theology once she matriculates this year. We have been in Vienna since 2000 and it has been a non-stop learning experience!

I work as an assistant to the CEO of the IT division of a large international bank and after hours I try to do my BA through UNISA (majoring in Industrial Psychology and Communication). I organise a monthly get-together for South African ladies (called the Amaroela evening) just

to chat , swap information, catch up on news, compare notes, etc. Although I don't have much spare time, I love to read (especially biographies), knit, socialise and do weight-training (which I haven't done since I've been in Vienna!)

Petra's duties as Vice President of the Board will include working on Events, Marketing and the Education Project.

The New Secretary of the Board: Judy Glück



Some thing about me mmmmm Where to begin? I moved to Austria, 2 days after my last Matric Exam. I have worked as an Au Paire, an Aide for a physically disabled child, Conference Organiser for the Economist Newspaper, Receptionist for an Embassy and now I work for the International Atomic Energy Agency. I am married to an Austrian, Alexander and have a son, Aurelian, who is just on

2 and a half years old. I have had the good fortune to be able to go home every year since I have lived in Austria so I don't suffer from extreme home sickness. I love music, singing and reading and when I get the chance, swimming. I am currently finishing my BA Degree in Psychology and Criminology through UNISA.

Judy's duties as Secretary of the Board are: The Newsletters, Minutes of the AGM's, Members' contact person with regard to new memberships and regular questions and Corporate Identity (Newsletters, Membership cards, Letter heads, Brochures, Flyers, Posters and Name cards)

Treasurer of the Board: Lydia Dyk



I was born in Cape Town, came to Austria as a 'souvenir' and married into a family business in the picturesque town called Raabs an der Thaya in the Waldviertel, north of Vienna. I have 2

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teenagers, Lisa is going to take over the business and Anton is still at school in Vienna. I was introduced to FoSA by Dr. Walter Sauer of SADOCC and I enjoy every moment being part of the team.

Lydia's duties as Treasurer:

As Lydia is the only 'Old Hand' in this Board, her duties remain the same as before: Treasury and Finances.

New Board Members:

Charnel Esterhuizen



I was born in East London, South Africa, I studied at Rhodes University, Grahamstown before completing my Chartered Accountant qualifications in 1995. Together with my husband, Adriaan, we pursued our corporate careers in both Johannesburg and Cape Town until Mondi transferred us to London in 2001. After 18 months in the United Kingdom, we were again

transferred and found ourselves in Vienna, where I am dedicating my time to building a new life for us far from home, starting my own fledgling business and FoSA.

Charnel's duties as a Board Member:

Web site coordination with Andrea and heading up the Working Group for Sponsorship and Vendors.

Andree Abigail van Rooy



I have been married for 8 years and have a 2 year old son with another one on the way. I have completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 at UCT and have since worked for the Standard Bank of South Africa, first as a Consultant and then as a Learning Facilitator, teaching life skills to the Banks' employees e.g. conflict management, negotiation, leadership skills, effective sales skills, etc. I have also since started on a Bachelor of Laws

degree through UNISA. I am an academic person and enjoy reading, writing (I write poetry in my spare time) and hiking. Singing is also one of my loves and last year I sang in the Longfield Gospel Choir in Vienna.

Andree's duties as a Board Member:

Web site coordinator with Charnel and the Education programme.

Hester Wyhlidal



I am a South African living fulltime, happily and successfully as a self-employed English Trainer in Vienna, since 2002. I left South Africa in 1996 and based myself in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where I worked for an Educational Institute, as HOD for their Business and Marketing Department. I have also worked as an English Trainer and Business Coach during this time. My son (who is 23 and is living and studying

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in London) and I took the opportunity to back-pack, scuba dive and integrate extensively in various Asian countries while we were there.

Before leaving South Africa I worked in Sales and Marketing for international companies in the Pharmaceutical Industry. All this put together has provided much international business exposure and working experience as well as cultural awareness in the International Training and Marketing Industry which I hope I can now put to good use in connecting your and our beautiful countries as well as our diverse and interesting cultures.

I hope I make a worthy representative for South Africa and am proud to be a member and on the Board of FoSA.

Hester's duties as a Board Member Organising Sponsoring and Marketing, and Translating the Statutes into English.

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The New Board would like to thank the former board members for all their efforts and getting through those teething problems. Many Thanks!

The Inaugural Speech of the New President.

Thank you very much for my nomination and further more for my election. I feel very honoured as an Austrian citizen to be the new president of the FoSA organisation. Therefore I would like to thank specially Marie-Louise for that and of course her team for the past ambitious work they have done and the consolidation of the FoSA society.

I have introduced myself already before, but I would like to point out that I feel I can contribute with quite some knowledge to the organisation, not only that my wife Angelika lived in SA for some years and I have visited SA already a few times – participated in a wedding, christening, many family parties, have met a lot of people – no matter what colour, I have good contacts to the “Austrian Society” in Jo’burg and what counts the most, I believe that I am very enthusiastic about SA. I can actually say I am in love with that country – I am infected with the SA-virus.
My background is more than 25 years working as Manager in Marketing and Sales, as well as CS, Environmental Affairs and Total Quality for the Region Central and East in International Companies.

All these factors I am sure are a good assumption to support the Society and I will definitely do my best to meet your expectations and your trust.

I believe it would be good to look into a few more subjects and explore the economical and tourist part as well. I have prepared some ideas, which we will negotiate and brainstorm in our next board meeting.

The idea is to gain sponsors, to increase the amount of members and to offer website links. These are the areas where we can earn money. It will be tough but we have to try to do our best.

If we want to attract future members we have to offer value and benefits. This also counts for all existing members.

I feel it is a good opportunity and challenge for me and the new board members.

Thank you again for your support and I wish us good luck and lot of success for the organisation.

Have a nice evening.

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The 'Blissful Blossoms' evening went off very well and Lydia will give a report for the following newsletter.

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Forthcoming Events

The New board will be holding a 'Bring and Braai' at the South African Embassy on Friday the 3rd of June 2005.

More details will follow.



We will also be hosting an "Open Wine Cellar" on the 17th of June 2005. Again, more details will follow as soon as they are finalised.

And just so that we don't forget how beautiful our Country can be



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