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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1986

BEFORE I START WITH SEPTEMBER'S GOSSIP I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ALL THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS.

BIOLOGISTS: DR. MARTHAN BESTER
DR. STEVE HUNTER
MARIANNA STEENKAMP
MARIETA CAWOOD
IAN (EXCELLENT) WILKINSON

FIELD ASSISTANTS:

CHARLIE PASCOE
HENDRIK (KRAPP) ELOFF
M.C. FRANKEN
HENK (BROEKIES) BLOM
HENNIE VAN WYK
IVAN DALGLISH
JOHNNY (TV EYES) KIESER
SAMPY FERREIRA
GERHARD STEENKAMP
JOHAN STEENKAMP
PETE BARTLETT
DAVE BAKER
RORY HEATHER-CLARKE
QUINTON (INDIANA/CHASK/BOBO) COETZEE
WARREN WALDECK
ANDRE CRONJE
JOHAN KRUGER

AFTER THE TAKEOVER PARTY, WHERE THE ABOVE MENTIONED PEOPLE WERE THOROUGHLY INTRODUCED TO THE MARION WAY OF DOING THINGS, THE GREATEST HAPPENING WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE DEPARTURE OF THE AGULHAS. SOME OF THE CHAPS HOWEVER HAD THAT FARAWAY LOOK IN THEIR EYES AS THE SHIP FINALLY DISAPPEARED OVER THE HORIZON.

MARIANNA ALSO RECEIVED HER M.SC. DEGREE DURING THE MONTH, AND A GRADUATION CEREMONY WAS HELD TO MAKE THE DAY EVEN MORE SPECIAL FOR HER. WITH THE TOGAS AND CERTIFICATE THAT MARK MADE AND THE CEREMONY HE PREPARED, THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS QUITE IMPRESSIVE. THAT WAS UNTIL QUINTON DECIDED THAT MORE NOISE WAS CALLED FOR. BELIEVE ME GRADUATION CEREMONIES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN. TWO BIRTHDAYS WERE CELEBRATED THIS MONTH. KRAPP TURNED 21 AND TO WELCOME HIM AMONGST THE GROWN-UPS ANOTHER PARTY WAS HELD. AN EXPERIENCE HE WILL NEVER FORGET. JOHN MADE HIM A BEAUTIFUL KEY AND MARTHAN BATTLED FOR HOURS TO MAKE HIM A CAKE FOR THE OCCASION. CHARLIE WAS THE OTHER BIRTHDAY MAN BUT DECIDED TO CELEBRATE IT QUIETLY.

FOR TEN GLORIOUS DAYS ROBERT DECIDED TO DO US ALL A FAVOUR AND GO FOR A TOUR AROUND THE ISLAND. ANDRIES WENT WITH HIM AND THE FRESH AIR OBVIOUSLY DID WONDERS FOR HIM. HE FINALLY REALISED THAT HIS ATTEMPTS AT GROWING A BEARD DID NOT HELP AT ALL. SOON AFTER THEIR RETURN HE SHAVED OFF THE FEW BITS OF FLUFF HE HAD MANAGED TO CULTIVATE AND WAS COMPLIMENTED ON HIS WISE DECISION. ARCHIE, AN AVID SPORTS FAN, GOT SOME OF THE GUYS TOGETHER AND HAD A RUGBY MATCH IN THE MIRE. AT SOME STAGES THEY WERE ALMOST WAIST DEEP IN THE MUD, BUT EVERYONE ENJOYED IT TREMENDOUSLY, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF US WHO DECIDED TO OBSERVE FROM THE SIDE OF THE FIELD. ARCHIE'S NEXT PROJECT IS TO CONVINCE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO HAVE A SOCCER MATCH NEXT MONTH. TWO OF OUR DIEHARD RUGBY FANS (M.C. AND GERHARD) DECIDED TO BRAVE THE WIND AND RAIN AND WALK BACK TO BASE FROM KILDALKEY TO LISTEN TO THE CURRIE CUP FINAL. THERE WAS ONE VERY HAPPY (M.C.) AND ONE VERY UNHAPPY (GERHARD) MAN WHO RETURNED TO KILDALKEY THAT SAME AFTERNOON. WELL DONE WESTERN PROVINCE...

WITH SPRING ALL AROUND US AND SUMMER APPROACHING FAST, THE ISLAND IS CRAWLING WITH ACTIVITY. THE FIRST MACARONI PENGUINS ARRIVED A FEW DAYS AGO AND THE ROCKHOPPERS SHOULD BE HERE WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. EVERYWHERE ON THE BEACHES ELEPHANT SEALS ARE ENJOYING THEIR FIRST DAYS. THE SKUAS ARE SETTING UP TERRITORY FOR THE MOMENT AND ARE GETTING QUITE AGGRESSIVE AS THE MATING SEASON DRAWS NEAR. WE ALSO HAD A VERY SPECIAL VISITOR FOR A FEW DAYS. A LEOPARD SEAL (HARDLY EVER SEEN ON THE ISLAND) WAS SPOTTED ON BOULDER BEACH NEAR THE BASE, AND BECAME A VERY POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHIC SUBJECT DURING HIS STAY. KILLER WHALE SIGHTINGS ARE ALSO INCREASING AND EVERYONE HOPE TO SEE A LOT MORE OF THESE BEAUTIFUL MAMMALS.

WELL THAT WAS SEPTEMBER. HERE IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WEATHER DATA:
MEAN TEMP: 4.8 DEGREES C
MAX TEMP: 12.2 DEGREES C
MIN TEMP: -3.0 DEGREES C
TOTAL RAINFALL: 166.7MM.

NEWSLETTER AND MET. DATA: ADRIAAN VAN ZYL.