

HI THERE, ALL YOU HOT BLOODED

THE SHIP HAS JUST LEFT AND ALREADY THE PLACE IS TURNING INTO HOME, ALTHOUGH THINGS ARE A BIT QUIET. I DON'T THINK THAT WILL LAST VERY LONG SEEING THAT WE HAVE ALREADY HAD OUR FIRST PARTY, WITH ROARING SUCCESS.

THE CAT PROGRAM HAS STARTED OFF VERY WELL, IN THE SENSE THAT THE CAT HUNTERS SPENT MOST OF THE TAKEOVER IN THE FIELD AND THAT THE NEW GUYS LEARNT TO KNOW THE HUNTING AREAS WELL. ALL THE OLD TRAPS THAT WERE SET FOR THE PAST YEAR WERE TAKEN OUT AND REPLACED WITH NEW ONES. THE WORK AT FIRST WAS NOT EASY BUT IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR THE BLOKES TO FIND THEIR FEET, SO TO SPEAK.

PETER, OUR BIRD-MAN, DID NOT ACTUALLY HAVE TIME FOR HIS OWN WORK BECAUSE OF AN ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED TO THE PREVIOUS BIRDMAN. THIS SET HIM BACK THREE WEEKS. PETER WAS IN THE FIELD MAKING A STUDY OF THE BIRD COLONIES AND GAINING KNOWLEDGE OF THE ROUTES HE WILL WALK. APART FROM THAT, HE ALSO HELPED JOHN COOPER IN GAINING INFORMATION FOR THEIR BLOOD SAMPLING PROGRAM WHICH HE WILL CONTINUE DURING THE YEAR.

AS SOON AS IT WAS POSSIBLE, THE SEALERS, OLD AND NEW SET OFF TO START LEARNING THE ROUTES THEY MUST WALK. WE ARE LUCKY IN THAT ONE OF US ALREADY KNOWS THE ISLAND FROM A PREVIOUS EXPEDITION. DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, WHICH FOR WORK PURPOSES STARTS NOW, WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A CENSUS ON A TEN DAY BASIS. THIS IS BECAUSE THE BREEDING AND MOULTING SEASONS FOR THE ELEPHANT SEALS HAVE JUST FINISHED AND NOT MANY ARE TO BE SEEN ON THE BEACHES. WE ALSO FINISHED MEASURING THE FURSEAL PUPS FOR ANOTHER PROJECT. THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS WE WILL PUT TIME INTO THE TDR PROGRAM GETTING EVERYTHING IN ORDER SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS WHEN THE SEALS RETURN IN AUGUST.

OUR TWO SCIENTISTS IN THE MICRO-LAB, NICO AND BRUCE WERE QUIET DURING THE TAKEOVER BUT ONLY FOR ONE REASON THEIR WORK REQUIRED A LOT OF TIME IN THE SETTING UP OF EQUIPMENT AND FINALISING REPORTS FOR THEIR PROJECTS. BRUCE HAD A TORRID TIME IN TRYING IN TRYING TO SEAL HIS GREEN HOUSES FOR HE DID NOT RECKON WITH THE WIND ON THE ISLAND. PROBABLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF NICO'S YEAR WAS HIS TRIP OVER TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. ALL HE COULD SAY IS THAT IT WAS REALLY VERY BEAUTIFUL, FOR THERE IS NO INTERFERENCE BY MAN EXEPT FOR VISITS BY SCIENTISTS EVERY FEW YEARS.

ALL THE METKASSIES SHOWED MUCH ENTHUSIASM AND WERE PREPARED TO WORK A 24 HOUR DAY. DURING THE TAKEOVER THEY WERE ALL BUSY IN THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW BOLUG BUILDING WHICH AT THE END OF THE DAY WILL BE MORE COMFORTABLE FOR THEIR PURPOSE. THEY ALSO GOT A LOT OF NEW INSTRUMENTS WHICH KEVIN REA HELPED THEM TO SET UP IN ORDER TO GET THE MOST DIRECT INFORMATION TO THE WEATHER BURD BACK IN THE RSA.

HERE FOLLOWS THE TEMP READINGS FOR THE PAST MONTH.

AVERAGE MAX.	11.5	C
AVERAGE MIN.	6.4	C
LOWEST MIN.	-3.9	C
HIGHEST MAX.	16.4	C

WE FORESEE A VERY FRUITFULL AND ENJOYABLE YEAR FOR MARION 49 AND WE WILL SEE YOU ALL SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.

REGARDS

F.A. LA COCK
SEALER