



Just wandering about



My Dream



Classifieds

favours in return.
Rate: Neg
Call at Room 2


Egoli's preferred
Contact [REDACTED]

Recently evicted for
Handover.
Will pay in advance.
Have plenty of Coke
left.

OFFER

I can see the Finish Line



So long Marion!



Just wandering about

Over the last few months the Wandering Albatross on Marion Island have been putting on quite a show for us. In December these massive white birds returned to the island to breed, and it wasn't long before the coastal landscape was dotted with white spots building nests, looking for their mate or trying to find a mate.

Courtship displays normally involve unpaired birds in the process of finding a mate, although sometimes paired birds also perform full courtship displays. Since they can't exactly post an advert in the local Wanderer weekly ("I'm 11kg, 3m wing span, beautiful, awesome flyer, sleek, of sober habits, love seafood, build a great nest. Seeking mate to live on a cold remote island"), the Wanderers have an elaborate courtship display to attract a mate.

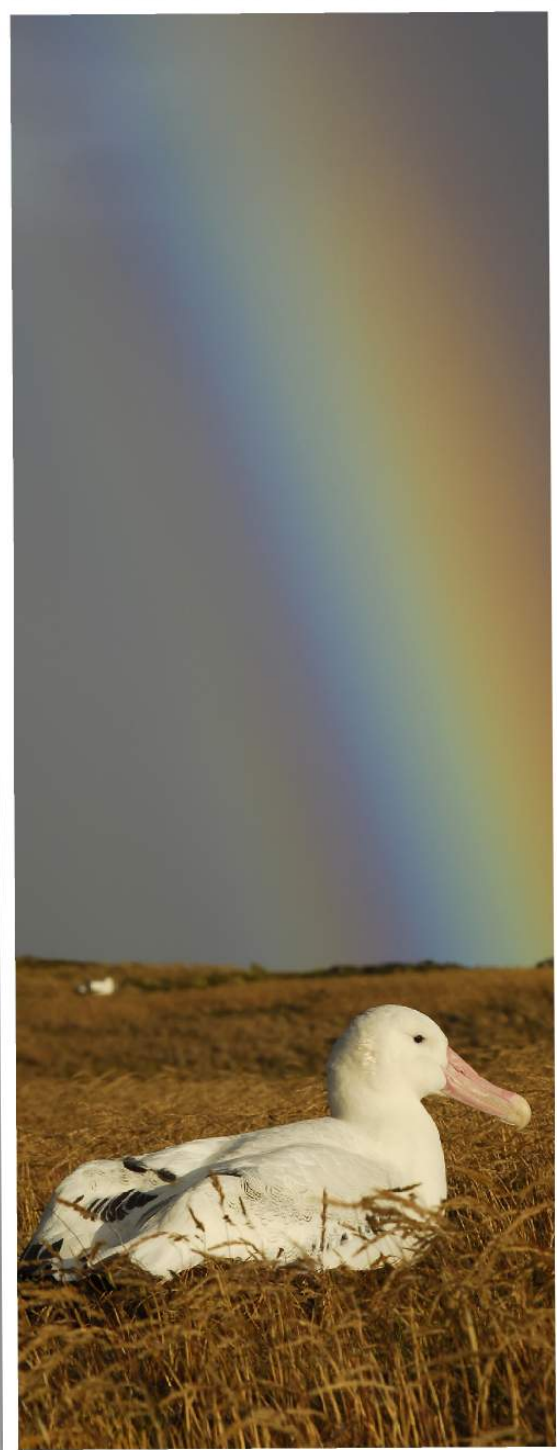


Females will often make several low fly passes over the male (usually hanging around their chosen nest site). After landing nearby a female will walk, with a low rolling slinking gait, towards a male. Sometimes the female walks past several males before displaying, pretending to be interested and pausing suddenly to preen themselves as if to say "I'm actually very busy and none of you lot look like a great catch". If the female is interested she may stop and Sky Point; in response the male would also Sky Point (Sky Pointing is when the head is lowered slightly then swung to the near vertical, sometimes accompanied by a deep, guttural, gurgling noise). Females initiate most display bouts, which begin with

a series of greetings. The display consists of a rapid sequence of head movements, snaps, ritualized preening, Bill rattles (Mandibles are rattled or vibrated rapidly making a loud rubbery sound), brief allo-preening (where they preen each other on the head and neck) and Bill snaps (bill snaps occur when mandibles are snapped together, often into the air, producing a sound like that made by striking two pieces of wood together). Most display bouts seem to end when one of the birds walks or flies away, usually the female. The display can last from a few seconds to 15 minutes. Most of the successful Wanderer pairs now have a newly hatched (very cute) chick in their nest, but the impressive courtship displays are still seen as the younger birds look for their mates.

Ben





My Dream

My dream is to fly over the Rainbow so high
I tried to fly directions high
Every day of your life shall pave ways to days of Success?
Never forget to act as if it were impossible to fail
Your success is non negotiable

Favor shall overwhelm your endeavors
You shall not struggle to be recognized
You are entitled to daily fruitfulness
Every darkness in your life shall give way to the Light
All you lack will give way to abundance

Those who laughed at you before shall
Come to laugh with you
How ever bad it has being with you till this crucial juncture
You shall have Visions that are clear
Virtues that are right
And victory that is certain
Raised above terror
And Established beyond oppression
You are blessed beyond curse
And established beyond oppression
In place of a breakdown
You shall have a break thru
In confusion you shall be enlightened
In weakness you shall be strengthened

In Meteorology there are different types of photometeors
Namely Halo, Corona, Irisation, Glory and most of all Rainbows
I'ts hard to believe how many Rainbow I've observed during
this

Great expedition, Marion is a Rainbow nation Island
We are all colorful and bright but we all in the same team
Our daily duties are totally different each one of us with his or
her

Tasks but at the end of the day it's all in the name of Science
We share a common goal we are Marion 66team

A Rainbow can mean many things to different people
To be strait to the point it is a group of concentric rings with
Colors ranging from violet to red, produced on a background
Of water drops in the atmosphere, due to refraction and
reflection of light

By Koalepe'son : Keep rising!

Sponsor of the Month:



Classifieds

Sometimes writing a "story" article doesn't quite convey what expedition members face towards the end of their expedition. The things they want, the things they need, the things they miss and some of the frustrations they have. So I've collected a few of these and presented them as classified adverts. I've left out names to protect their identities. I hope I don't cause offence.

-Johan

WANTED
Chef or cook
Tired of kitchen skivy.
am prepared to do
favourites in return.
Rate: Neg
Call at Room 2

LOOKING FOR
2nd-hand Gumboot
Left foot, Size: 8



Egoli's preferred
Contact [REDACTED]

**Acommodation
Needed**
Looking 4 room
with no leaks.
Needed for a month.
Recently evicted for
Handover.
Will pay in advance.
Hay plenty of Coke
left.

OFFER
Shampoo & Toiletries
for trade.
Any offer will
be considered
Enquire at Room 2

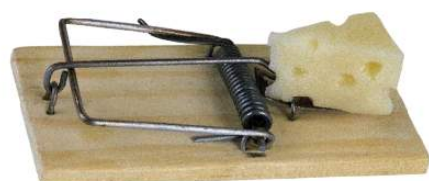
LOST
SENSE OF DIRECTION
Last seen over Azorella
in the fog
Any info please call
"Mixed Pickle" on 2006 kHz

Slightly used Magazines
only 1 Year old
some slightly damp.
Will trade for
1 pair of whole rain pants
Collect at Swartkops hut.



DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR
New movies. Have plenty
of old ones for swap.
VHS or DVD.
Enquire at Campstore.

RUNNING LOW ON COFFEE
PLEASE THIS IS SERIOUS
ANY COFFEE INSTANT OR
GROUNDS WILL BE ACCEPTED
WILL TRADE BEERS



NOTE: no actual cheese was used in the making of this article.

I can see the Finish Line

The end is near, not Armageddon or Apocalypse, a good ending, it's the end of a marathon, a well ran marathon with a sense of achievement.

It wasn't a smooth ride though, there were challenges, bad times and the good X 2 (times too).

"I am not a failure", those are the words of a true leader, spoken while facing a challenge not when the problem is fixed. Those are the words of our Team Leader.

We have had numerous challenges, some you have read about before, some not but we have always emerged victorious, not because we are too smart but because God is always there to guide us, because we have always worked as a team, not only the Met team but Marion 66 team.

At the beginning of the expedition our Automatic Rain gauge (Tipping Bucket) gave us problems, it would rain but the AWS not report anything. We worked on the problem, checking and verifying that the Rain gauge is working, checked the wiring until we got it right.

Some time in June the Digicora malfunctioned but coincidentally the SA Agulhas had to come to the island and a new one was sent and we were back in business in less than a month.

When the water purifying machine for the Hydrogen Generator shut down, the 'Engineer', our Diesel Mechanic came to the rescue.

Then one early morning the Wind Sensor was broken and with Marion's strong winds, working on the sensor wasn't an easy task but we did it, against all odds with the help of our fellow team members.

Then finally, well, hopefully so, the Upper Air Antenna was found on the platform, having been detached from its stand and tossed a few feet to be blocked by some of the construction material outside the balloon room. We thought this was the final stroke but God wasn't going to let that ruin our expedition near the finish line. The Diesel Mechanic and the Radio Technician with the help of our good friend, Peter Roux from SAWS in Cape Town did a magnificent job. Again, Marion 66 rose to the challenge, the Antenna was fixed, mounted back and it's working perfectly.

Among the good times are all the parties we enjoyed throughout the year and there are still more before we get off the ship.

I've enjoyed the walks, the beautiful sceneries and the wild life, took pictures to save those wonderful memories.

So, this is it!!!

Nkoane



So long Marion!

As I lie in bed on my last evening of Taps at Mixed Pickle. I can hear the chittering calls of the white chin petrels that have come back to feed their young in the misty night. Distant screams of Wandering Albatross pairs as one partner returns to relieve the other of egg laying duty. The screeching calls of the Sooties high above us, on the cliffs of Trichaardt bay. The fur seal pups crying out to their moms in desperate need of a meal. The mothers answering back seeking out their pups amongst the hundreds of little fur balls. The rockies are constantly squabbling over their small territories on the cliffs. The rain is softly falling on the fibreglass roof of the hut! I cannot believe I have all spent over 70 nights in this hut and over 150 in all the huts over the last year, mostly by ourselves with nothing to accompany us other than the animals and a good book! The many nights I have spent in the hut thinking of home, what friends and family are up to! On occasions I would remember the good times back in South Africa the sun some fresh fruit and a cool drink rather than a hot drink! But we have made some wonderful memories on Marion especially in the huts!



Some that come to mind are the nights spent with the gogga's catching mice until the early hours of the morning, them arriving late wet and miserable while we've been tucked up feeling guilty in a warm sleeping bag enjoying a good book! We have over the year built up our own little library at Mixed Pickle hut! With many novels from authors such as Michael Crichton or Pat Conroy! I read every book but one in the hut! A huge accomplishment for myself. How many times I have been through the many getaway magazines, I almost feel if I know them page for page, planning future holidays for when we return. We have seen Killers on countless occasions hunting and feeding on baby fur seals, usually the females

doing all the work and the males playing with the calves. Let's not forget the furrries, the little pups playing tirelessly in the pup pool, or chancing the sea for their first swims amongst the waves where the lurking Killers await! We have weighed many a seal pup here and grew accustomed to many of them! I still remember a few of last year's pups A003 the fat one or A063 who survived for over 2 months without a single meal from his mom! Or poor A099 who passed away two or three hours before his mom A100 returned to feed him! I will never forget the look of sadness on her face as she sniffed him and tried to bring him back to life! She stayed for 3 days with him until she left him! I can remember an occasion where in 70 knot winds will painful ice pellets I braved a visit to the long drop. Staggering against the wind trying to stay upright battling to see where I was going! I came across an empty hole! Very confused I eventually realised that the long drop had actually blown away leaving me in a very awkward uncomfortable state! But never the less with a smile on my face I thought only on Marion! It has been moments like these that have made my stay on Marion so unforgettable.

But I do feel very privileged to spend a year on the beautiful

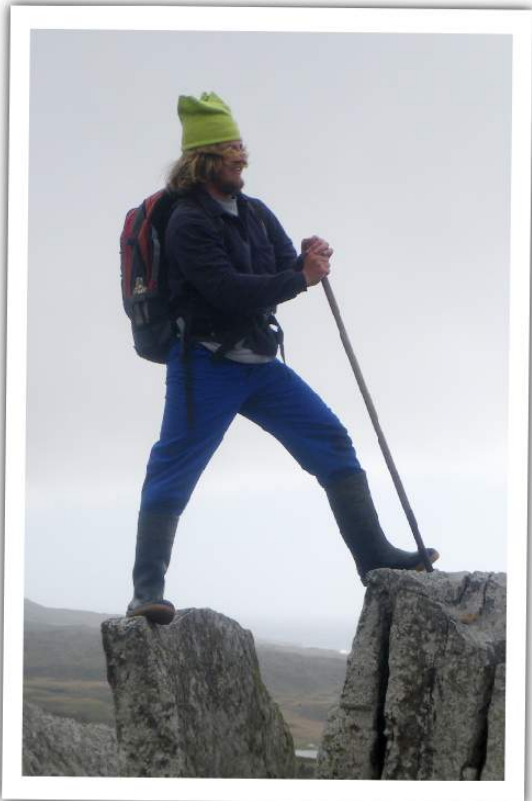


island. An Island which has taught me so much. Shown me how far my physical and mental boundaries can stretch. I doubt that I will ever work as hard as I did on Marion ever again, however without a doubt it has been the hardest but most satisfying work I have ever done. Many wonderful people I have come to know! We have been blessed with a wonderful team which made our year not only so much more enjoyable but so much easier. I would like this opportunity to thank everyone on Marion 66 who have made it such a great year. In particular my two work colleagues without whom I couldn't have managed! We have had some tough times walked many miles (all in gum boots) and worked in weather conditions people will never comprehend and always come through with smiles on our faces! We experienced magical moments that people only dream of, seen the most unbelievable sights, and worked with truly amazing animals. I couldn't have asked for two better sealers to spend a year with! Doc who unfortunately had to leave us earlier this year and was sorely missed! I don't think anyone will ever understand the work load we got through! But we have reached the last hurdle! So Martin and Mia thanks for all the wonderful memories! I would also like to thank my friend's family back home, most of all, my girlfriend for keeping me updated on the real world and always being there. Lastly I would like to thank Marthan Bester Nico de Bruin and the MRI for making this year possible. It has been beyond all my expectations.



I have also come to know myself, grown as a person and started to appreciate the more important in life! This has been year where I have had time to think, a year spent in peace without distractions the constant worry of crime. A year spent in an honest but harsh land, devoid of superficiality. It has been year of growth and exploration. A journey into the unknown so precious, that I deem it worth all the sacrifices needed to make it. May Marion always be peaceful and free and may the privileged few who get to spend time here in the future look after her and appreciate her to the full! So this is au revoir to Marion and all those who have shared it with me! It has been a wonderful journey and I can only hope our paths cross again!

Derek van der Merwe



Climate Stats: March 2010



Pressure

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Maximum | 1027.2 hPa |
| Average Maximum | 1012.0 hPa |
| Average | 1006.6 hPa |
| Average Minimum | 1000.7 hPa |
| Minimum | 977.8 hPa |



Temperature

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Maximum | 13.9 °C |
| Average Maximum | 9.8 °C |
| Average | 6.8 °C |
| Average Minimum | 3.7 °C |
| Minimum | 0.0 °C |



Humidity

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Maximum | 100 % |
| Average | 81 % |
| Minimum | 36 % |



Wind

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Maximum Gust | 36.0 m/s (129.6 km/h) |
|--------------|--------------------------|



Rainfall

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Total | 154.2 mm |
| Highest in 24 hours | 22.4 mm |
| Total days without rain | 9 days |
| Total days >1mm | 18 days |



Sunshine

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | 114 hours |
|-------|-----------|

Marion 66 team members:

Asanda Phiri – Field Assistant (Gogga)

Ben Dilley – Field Assistant (Birder)

Delia Davies – Field Assistant (Birder)

Derek van der Merwe – Field Assistant (Sealer)

Dianah Mabizela – Meteorologist (snr)

James Wilshere – Field Assistant (Gogga)

Johan Hoffman – Radio Tech (deputy leader)

Kholekile Cita – Medic (team leader)

Mark White – Diesel Mechanic

Marlene van Onselen – Field Assistant (Birder)

Martin Postma – Field Assistant (Sealer)

Mia Wege – Field Assistant (Sealer)

Mpho Koalepe – Meteorologist

Nangaadzishumi Nefehere – Field Assistant (Sealer)

Nkoane Mathabatha – Meteorologist

Innocent - Conservationist

Marianne - 2nd Camera

Riaan - 1st Camera

Sponsors:

Thank you guys for giving us a little bit of home to take along to the unknown.