

# Gough Bunting

March 2008



## Easter

The Easter bunny got lost on its way to Gough.



## Halfway

Yes, only six more months to go, and we already feel like we will miss this place.



## Gonydale Chicks

New comers to the island, the feathered kind.



## The test of time

The taste that hasn't stood the test of time.



## Change

Almost time to be on its own.

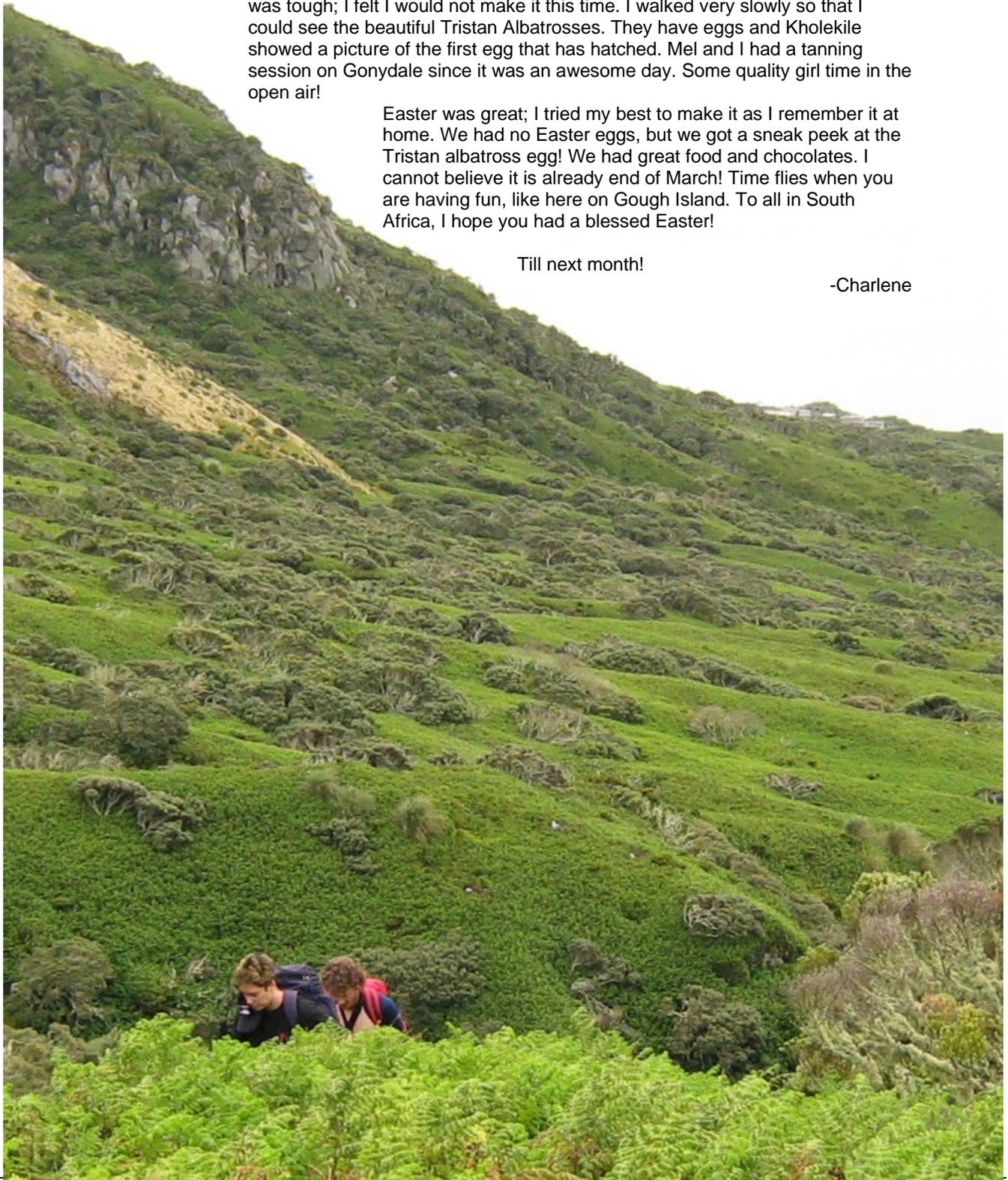
## Easter

Well here we are again; a month has passed so fast that you cannot think what you have done. I did go to Gonydale with Johan, Kholekile and Mel. The walk was tough; I felt I would not make it this time. I walked very slowly so that I could see the beautiful Tristan Albatrosses. They have eggs and Kholekile showed a picture of the first egg that has hatched. Mel and I had a tanning session on Gonydale since it was an awesome day. Some quality girl time in the open air!

Easter was great; I tried my best to make it as I remember it at home. We had no Easter eggs, but we got a sneak peek at the Tristan albatross egg! We had great food and chocolates. I cannot believe it is already end of March! Time flies when you are having fun, like here on Gough Island. To all in South Africa, I hope you had a blessed Easter!

Till next month!

-Charlene



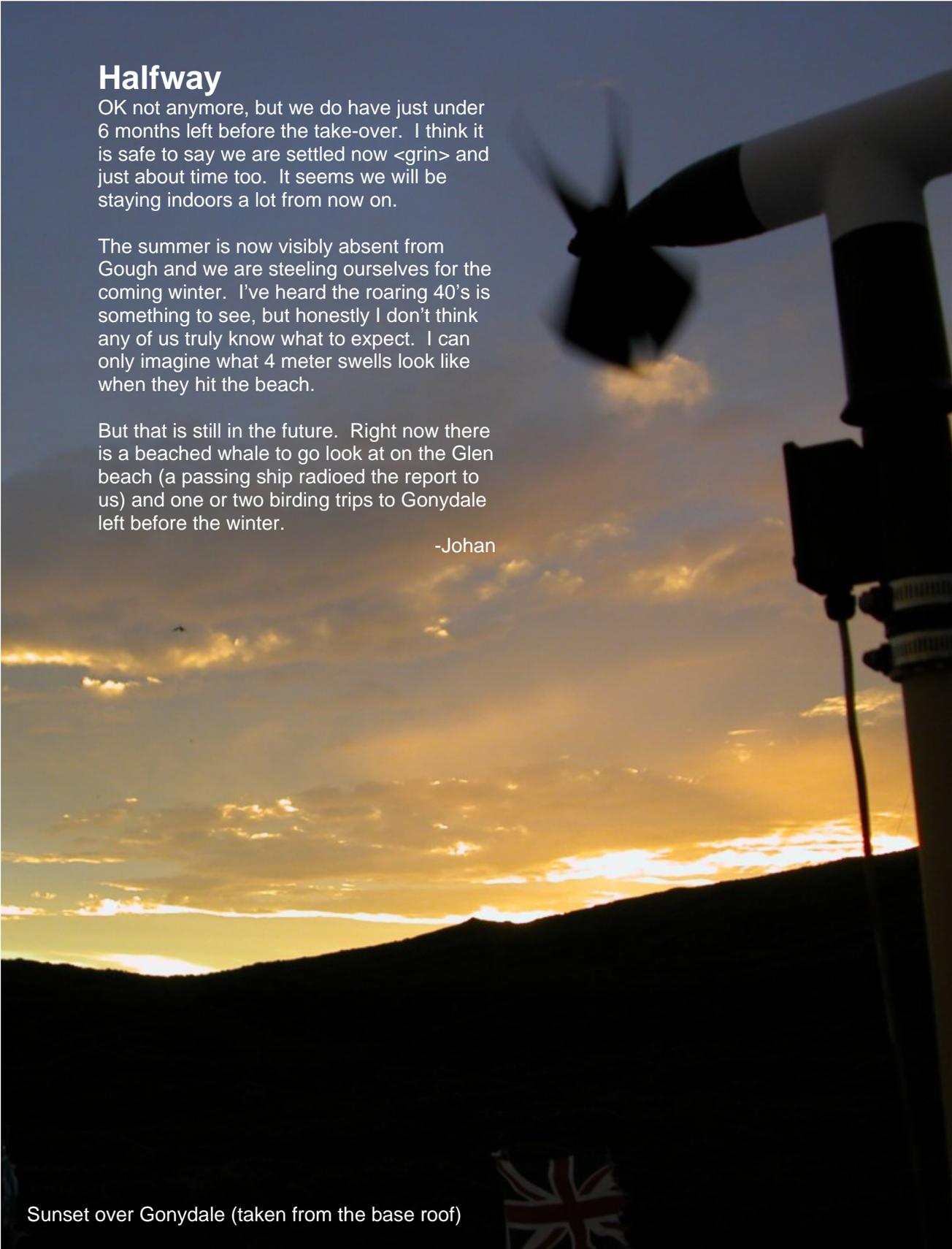
## Halfway

OK not anymore, but we do have just under 6 months left before the take-over. I think it is safe to say we are settled now <grin> and just about time too. It seems we will be staying indoors a lot from now on.

The summer is now visibly absent from Gough and we are steeling ourselves for the coming winter. I've heard the roaring 40's is something to see, but honestly I don't think any of us truly know what to expect. I can only imagine what 4 meter swells look like when they hit the beach.

But that is still in the future. Right now there is a beached whale to go look at on the Glen beach (a passing ship radioed the report to us) and one or two birding trips to Gonydale left before the winter.

-Johan



Sunset over Gonydale (taken from the base roof)

## Gonydale Chicks

Early this month, we took a walk to Gonydale. The weather was in our favour (the sun was shining) and you could see from a distance the blue ocean. It was a wonderful trip; everybody enjoyed it as we always have fun in this Island.



Later this month, I took another trip to Gonydale and Tafelkop with Jack, but this time with the aim of checking the chicks of the Tristan Albatross. Till next month!!!

-Kholekile

## The test of time

April 2008

Well, we're about halfway through our contract on the green hills of Gough Island. And, d'you know, I **haven't** learnt to speak French. I **haven't** lost that extra 50kgs and my hair is **still** pathetically short.

So. Should we call this year a complete loss regarding personal achievements? Oh, I don't think so. I now know, for a fact that loving to do something does not necessarily mean that you'll be good at it. For instance, and I really, truly hate admitting this: I love cooking and baking. And I absolutely, undoubtedly suck at it 100%.

There is, however, a silver lining to the dark cloud hanging in the kitchen. The guinea pigs, oops, sorry, no, I mean my **wonderful teammates**, take it all in their stride. They actually consume (can't use the word "eat" here) some – mind you, only SOME – of the masterpieces that I have created. Which is encouraging. Because of their unwavering support, I vow that I will continue baking until one day I get it right! With dispensable, I mean **loyal** tasters such as these, I cannot, in all honesty, give up. I won't be able to live with myself! I will prevail!

Till next time.  
Mellany



## Change

As we are saying goodbye to summer, we are already getting the feeling of winter. Days are also gradually getting shorter and nights longer. In the bird community change is also happening. Yellow Nose Albatross chicks are almost ready to fly out. Some are



already leaving their nests, walking about close by, preparing themselves for adult life having survived the rains and the mice. On the other hand, Wandering Tristan Albatross chicks have just hatched, faced with the same challenges.

One afternoon I decided to go check on the Yellow Nose Albatross chicks having heard that they will be flying soon . I took my time, taking a picture or two of every one of them. A week later Kholekile said he was going to Gonydale and I jumped on the opportunity to accompany him. We got there just after 08:00, started walking up and down the mountain, checking every nest. It took us hours but at the end of the day we were

pleased with our accomplishment, having checked more than hundred nests in one day. Few days later we went to check those at Tafelkop. Due to the limited number of nests there we were able to finish before 11:00 and by 13:00 we were back in the base.

In the base life is still good, everything is pretty much the same: work, movies, music, cooking, baking and cleaning. On Good Friday we had fish for supper, prepared by Charlene for that special occasion.



So long, God bless!

-Nkoane

## Climate Stats: March 2008



### Pressure

Ave. Max	1014.4 hPa
Ave. Min	1006.6 hPa
Average	1010.4 hPa
Maximum	1021.0 hPa
Minimum	984.5 hPa



### Temperature

Ave. Max	17.3 °C
Ave Min	11.8 °C
Average	14.6 °C
Maximum	23.5 °C
Minimum	7.7 °C



### Humidity

Average	79%
Maximum	90%
Minimum	66%



### Wind

Max Gust	29.9 m/s or 107.6 km/h
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### Rainfall

Total	241.4 mm
Highest in 24h	62.2 mm
Total days with rain	17 days
Total days >1mm	13 days



### Sunshine

Total sunshine	113.2 hours
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## Gough 53 team members

Charlene Oppel – Meteorologist

Johan Hoffman – Radio Technician

Kholekile Cita – Medic  
(Deputy Leader)

Mellany McPherson – Meteorologist(snr)

Nkoane Mathabatha - Meteorologist

Sarel Steyn – Diesel Technician  
(Team Leader)