



BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

December 2007

Message from the President Boodskap van die President



Piet Breitenbach

Die jaar 2007 snel ten einde en dit is seker net gepas om sekere hoogte- en laagte punte die afgelope jaar met u te deel.

Ons Protea spelers het hul man gestaan in verskeie toernooie:

- Atlantiese Kampioenskappe in Skotland
- Die Afrika Kampioenskappe in Namibië (Windhoek)
- Die toetsreeks teen New Zealand in Christchurch
- 'n Toetsreeks teen Namibië in Kaapstad

Die meeste van hierdie deelnames word as deel gesien van ons voorbereiding vir die Wêreld Rolbakampioenskappe in Christchurch vroeg in Januarie 2008.

Al ons Nasionale toernooie het nuwe "gesigte" gekry en was goed ondersteun. Hier sluit ek die pare Kampioenskappe in Bloemfontein in. Die terugvoering was uitstekend en dit op sigself is motivering genoeg om die volgende toernooie nog verder te

verfyn tot die smaak van ons spelers. Baie dankie aan al ons spelers vir hul lojale ondersteuning gedurende 2007.

'n Absolute laagtepunt hierdie jaas was die afsterwe van Mike Burger ons bedryfsbestuurder. Rolbal Suid-Afrika gaan hom mis, hy laat 'n groot leemte. Ons wens sy vrou Dylis en familie baie sterkte toe.

Fellow bowlers, I would now like to share some thoughts with you, regarding something that is free to us all. Let us take a positive one into 2008 and **make** a difference:

Attitude

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life

It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill

The remarkable thing is – we have a choice every day of our lives regarding the attitude we embrace for that day

We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you.

WE ARE IN CHARGE OF OUR ATTITUDES. - Charles Swindoll

To our Protea's who will leave our shores on 6 January 2008 for Christchurch, New Zealand, I have this to say: Bowls South Africa has invested much in you in preparation for World Bowls 2008. Go there and play with pride, passion, desire and spirit. We believe with those in your heart you can achieve great things. We are all behind you - let us make South Africa proud.

Fellow bowlers, I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous 2008.

God Bless

Piet Breitenbach

2008 Nationals Entry Forms can be downloaded from

<http://www.bowlsn.co.za/mensa/> OR <http://www.bowlsn.co.za/womens/>

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EDITORIAL/ REDAKSIONEEL

What a sporting year 2007 has been! It would be needless for me to recap on the magnitude of the sporting events and achievements of the year 2007. All sport enthusiasts are well aware of it all, even the achievements of the sport of bowls, that do not get the huge covering in the media like rugby, soccer and cricket.

We have also experienced the meaning and the impact of the belief that sport unites the nation as no other known factor. One can merely refer to the recent rugby World Cup and the bringing to South Africa of the Webb Ellis trophy to be treasured in South Africa at least for the next four years.

There are two things that unite people, institutes and corporate bodies like nothing else, and these are sport and death.

Sport! Of course! Attend any sporting event of significance and see how opponents, foes and friends join together in support of their favourite team or sporting personality.

Death! Attend a funeral or memorial service and see opponents, family and friends embracing each other in unity and sympathy.

The unexpected passing of Michael Andrew Burger, or Mike Burger, as he was known to the bowling fraternity, on 26 October aptly accentuated the meaning of sport and death uniting people. Mike was a true sportsman, actively involved in sport to the very end. We honour him and shall remember him for who he was and what he did for sport, and in particular bowls in South Africa, and for all his wonderful attributes.

Hierdie waarheid is ook ondervind met die heengaan van die (sover bekend) oudste rolbalspeler en lid van 'n geaffilieerde klub in die land en miskien in die wêreld. Oom Louis Botha, 101 jaar en 200 dae, in lewe 'n lid en lewenslange ereid van Warmbad Rolbalklub in Limpopo, is ook op 26 Oktober oorlede. Ook hier was dit opvallend hoe die sportlui van die omgewing eendragtig saamgestaan het in hulle roubeklag, ondersteuning en huldeblyke. Hier is andermaal gesien hoe sport en die dood mense verenig en saamsnoer.

Op 'n meer vrolike noot, verskeie wêreld beker kompetisies is vanjaar gespeel, waar Suid-Afrika bewys het dat hy op sportgebied onder die beses ter wêreld gereken kan word. Nou word daar druk voorberei vir nog 'n Wêreld Beker Toernooi, en dit is die Rolbal Wêreld Beker kompetisie, wat vanaf 12 tot 27 Januarie 2008, in Christchurch, Nieu-Seeland plaasvind. Natuurlik sal ons seker nie dieselfde dekking kry as die krieket-, rugby- en sokker- toernooie nie, maar ons Suid-Afrikaanse spanne behoort sekerlik te kan reken op die heelhartige ondersteuning en belangstelling van, nie alleen elke rolbalspeler in die land nie, maar elke ware sportman en -vrou in Suid-Afrika.

Soos Suid-Afrika se gremde rolbalspelers in Oktober vanjaar as die wêreldkampioene gekroon is, so vertrou Rolbal Suid-Afrika dat die spanne wat hy na Christchurch stuur ook as oorwinnaars sal terugkeer. Ons wens hulle alle sterkte toe!

Seën vir die Kersseisoen en mag u elk 'n aktiewe en suksesvolle rolbaljaar in 2008 beleef.

I end the year with the words of Drake Raft: "Never compromise at the cost of your principles".

**Tys Pringle, Media Liaison Officer, Bowls South Africa
(014) 717 3966 or 083 320 7793**

Press Releases and Circulars

PRESS RELEASES

PROTEAS ARE AFRICAN BOWLS CHAMPIONS. - 30/9/2007

The South African Protea's won the African States Bowls Championships, played at Windhoek in Namibia last week and were once again crowned as the African champions by proving that they are still the top bowls country on the African continent. Both the South African Men's and Women's team were the overall winners of the tournament when they won 6 of the possible 8 gold medals and 2 bronze medals. Gold medal winners were the men's Fours (Billy Radloff, Wayne Perry, Handré Marais & Clinton Roets), the Men's Pairs (Billy Radloff & Wayne Perry) and Men's Singles (Brian Dixon who convincingly won all his single games). The women Protea's won gold in the Fours (Lorna Trigwell, Cheryl Cox, Loraine Victor & Sylvia Burns), the Trips (Lorna Trigwell, Loraine Victor & Sylvia Burns) and Singles played by Colleen Webb. The Bronze medal winners for South Africa were the Men's Trips (Brian Dixon, Handré Marais & Clinton Roets) and the Women's Pairs (Cheryl Cox & Colleen Webb), who both lost their first two games on the first day of the tournament; the men's Trips lost to Zimbabwe 16-18 and to Namibia 17-22, whilst the women's Pairs went down to Zimbabwe 15-17 and to Swaziland 15-18. Although both these teams came back strongly to win the rest of their matches convincingly, they could only manage to win the bronze medals.

The South African Singles players Brian Dixon and Colleen Webb both impressed with their determination and constant high standard of play, thus putting their opponents under constant pressure. Particularly in their last games against the very determined players of Zambia, both had to fight back after trailing in the early stages of their games. Brian Dixon was 9-19 down and came back to win the game 21-19. Colleen Webb was 6-13 down and eventually won the game 21-17.

The countries that participated were South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The African States Tournament will be hosted by Zimbabwe in 2008.

Piet Breitenbach, President of Bowls South Africa, was pleased with the performance of the South African teams. He said that the teams are well balanced and that the combinations are working. With the forthcoming World Bowls in New Zealand in mind he was cautiously optimistic saying that the preparation of the teams is on course and with hard work, dedication and total commitment of the players, South Africa could well become the World Champions at World Bowls in 2008.

The South Africans depart for New Zealand soon to play a test series against the home side on 9, 10, 11 & 12 October. This is seen as an important part of the preparation for World Bowls and will give the players the opportunity to play on the fast greens in New Zealand.

In November the Namibian World Bowls team is to visit Cape Town to play South Africa in a series of 2 tests.

IMPORTANT CIRCULARS

The following important Circulars have been issued since the publication of the last Newsletter.

CIRCULAR 61/2007: Guidelines for the Organisation and Management of a Bowls Club.

CIRCULAR 62/2007: Standing Committee Appointments.

CIRCULAR 63/2007: Zurich SA Masters 2008 Championships.

CIRCULAR 65/2007: Commencement of Greenkeeper Certificates.

CIRCULAR 69/2007: Talent Identification: Previously Disadvantaged Players.

CIRCULAR 71/2007: Level 3 Academy Coach Upgrade Course and Level 3 Refresher Course.

CIRCULAR 73/2007: Proposed Changes to Under 25 Inter District Tournament.

CIRCULAR 74/2007: Mike Burger Passing.

CIRCULAR 78/2007: Communications with Bowls SA Office.

CIRCULAR 79/2007: Open, 'B', & Senior Inter District Draw 2008.

CIRCULAR 80/2007: Bowls South Africa Employment Opportunity. (Published on page 5)

CIRCULAR 81/2007: Talent Identification (Circular 69 refers).

CIRCULAR 82/2007: 2008 SA Masters- All Participants and 2008 Open Inter Districts Participants

CIRCULAR 83/2007: Amendment to Circular 82 - Bowls Date Stamp Compliance



Seasons Greetings



**African
States
Champions
2007**

In Memoriam**Michael Andrew BURGER
(1943 - 2007)**

Mike was born on 8 July 1943 in Vereeniging, the oldest of 3 children. He matriculated from Potchefstroom Boys High and thereafter obtained a CIS Diploma.

In 1973 he married Dylis and they set up home in Edenvale.

Mike was a true gentleman, known for his integrity and vast knowledge.

Mike's contributions to Bowls in South Africa and also in Africa were many and varied. His input and skills will surely be missed.

President of Bowls South Africa, Piet Breitenbach, paid tribute to Mike at the Memorial service, for his 10 years of service to Bowls South Africa, using the following 10 statements as the basis of his tribute:-

“ Mike was a person -

1. with a brilliant intellect,
2. with a brilliant memory,
3. of great courage,
4. with solid principles,
5. with great negotiating skills,
6. who loved to serve,
7. with vast knowledge,
8. who loved to play bowls,
9. with a great sense of humour,
10. in short, a man with many skills “”

Piet further told of the friendship that had developed during the time he served on the Executive of Bowls South Africa with Mike. He praised Mike's willingness to always walk the extra mile and his ability to create Win-Win situations.

He further told of the respect that Mike had received at all levels of Sport governance, both locally and internationally.



John McArdle, Deputy President of World Bowls Limited, and Past President of Bowls South Africa, conveyed the condolences of Betty Collins, President of World Bowls as well as those of the Directors and CEO.

John then went on to pay tribute to Mike and described Mike's value to Bowls SA and African Bowls. He told how Mike was instrumental in the creation of the Zone VI Bowling Board and how his negotiation skills and diplomacy had helped South Africa re-integrate with African States Bowls after 1996.

John recounted some of the experiences (humorous and other) he had with Mike as they travelled the Country, Continent and World during his terms of office. He praised Mike's unending fount of knowledge which had supported and guided him during his terms of office as President of Bowls SA, and concluded by bidding Mike an emotional and fond farewell.

Mike leaves his wife, Dylis, and sister, Bev, along with nieces, nephews and friends.

**BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA SALUTES YOU.
'TILL WE MEET AGAIN!**

BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A position has become available in the office of Bowls South Africa. We are looking to employ a suitable qualified candidate who is reliable, honest, hardworking and self motivated in the position of:

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Purpose of job: To oversee the overall management function of the Bowls South Africa Office in Rosebank, Johannesburg.

Key performance areas:

- Coordinate / Manage all aspects of the Bowls South Africa Office
- Financial Management
- People / Leadership management
- Compliance with all relevant legislation

Negotiate with all relevant stake holders

Competencies:

- Logical thinking, innovative, self motivated, having administrative and organizational as well as coordinating skills
- Sound judgment with a systematic and organized approach
- A team player with the ability to build a sound relationship with the executive
- Ability to make sound decisions
- Strong negotiating skills to build good relations with all relevant role players

Honest, credible with integrity

Requirements:

- Five to ten years bowls administration experience
- Computer literate – Microsoft Word and Excel
- In depth financial knowledge / experience with sound knowledge of PC based financials
- Manage staff to above average performance
- Fully bilingual
- Above average knowledge on the laws of the sport

Good reporting skills

CV's should be sent to PJ Breitenbach

Email: pcbreit@telkomsa.net

Fax: 018 297 6761

Closing date: 14 December 2007

2008 Nationals Entry Forms can be downloaded from
<http://www.bowlsn.co.za/mensa/> OR <http://www.bowlsn.co.za/womens/>

GRASS CLIPPINGS 13

“WHY OUR GREENS HAVE DETERIORATED”

Introduction

At the recent Level One Seminars I spent some time discussing the deterioration in our greens and having put forward my own views invited the audience to discuss whatever they thought might be pertinent to the subject.

I now feel I should share some of our findings with you. This issue of GC13 will, therefore be devoted to discussing the woes of Green keeping.

While the lack of expertise was the prime reason for the deterioration some interesting contributory factors were suggested.

What did transpire was that the deterioration was in three phases –

-1955 - 1990 This was only due to lack of expertise – Previous “C”s became Ds and Es
-1990 - 1995 A slight improvement in “A”s and “B”s

-1995 - 2007 Another deterioration which included more “D”s and “E”s than before and fewer “A”s and “B”.

We have now reached the stage where - .

1 Not a single District can offer Bowls SA 10 greens (5 X two green Clubs) grading at 87 % and which are in close proximity for an Inter-District

2 One District had 40 “A”s and “B”s in 1995 – now there are 11

3 10 of our Districts have not got a “B” graded green

Historical Review

To say that green keeping has deteriorated one must have a starting point when our greens were better than they are now. I am, therefore starting with an article “Hail the Green keeper” which appeared in the SA Bowls Magazine in 1946 – “Our greens are better now than they have ever been and we doubt whether they can get any better”.



I started green keeping in 1949 and I can vouch for the fact that although the greens of that time were slower the greens were completely covered with a dense mat of healthy grass. They were mostly “C” grades with a few “B”s and very few “D”s

They were good because all we did was mow, irrigate, and fertilise. We had no equipment to control or thin out the mat and through the growing season the mat got thicker and the green slower.

The Post War resurgence in outdoor sport meant that substantial funds were made available for Turf Grass Research - their big problem was how to control the proliferation of the mat.

The introduction of the “Groomer”, “scarifier” and the “verticut” and much later the brush enabled the GKP to produce a much faster green – the danger here being that if an un-trained GKP did not have the training to appreciate the balance between leaf area and speed – weak and bare areas would appear on the green.

The golfers quickly realised that “modern” green keeping required more expert supervision. They took the “high road” and employed professional green superintendents to look after their green – and paid for it.

The Bowlers being more conservative took the lower road and, although they bought the equipment, were not willing to commit any funds to employ a professional GKP and expected their GKP to make do - bowls still relies very heavily on voluntary workers.

The Bowls GKP was under pressure from his members to produce fast greens - he used the new equipment without being aware of the dangers associated with thinning out the mat too vigorously.- By reducing the leaf area to a level where the grass plant could no longer sustain growth some of the grass plants died leaving weak and bare areas. “C” greens became “D”s and “E”s. – This situation prevailed for many years until the end of the 1980’s, it seemed as if more GKP’s were improving their management skills and the greens improved

[Read the rest of this informative newsletter on our website](#)

BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA TECHNICAL OFFICIALS**TO THE POINT**

Issue 21

November 2007

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. (Unknown)****Level 3**

Two Level 3 courses will be held during 2008, and the first will be at Edenvale/Alberton in Eastern Gauteng during May/June, and the other in Oudshoorn, Southern Cape, during October. Only approximately 20 candidates will be selected for each course.

Dodedans van die donderstorm

Elke liewe oomblik - ook terwyl jy nou hier lees - woed daar nie minder nie as omtrent 1800 donderstorms op die aarde. Dis 'n ongehoorde 16 miljoen per jaar!

Donderstorms woed wel oor betreklik klein oppervlakke as 'n mens hulle met die magtige tropiese siklone (die orkane of tifone) vergelyk, of selfs met die buite-tropiese siklone soos dié wat die winterreën in die Wes-Kaap veroorsaak. Maar ondanks hul beperkte duur en grootte - 'n tipiese donderstorm duur gemiddeld 30 minute en is nagenoeg 25 kilometer in deursnee - is alle donderstorms gevaarlik.

Die gevaar skuil in die weerlig.

Die krag van 'n enkele blits sou, as dit "vasgevang" sou kon word, 'n gloeilamp van honderd watt langer as drie maande kon laat brand.

Die temperatuur binne 'n weerligstraal is vyf keer warmer as die son.

Sowat tagtig mense word jaarliks deur weerlig doodgeslaan en ongeveer driehonderd beseer.

Die meeste sterftes en beserings kom smiddags en saans in die somermaande voor wanneer mense buitehuis deur donderweer oorval word.

Weerlig kom in alle donderstorms voor. Die weerstasie by Irene naby Pretoria monitor alle weerlig aktiwiteite in Suid Afrika en het gevind dat die weerlig gedurende Desember 2005 (in die maand alleen) meer as 1,4 miljoen keer die grond getref het.

Suid Afrika is een van die lande met die hoogste weerlig sterfte syfers in die wêreld en navorsing het getoon dat 70% van alle mense wat direk deur weerlig getref word dit nie oorleef nie.

Nou hoe raak dit ons Rolbal spelers?

Reël 50.1 Bepaal dat 'n wedstryd gestop kan word vanwêre donkerte, weersomstandig -hede of enige ander wet-tige rede deur die:

Beheerliggaam

Die skeidsregter nadat die spelers 'n beroep op hom gedoen het, of

Die spelers nadat hulle daarop ooreengekom het indien 'n skeidsregter of verteenwoordiger van die Beheerliggaam nie teenwoordig is nie.

Die Plaaslike regulasies en spelvoorwaardes van Rolbal Suid Afrika Reël 50.1 sê:

Skeidsregters sal nie verantwoordelik wees om spelers van die baan af te roep gedurende weerlig/donderstorm aktiwiteite nie, tensy 'n appél gemaak word deur 'n speler(s)

[Read the rest of this informative newsletter on our website](#)

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<http://www.bowlsn.co.za/mensa/> OR <http://www.bowlsn.co.za/womensa/>

COACHES FORUM

FOR THE EXCHANGE OF COACHING NEWS AND VIEWS

**(FROM THE NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
COACHING)**

COMMUNICATION

Once again we start this Forum with an appeal to District Standing Committees for Coaching to improve their lines of communication to ALL bowlers and Coaches.

Notification of courses and coaching events are sent to all Districts and Standing Committees at regular intervals but very often the information stays with the committee members and coaches are unaware of events that could assist, inform and generally be of assistance.

Members of the National Standing Committee have visited districts recently and heard that the coaches are even unaware of the Bowls South Africa "Coaching Purpose Statement" that was issued to all Districts over two years ago. Another essential document for coaches is the "Bowls South Africa Coaching Structure and Qualification" document that was handed to all delegates at the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

Yet another omission is the lack of our basic coaching information held by Districts. As a reminder, please ensure that coaches have access to "An Introduction to Bowls", "The Etiquette of Bowls", "Markers – Guide for Beginners", "Laws of the Sport of Bowls", "Play Bowls", and of course, Logbooks.

Stocks of these books are held at the office and should be readily available within all Districts.

Please, bowlers and Coaches, let's improve our lines of communication.

COURSE UPDATE

The final practical assessments of the 2007 Level 2 Upgrade Course were recently completed but it was disappointing to note that of the original 32 applicants only 19 completed the course. Of these 19 four candidates were already Level 2 coaches and completed the

course as a Refresher and also qualified as a "District" coach.

Through the medium of this Newsletter we appeal to those candidates who were unable to complete the Portfolio in time to submit their documentation for the 2008 course that will be announced shortly.

The Level 3 Course (Academy Coach) is scheduled to take place in Bloemfontein from February 3rd to the 8th but applications to attend **MUST** be received by December 11th and so far, at the time of preparing this Newsletter, we only have one candidate ! Is this also indicative of our poor communication channels.

A Level 1 Club Coach course is scheduled to be held by Central Gauteng over the weekends of December 1st/2nd and 8th/9th at Johannesburg Country Club with about 12 candidates, but we are sure that late applications could be considered.

Successful Refresher courses were held recently in both Mpumalanga and North West and we are very pleased to report that as a result we now have Coaches Standing Committees operating in both Districts where none existed before. It is hoped that the other districts without committees will follow suit soon.

Eastern Province has also just completed a very successful Level 1 Club Coach Course and we are awaiting their Post Course Projects soon for final evaluation.

With the introduction of new material and formats for our various courses it is essential that all coaches keep up to date with current requirements and recent changes. To give one example, the current method of assessing players at ALL levels is the 20/20 – are YOU familiar with this method?

**[Read the rest of this informative
newsletter on our website](#)**



Jack up Bowls!

We're on a roll'.....

Bowls SA Development Standing Committee

Extracts from this Newsletter

SILVER SQUAD INTERNAL TOUR

11-20 JANUARY 2008

DATES	DISTRICT
10-12 January 2008	Western Province Bowls Asso
13 January 2008	Boland
14-16 January 2008	Bowls Southern Cape
17-20 January 2008	Eastern Province

Kallie Haupt the National Coach has appealed to the districts involved to advertise the Silver Squad's Tour well in advance in order to obtain as many spectators as possible.

Development Officers in the involved districts, are also encouraged to use this golden opportunity to bring **junior players** as well as **experienced players** along.

Bowling of this quality can serve as encouragement for emerging players!

Let's make something unique and a grand effort of this opportunity to see the

BSA Under 25 Silver Squad

in action!!

Business Leagues

MANY bowling clubs across the country have, with varying degrees of success, initiated leagues for local businesses.

It definitely appears as if a league of this nature has a more lasting impact than just a once-off game of social or informal bowls.



DID YOU KNOW!

HISTORY OF BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA

Bowls came to South Africa in 1882 and the first green was laid and a club was founded at St Georges Park in Port Elizabeth. The sport quickly spread through the country.

The South African Bowling Association was instituted in 1904 and became the official body for bowls in South Africa.

The South African Women's Bowling Association was formed in 1935, which controlled women's bowls in South Africa.

The two bodies unified in East London on 25 August 1996 to form Bowls South Africa.



'SUPER 10 CHALLENGE CUP'

And, talking of change nearer home, WPBA's new super-president, Sergio Martinengo, has unveiled his plans for his (move over rugby) **Super 10 Challenge Cup** – enabling someone who is smart to become title sponsor and enjoy their company name on the flagpole.

Clubs will be encouraged to form support-groups decked in **matching colours with scarves** and other accessories providing a **"vibe" on the bank**.

Staging venues are expected to provide music as well as **"beer gardens"**.

Naturally all this would depend on raising the correct sponsorships, but someone such as Absa (so many bowlers bank there) might find this innovation attractive. Moreover they might also sponsor a dedicated advertisement in say the Weekend Argus which could reflect both sponsors and the event's news.

The media, especially TV, are to be approached to support the initiative.

"It's also our intention to 'sell' the concept to Bowls SA with a view to eventually taking the event to all 20 of the districts," says Martinengo.

Sunday Argus 18 November 2007

Read the rest of this informative and interesting newsletter on our website

**Bowls South Africa
Executive**

President

Piet Breitenbach

Vice-President

Debra Ferguson

Members

Allan Freeman

Kallie Haupt

Tys Pringle

Isabel Smith

Operations Manager

vacant

Tel: 011 788 0005

Fax: 011 880 4578

E-mail:

info@bowlssa.co.za

Website:

www.bowlssa.co.za

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**Wishing one and all a
safe and happy Festive
Season and a
Prosperous 2008**

**Ons almal behoort ons te bemoei met die toekoms, want ons sal
die res van ons lewe daar moet deurbring. - Charles Kettering**