

# Gough Bunting

December 2006



*Warm 2007 greetings to you from Gough Island. As we look back at 2006, for us on Gough the last year was filled with anticipation and excitement. December was a good month for us. We all felt slightly homesick during the festive season but we definitely made sure that our Christmas and New Years on Gough was one remember. Thanks must*

*definitely go to Chief Jason and Chief Francis from the Naval cooking school. The Christmas dinner we enjoyed was first class, we are really starting to do wonders in the Kitchen.*

*I hope that 2007 is a blessed one for you, enjoy our Newsletter.*

*Ed.*



**FUN AND MORE FUN**

Wow, a lot has happened this month, we had a lots of fun.



On the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month we had a celeb party and I was Vivica A Fox (I like this lady, I think she's cool) and as u can see in the picture, I was dancing with Jamie fox (Jonty), it was cool.



*I was busy preparing pizza for lunch, it was delicious.*

Here comes Christmas day, the base was already decorated, we were all dressed formal and we had a dinner. To tell the truth I don't miss SA that much, At Gough Island u need not to think about over spending nor being scared who's following u. We all know that this is the time where a lot of

Another good day to remember, the weather was cool so the guys decided to make the garden, so that the neighbours (skuas) won't laugh at us when they pass 'coz it looked so bad especially this time of the year, things must look good.



ugly things are happening in mzansi, criminals are all over the place. On New Year's Eve we had a braai, we talk, we laugh as we always do, and God is being so great to us from the beginning of our expedition till this moment here. We're all happy, healthy and I just hope that this year things will be as good as it was last.



This is the pic we took a minute after 12. Lovely isn't it?

May God cover u all with blood of Jesus from now till the end of time!!!

Best wishes to u  
all.....!!!!

*Dineo  
Gough Island*

*The Gough Island Super Heroes cleaning up. No garden is safe.*

## When Days are Dark

Life is great when everything goes according to plan. Most people manage life's daily trivialities quite well. But when their plans go pear-shaped, their minds tend to follow. Stress can be defined as a significant and substantial imbalance between demand (either psychological or physical) and response (again, physical or psychological) under conditions where failure to meet the demand usually has important consequences. We demand love from our loved ones especially when we can't see them for a long time. You don't get it. You flip out.

Stress is a process of comprising a sequence of events that lead to a particular outcome. The outcome can be favourable – you can deal with stress constructively and use it to your advantage (working harder, getting that promotion. Good). Or the outcome could be unfavourable – when the demand overwhelms you and you respond in ways which are not beneficial to yourself or those around you. **Below is one of the places at Gough Island that you will never get stress.**



*Waterfall called "Swem Gat"*

Where you take your mind determines how you will proceed with your life. Negative thoughts like, "I can't cope with this", "This is terrible" or "This is unbearable" will inevitably lead you to behaving in a way that matches those thoughts. "If you allow your mind to build positive pictures of yourself coping in life, it is more likely that you will live those visions out." Envision yourself as an efficient and capable person. Try to keep a positive outlook, even if you've been logged off on Internet banking due to a system which is very slow and needs to be upgraded.

From, **"a man who knows what he wants in life"**

*Thulani.*

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## Jonty en Brain verken Admirals

Dis ñ lekker dag, waantoe sal ons gaan? Admirals klink nogal aangenaam. Dit was ñ perfekte dag om uit te gaan aangesien sulke dae baie selde voorkom. Somer is hier en dae soos die moet geniet word.

Tien minute se stap en ons bestemming word bereik. Dertig meter laer lê heelwat robbe in die son bak. Ons pak die tog afwaarts aan met tou en lere afwisselend. Die eerste seksie is afgehandel. Ons land tussen die robbe wat nie eintlik baie geïntreseerd in ons is nie, ñ blaf so nou en dan is al antwoord wat hulle gee. Toegang tot die strand word verkry deur ñ rots steilte. Hier kom ons ñ paar robbe teë wat nogal goedgesind is en pad vir ons maak.



*The other Gough Island residents*

Uiteindelik op die strand, rots en robbe oral in sig.

Op soek na geskikte uitkykpunt wandel ons oor die rotse tussen die robbe deur. Die jonger robbe wys tand en maak pad vir ons met die groot bulle min gepla met ons teenwoordigheid. Dis paar seisoen en gevolglik is daar heelwat gewonde bulle wat hul wonde lek. Party van hulle het nogal baie sleg tweede gekom. Met tyd saam vind ons ñ geskikte plek te sit om als te aanskou. Die jonger robbe wat speels is, die adolossente wat hul veg vernuf uittoets. Die groot bulle wat reeds hul klem afgesteek het lê luilekker in die son en die gewondes lek hul wonde. Heelwat robbe wat in die see speel en bietjie aandag aan hul voorkoms gee. Die alomteenwoordige skua's op die uitkyk om iets te aas. Naby ons nes ñ 'Antarctic tern' paar wat nie te bly is oor die skua's se teenwoordigheid en ñ paar rakelingsse aanvalle loods op die skua's wat min gespin is met dit. ñ Arme verdwaalde 'rockhopper' pikkewyn kuiken word amper deur die robbe platgedruk. Naby ons

rusplek is daar ñ poel waar die robbe klein en groot speel. Nou en dan het ñ besorgde moeder aggressie getoon met ons teenwoordigheid. Dit was absoluut asemrowend om dit als te aanskou.

Na ñ paar uur besluit ons om terug basis toe te gaan. Weereens pak ons die tog oor die rotse tussen die robbe deur en op met die leer en tou. By die basis aangekom besluit ons om vis te gaan vang. Ons was ongelukkig nie so suksesvol soos ons gehoop het nie aangesien die see duining te hoog was. Die vangs was nie groot nie, maar nietemin was dit die moeite werd.

Terug by die basis, moeg en afgemat, maar ñ wonderlike dag ten volle geniet.

*On a nice summer's day Brain and I went exploring Admirals, admiring the magnificent view and animals around. After Admirals we went fishing, but without any significant catch. A wonderful day well spent.*

JK



*You should see the other guy.*

## 2006 ROUND UP...

It is that time when lots of people are going back to their working areas with some few cents left in their pockets (because they have spent a lot during Christmas holidays). 2006 was quite a good year for us here at Gough (even though we have only spent 3 month).

### **The water crisis at Gough...**

Lots of people know that Gough is a wet place because it rains a lot. This time around it was a different situation. The river (which provides water to the base) was so dry in beginning of the month that we ran out water. We had (at least) enough water to cook, but not enough for a shower. (I won't mention anything about the toilet). We spent some few days without showering but bathing with very little water in the basin. (It was a nice experience...yo...)



*Our dried up water supply*

### **The celebrities....**

As every team member's birthday is in 2007, we decided to throw a nice party. Seeing that it not a birthday party, we called it "Celebrity Party". Here someone must dress like any celebrity person he knows and call himself with the name of that person (only for that night). These were the celebrities: Brian was Tom Hanks, Cyril was Lundi (even though he wanted to Rebecca at first), Jonathan was Jamie Foxx, Dineo was Vivica A Fox, Thulani was Uncle Charlie Wilson and I was Abedi Pele Ayew. It was a nice party....

### **Swemgat Braai...**

On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the weather was quite nice with some few cirrus clouds and the guys decided to go and have lekker braai at swemgat. Jonty, Dineo and Brian were the first to leave the base because I was working my dayshift. Even though I was working, it never stopped me to join the guys in one of the nicest outings we have had so far.



*Braai at Swemgat*

It was nice chatting to you all in 2006; I hope you will still enjoy reading our experiences next year. Let's pull together to make 2007 a success to everyone...

*Tshifhiwa-wa-Vho-Nthaduleni uri:  
Masha...*

Hi There

Many people might think that being on a tiny Island in the middle of the ocean that you feel isolated from the rest of the world. Time is flying very fast here on the island, because we starting our 4<sup>th</sup> month. We are experiencing very good and hot weather every day with rain sometimes.

Life here does not change so drastically on a daily basis, because everyone has their tasks and you do what you need to do. There are sometimes that we as a team need to support each other. Like 3 weeks back where we experienced a water shortage, just to find out that we had a water pipe leak up the river where our water comes from. We came together to plan, and fixed the problem. I was not able to wash for 3 days.

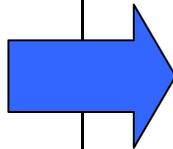
We enjoyed Christmas and New Year without our beloved ones, but we make the best of it. Hora to the team, and may every one exceed there Goals and catch their Dreams for 2007.

*Bye, Bye*  
*Ithuba Cyril Thomas [Medic]*

### *Catharacta Antarctica*

There is a Sub-Antarctic Skua pair that lives right next to the base. They have been named Goose and Roxanne and teams through out the years have followed them. With our arrival to Gough Island the pair had two eggs on their nest.

As their eggs hatched we watched their chicks grow as we too grew as Islanders. We all grew through our experience of the island, and some also grew around their waists. We had



to get used to Roxanne or Goose screaming at us every time we attempted to walk past their nest.

These skuas would often enter our tof conversations. No walk to Gony Dale would be complete without a number of over protective skuas flying low over our heads. It was observed that the skuas on the island have it pretty good. There is an endless supply of middle sized birds for food, and they are always willing to take advantage of any scraps lying around.



*The growth of one of the Skua chicks*

Somewhere in our many conversations about Roxanne and Goose we realized that skuas are the “Laanies” on the island.

**Laanie.** *noun.* Person who has everything going for him. Often considered superior.

The word “skua” started to become a multi dimensional word. Suddenly a person who was trying to take advantage of a situation was called a skua. It is also ended up just being a

general term that we started to call each other. Call it a term of endearment or maybe just a comment about us?

The skua chicks are now full grown and have started to fly. I guess you can also say us skuas are now full grown islanders.

*Chief Skua  
Brain*



*The Skuas enjoying themselves late at night.*

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## Sponsor of the Month



*Castle Lager helped us Celebrate our New Years in style.*

*From the Weather Office*

**CLIMATE STATS: December 2006**

<b>Ave. Max Pressure</b>	1012.1 hPa
<b>Ave. Min Pressure</b>	1005.3 hPa
<b>Ave. Pressure</b>	100.83 hPa
<b>Max Pressure</b>	1020.8 hPa
<b>Min Pressure</b>	984.1 hPa
<b>Ave. Max Temp</b>	16.4 °C
<b>Ave. Min Temp</b>	11.0 °C
<b>Ave. Temp</b>	13.7 °C
<b>Max Temp</b>	20.5 °C
<b>Min Temp</b>	7.3 °C
<b>Ave Humidity</b>	79 %
<b>Max Humidity</b>	95 %
<b>Min Humidity</b>	48 %
<b>Max Wind Gust</b>	29.1 m/s or 104.8 km/h
<b>Total Rainfall</b>	263.2 mm
<b>Highest in 24 Hours</b>	91.1 mm
<b>Total days with rain</b>	26 days
<b>Total days &gt; 1mm</b>	16 days
<b>Total Sunshine</b>	151.1 hours

**Gough 52 Soccer Team**

**Goal Keeper**

Brian Bowie

**Sweeper**

Cyril Thomas

**Wing Back**

Jonathan Kotze

**Midfield**

Thulani Jakalashé

**Forward**

Dineo Matsana

**Striker**

Bigfish Mashau

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Email [gough@sanap.org.za](mailto:gough@sanap.org.za) for details