

Gough Bunting

November 2006



Why would anyone want to travel across the sea to live on an isolated island away from friends and loved ones? This is a question all of us are often asked. The answer in my opinion is an easy one. This island is awesome!

I am daily blown away by its beauty. Island life is different to life in South Africa, and the Gough 52 team is settling into its own routine. We had two visitors during the past month, Julian Fitter and Tui de Roy. They are both working on an Albatross book, which documents all the various Albatross around the world. They certainly helped us to leave the comfort of the new couches in the TV room, get

our boots dirty (and muddy) and explore new areas.

It's amazing that such a small island can hold such diverse vegetation, bird life and views. Enjoy our stories of this wonderful island.

Ed.



The Adventures of Thulani

To be at Gough Island, is a dream come true because not every one gets this opportunity to explore. I enjoy every moment in the Island and I'm glad to have a wonderful team. I enjoy playing pool, darts, and table tennis.



The Skuas playing pool



It was a hot sunny day and I was on my way to Prion Cave and the bird below is a Yellow Nosed Albatross.

If it's a good day we normally go out to see the beauty of the Island. I enjoy having a good meal before I leave the base for a hike because a **"Man must believe in himself at all times"**.

Thuls



Its supper time and I have prepared fish & chips.

The Visits....

It is again that time to greet everyone who can access our monthly Gough bunting. After the SA Agulhas left the six of us on the 4th of October, we told ourselves that we are going to stay like this for next coming 10 months. While we were still adapting to live in this isolated island, we were blessed by the visit of the Edinburgh fishing vessel. It is always a good feeling to have some people to chat to, but this was more than good because we also had an opportunity to have visitors on the island. The two photographers (Julian and Tui), graced our island and we spent some few weeks with them. These guys were always out taking pictures of the birds, and it gave our guys a good time to go out and explore the island with them because their Gough consultant (ME) is still recovering from his ankle

injury (they wanted me to go with them but I couldn't because of my injury). When these guys left, we felt like someone has been taken away from us because we got along very well with them and they fitted well with us in the base.(hopefully we will get other visitors like them during the course of our stay here).

On a good note though, those who know Gough well must know that our two "base birds" (Goose and Roseanne) have (this time) been blessed buy two beautiful chicks.

I will leave you here for now guys chat to you next month (maybe my ankle will be fully fit to climb Tafelkoppie and the Rowetts).

*Tshifhiwa-wa-Vho-Nthaduleni uri
MASHA.*



Bigfish and Jonty saying good-bye to Julian and Tui, just before they left us.

Our second month

Earlier this month we had visitors, they've been with us for three weeks and we enjoyed every sec we spent with them. One day the weather was good and we decided to go to swemgat. We left Cyril to take care of the base while we were out. Thuls and I were so scared of the fur seals at Seal Beach that we couldn't swim because they were all over the place. We were standing on top of a rock. While the others were exploring up the river we saw a boot appear and we were scared thinking that maybe something was wrong. We kept on calling them, but there was no response. Thuls asked me to take the boot and said he would watch the fur seals for me. I couldn't do it because I



Miss Gough enjoying Swemgat

was too scared. Then Jonty come, telling us that everything is fine and that boot belonged to him. We stayed on top of the rock till they finished swimming and off we went. The whole of this month was good. So far I can't complain of anything, I'm still happy and hope it will be like this till the end of our expedition.

Dineo

Life happens

You plan everything, take all the necessary steps towards your future only to find out that you can't control everything that life just happens to throw your way.

Everybody has their own life which they live to their own will. You set yourself targets. If you accomplish them it makes your life fulfilling. You live by certain standards which only you can uphold; you plan and take steps towards your future. Then with a sudden act your life comes tumbling down like a stack of cards. This totally gets you off your planned course, which brings about changes which you haven't anticipated. And that's life. Anticipation of events that can steer you astray also puts a damper on living life to the fullest and not living free is worst than death.

The test lies in getting up after the fall and even though it's a matter out of your control, emerging victorious makes it worthwhile. Think of life being one straight line, how boring it would be. Finding yourself in difficult situations isn't always

welcoming, but it adds a bit of spice to your life.

When the hits the fan the worst thing you can do is to bring your life to total standstill. This brings about improvisation to work through the difficult times. What seems disastrous at the time of impact, overcoming it and looking back equips you to handle life better. Therefore live life and deal with the consequences., life happens.



‘As a river runs deep
The soul keeps on searching
For the unfound
Through darkness and light’

JK

Molweni Emzantsi

Things are still going well here on Gough Island. We just miss our beloved ones, this time of the year, because festive season is at hand. But life must go on, no matter what. We are enjoying our outings to Tafel Koppie, Richmond Hill, Gony Dale, and sometimes fishing for fresh snoek. All these places I mention above are historical outings on Gough Island to explore and enjoyment.

We are only six people on the island, and we have to build strong relationships, to support each other. Cooking goes well, because everyone has a chance of showing his / her cooking skills. During January we are expecting visitors on the island. It will be very nice to see other faces on the island. There were no birthdays yet from the team side, but we looking forward to that next year.

Our weather changes any time of the day, so we are very privileged of having four seasons in one day. But so far, life is going on. Thanks for the support from our beloved ones, my friends, and last but not least darling my girlfriend down there. Emzantsi, time is flying, because we going on for our 4 months here on Gough Island. Soon we will see each other.

Thanks Regards

Cyril Ithuba Thomas [Medic]

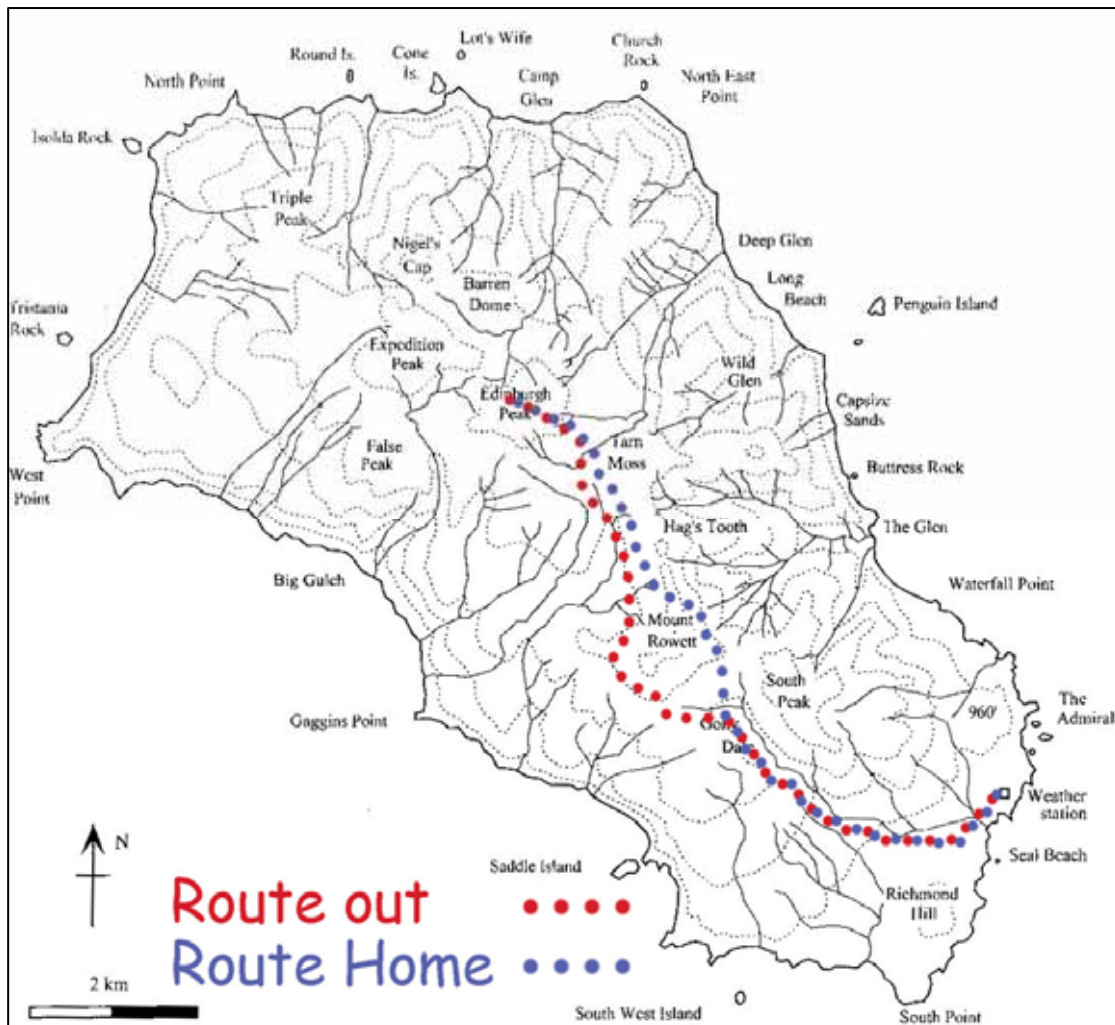


Cyril enjoying the view of Hag's Tooth

Edinburgh and back in a day.

How much would it cost you to go to Edinburgh and back in a day? I have stood on the cobbled stones of Edinburgh, Scotland, fighting the urge paint my face blue and shout “Freedom” running down the streets. I’m also pretty sure that in the middle of the Outback in Australia there is a one horse town called Edinburgh, but I digress. If you follow the British Royal family, there is a certain Prince Phillip who is also known as the Duke of Edinburgh. He happened to take a trip a number of years ago, to an

island called Tristan da Cunha. He was so loved and well received that the locals named their settlement on the island, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas. As the story continues he also visited an isolated island called Gough. And as was the trend those days the highest peak on the island was also called Edinburgh. So Edinburgh and back in a day. I had mentioned to one of our visitors, Julian that I wanted to walk to Edinburgh Peak, and since Julian’s time was limited he decided it needed to happen before he left. I always thought that it would involve



Map of Gough Island

spending a night in a tent along the way. I have heard of people walking to Edinburgh Peak and back in one day from the base, but those are stories of legends that include dragons and one eyed men.

But I decided I would never know until I tried, we set out early one morning at roughly 7 am. The weather on the island is an always a bit hit and miss, often the weather around the base is different to the weather further north. We noticed as we started to rise

into Gony Dale that the wind was quite strong. After a small debate in Gony Dale on the best route to Waterfall Camp (Which is at the foot of Edinburgh Peak), we decided to take the route around West Rowett. I now know that is not the best

route. As we started to head up and around West Rowett, the wind was ripping. We were leaning into the wind. Once around West Rowett we stared across Albatross Plain hoping to see Edinburgh Peak, instead we saw a cloud. As we made our way down and across Albatross Plain, we were fortunate enough to see some Tristan Albatross pairs courting. Once at Waterfall Camp we saw that Edinburgh Peak was covered completely in cloud and we had to make a decision in terms of continuing. After lunch it was decided

that we had come this far, we should continue. The walk up to the top was interesting. It's difficult walking to the top of something that you don't know how far you have left and visibility is down to 100m. We did manage to find some foot prints and followed them up. It was very much a case of over the next rise. Every time I thought we were near the top, we saw something rising up higher in the cloud.

We only realized we had finally made

it to the top when we realized that there were no more uphill around. The view was well, none existent. Just cloud, but it was still great for me to be there, it was one of my goals I had set myself on the island. We headed back to Gony Dale via

Windy Ridge and the Rowetts. Windy Ridge certainly lived up to its name. I am told that the view from the Rowetts is amazing and although it was my second time walking that route once again all I experienced was cloud and strong winds. Once in Gony Dale we followed the "highway" to be home in time for supper. So how much does it cost to go to Edinburgh and back in a day? Well 10 hours walking, a very sun burnt head and sore legs.

Brain



The view from the top of Edinburgh Peak

We would like to thank the following sponsors:

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- Exclusive Books (Books)
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- SAB Miller (Castle Lager)
- SABC (Videos)
- Uniross (Rechargeable Batteries, Peak Caps, Lanyards)
- World Space Radio (Satellite Radio, Peak Caps, T-shirts)
- YUM (KFC Chicken, KFC chips, KFC sauces)

Sponsor of the Month



Cyril, Thulani and Jonathan sporting their Bondi Blu sunglasses and Backpacks

From the Weather Office

Climate Stats: November 2006

Ave. Max Pressure	1012.6 hPa
Ave. Min Pressure	1004.6 hPa
Ave. Pressure	1008.2 hPa
Max Pressure	1025.3 hPa
Min Pressure	988.9 hPa
Ave. Max Temp	16.1 °C
Ave. Min Temp	10.6 °C
Ave. Temp	13.6 °C
Max Temp	20.1 °C
Min Temp	5.4 °C
Ave Humidity	77 %
Max Humidity	95 %
Min Humidity	20 %
Max Wind Gust	27.5 m/s or 99.0 km/h
Total Rainfall	149.9 mm
Highest in 24 Hours	33.9 mm
Total days with rain	24 days
Total days > 1mm	17 days
Total Sunshine	165.0 hours

Gough 52 Team

Head Coach

Brian Bowie

Assistant Coach and

Physiotherapist

Cyril Thomas

Groundsman

Jonathan Kotze

Stadium Maintenance

Thulani Jakalashe

Merchandizing

Dineo Matsana

Head of Supporters Club

Bigfish Mashau

This Space For Rent

Email gough@sanap.org.za for details