

102-41-21

A CHEERY HELLO TO ALL AT HOME.

IN THE LAST MONTH THE SEALERS GREG AND ANDRE HAVE HAD THEIR WORK CUT OUT. MAKING FREQUENT TRIPS TO ARCHWAY, MACARONI BAY AND SHIPS. TO PLACE TDR'S ON CERTAIN SEALS. THE TDR RECORDS PRESSURE AND LIGHT INTENSITY. THIS DATA CAN THEN BE UTILISED TO RECORD SEAL WHEREABOUTS AND BEHAVIOUR. GREG AND ANDRE ALSO WEIGHED THE LITTLE ELEPHANT SEALS. WOULD DUB DESCRIBE A MASS OF 160KG? THEY ARE CONTINUING TO WEIGH SEALS AND DO WEEKLY THE AROUND THE ISLAND CENSUS. PETER HAS RARELY BEEN SEEN IN BASE. THE INCREASED BIRD ACTIVITY AND INCREASING POPULATIONS HAVE KEPT HIM VERY BUSY. HE HAS BEEN BLOOD SAMPLING ALL THE BURROWING PETRELS. (PRIONS, BLUE PETRELS AND WHITE CHINS. ONE GEORGIAN DIVING PETREL FOUND IN THE BASE. OUR RESIDENT CAT HUNTER KEVIN HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE OF FINDING THIS BIRD. THIS IS ONE OF THE SPECIES OF BIRDS WHICH THE CATS CAUSED TO BECOME EXTINCT. PERHAPS THEY ARE NOW RETURNING TO MARION ISLAND. COLIN AND HEIN HAVE BUSIED THEMSELVES AT SWARTKOP. THIS AREA IS NOW FULL OF BREEDING BIRDS. THE AMPHITHEATRE IS A LARGE SEMICIRCULAR ROCK FACE. THE FOUR LANES FORMED BY ROCKS OF DIFFERENT HARDNESS ARE NOW CHOC ABLOCK WITH MACARONI PENGUINS. THE EVER ELUSIVE CAT HAS BEEN HUNTED AT ROCKS. THIS BEING THE PRIVILEGE OF SEAN AND ANDREW. WITH THE PASSING OF WINTER THE MOUSE POPULATIONS ARE INCREASING. THE LARGER NUMBER OF MICE REQUIRED KEEP NICO ON HIS FEET. CT PULLED ONE OUT OF THE BAG. AFTER ALL THE FRESH MILK WAS FINISHED. WE RESIGNED OURSELVES TO IDEAL MILK. YET IN THE DUST COVERED STORE MILK WAS FOUND. GERALD HOLDS REGULAR COFFEE AND TEA PARTIES 900 ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WHILE CONTACT IS MADE WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. MEMBERSHIP HAS DECLINED DUE TO ESCALATING COST. MIKE IS FIXING THE ANTENNAE. SOMETHING ABOUT THE WET CABLES CAUSING FUZZ. TEWIS HAS KEPT THE BASE POWER SUPPLY RUNNING. WARM SHOWERS ARE IMPORTANT IN A 5 DEGREE ENVIRONMENT. HE STILL HELPS BRUCE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. BRUCE MEANWHILE HAS BUSIED HIMSELF WITH WEIGHING AND MEASURING PLANTS. THE PLANTS ARE STARTING TO FLOWER BUT LIKE TRUE ISLANDERS STRUGGLE TO GET UP. IT IS FAR TOO COSY BURIED IN THEIR WINTER JACKETS. THE DREADED ACEANA (MARION'S BLACK JACK) HAS SMALL BEAUTIFUL PURPLE FLOWERS. THE KERQUELEN CABBAGE HAS STARTED TO FORM FLOWERHEADS. THE GRASS COVERING MOST MIRE IS STILL NOT SEEDING BUT GROWTH IS BEGINNING. ALL THIS ACTIVITY HAS OCCURED BETWEEN 13.4 AND -1.9 WITH AN AVERAGE OF 4.3 DEGREES CELSIUS WITH WINDS AVERAGING 30KM/H AND RAINFAL TOTALING 162,2MM AND LIGHT HOURS AVERAGING 15. THE HOURS OF SUN ARE 3,92. MISTY CONDITIONS PREVENT THE SUNSHINING ACCORDING TO METKASSIES. THIS DATA RECORDED BY OUR FAITHFUL MET KASSIES. (THE DRIER ISLAND MAKING WETKASSIES INAPPROPRIATE). BRUCE RUPERT AND TOJAN. GREG AND KEVIN FOUND EXTRA TIME ON THEIR HANDS AND SO SPENT A DAY BAKING BREAD. GREG HAD ONLY ONE CONDITION THAT HE SHOULD PLEASE BE ALLOWED TO REPEAT THE EXERCISE AT A LATER STAGE. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO AGREE AS WE ALL ENJOY HIS BREAD.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK A DULL BOY. WE WILL BE BREWING UP A STORM FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. WE SINCERELY HOPE ALL AT HOME DO LIKEWISE. HAVE A RAVE DONT BEHAVE AND MAY CHRISTMAS BE WILD. FOR THE NEW YEAR WE WISH ALL THE BEST TO ALL FAMILIES, SPECIAL FRIENDS, FREINDS AND D.E.A. PERSONNEL.

WOW MAN
THE BLECHNUM KID, FLOWER CHILD,.....
BRUCE BLAKE.

John