

F51ZE:5511
ZCZC 725
AAHQ16 FAME 240830
MP 537

M49 441

1993 -03- 2 6

OFFICIAL : MARION TO HQ.

ATTENTION: RHONECIA

NEWSLETTER:MARCH 1993

GREETINGS FROM A COLD,WET AND MISTY MARION ISLAND.ALTHOUGH THE SPIRIT AMONG US MIGHT BE WARMER,WE CAN DEFINITELY FEEL THE FIRST SIGNS OF WINTER CREEPING IN.

THE SUMMER HAS SPOILED THE FIELD ASSISTANTS AND NOW WITH THE CHANGE OF SEASONS IT TAKES A LITTLE MORE EFFORT FOR US TO GO OUT.MOST OF THE FIELD WORK IS COMING TO AN END AS THE ANIMALS ARE SLOWLY BUT SURELY PREPARING TO HEAD OUT TO SEA FOR THE WINTER.

THE CAT PROGRAM HAS NOW REACHED THE STAGE OF TRAPS BEING TAKEN OUT THE FIELD WHICH INDICATES STRONGLY THAT THE LAST CAT HAS PROBABLY

BEEN CAUGHT.THIS IS A GOOD SIGN FOR SOME OF THE BURROWING PETRELS THAT WERE ALMOST WIPED OUT BY CATS.THE CAT TEAM HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD IN ORDER TO BRING THE SOME 1700 TRAPS IN.

HEIN SPENT HIS SESSION IN BASE WHERE WE TOOK HIM OFF HIS DIET OF POPCORN AND PROVITA REPLACING IT WITH A HEALTHY PLATE OF FOOD EVERY NIGHT.THIS PROVED TO BE A GREAT HELP AS HE HAD ENOUGH ENERGY TO DO LONG RIDGE TRAPS AS WELL.

COLIN SPENT HIS TIME AT KILDALKEY WHERE HE HAD ABOUT 200000 MACARONI AND 50000 KING PENGUINS TO KEEP HIM COMPANY.THEY SEEMED TO HAVE A GOOD INFLUENCE ON HIM BECAUSE HE REMOVED ALL THE TRAPS WITHIN A WEEK.KILDALKEY BEING QUITE A LARGE AREA.

SEAN HAD A GLORIOUS TIME AT WATERTUNNEL ENJOYING THE LAST OF THE SUMMER SUNSHINE.NEVER THE LESS HE PUT ON ENOUGH MILEAGE AS THE TRAPS ARE HIGH UP IN THE VALLEY.ITS ALWAYS A PLEASURE STOPPING OFF AT A HUT WHERE SEAN IS BECUASE HE BAKES AN EXCELLENT BREAD AND THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE A FRESH ONE JUST OUT THE OVEN.

KEVIN LOST A COUPLE OF KILOGRAMS WORKING THE GREYHEADED AREA WHERE HE STRUGGLED TO GET HIS LARVA LEGS TAKING OUT TRAPS IN THE DREADED SANTA ROSA.BACK IN BASE HE SURPRISED US WITH DELICIOUS CAKES AND SWISS ROLLS,SO LONG AS COLIN GETS TO CUT THE FIRST SLICE.

THE STEEP SLOPES AND WIDELY SPACED TRAPS AT ROOK'S BAY KEPT ANDREW IN SHAPE AND ITS ALSO HERE THAT HE CLAIMED HIS ROAD TO FAME, BRINGING HIS NEW HIDDEN TALENT TO THE SURFACE.HE NOW PLAYS GUITAR AND SINGS US ALL SWEET MELODIES BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP.

THE CAT TEAM ALSO KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY ICE BERGS FLOATING BY WHICH IS NOW A COMMON SIGHT.THEY ENJOYING THERE LAST SESSION ON THE OTHER HALF OF THE ISLAND AT THE MOMENT,REMOVING THE LAST SET OF TRAPS.

GREG AND ANDRE HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING HARD WEIGHING FUR SEAL PUPS WHICH ARE VERY CUTE BUT ALSO AGGRESSIVE. THIS THEY QUICKLY FOUND OUT IF THEY ARE NOT TO CAREFUL, THE WEIGHING HAS LEFT THE SEALERS WITH DEFINITE TRADE MARKS ON THEIR HANDS AND LEGS AND ALSO A DISTINCT AROMA. THERE ARE VERY FEW ELEPHANT SEALS ON THE BEACHES BUT ONCE THE PUPS COME OUT THEY'LL HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WEIGHING THEM AS WELL. THIS WILL TAKE MORE THAN FOUR HANDS TO ACCOMPLISH AS THE PUPS WEIGH OVER A 150KG.

NICO (SPEEDY CONSALIS) IS LOSING SPEED AS HIS PROJECT IS COMING TO AN END. I THINK HE HAS JUST ABOUT CAUGHT ALL THE MICE AROUND BASE TO PUT THROUGH HIS TESTS. ON VISITING HIM IN THE LAB YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT HAVING A CUP OF TEA WHILE HE TAKES YOU ON HIS DREAM TOUR THROUGH NAMIBIA AND THE KALAHARI.

BRUCES PROJECT IS ALSO CLOSE AT END AND WE NOW SEE HIM WANDERING THROUGH THE FIELD LOOKING FOR SEEDS. HE HAS TAKEN TO TALKING TO A DIFFERENT TYPE OF FLOWER THIS MONTH, AS HE IS ON BREAD BAKING KIVVY. HE SEEMS IS JUST DUH EVEN HE HAD TO BAKE AGAIN.

THE WEATHER OFFICE HAS BEEN QUITE BUSY LATELY, CERTAINLY NOT ORDERING US BETTER WEATHER. BUCE HAS BEEN VERY SCARCE THIS MONTH AS HE IS LOADING ALL THE SYOPTIC READINGS AND CHARTS FROM LAST YEAR ONTO THE COMPUTER. THIS IS APPARENTLY A VERY TIME CONSUMING JOB AND FORTUNATELY HE HAS RUPERT AND TOJAN TO ASSIST HIM. RUPERT IS OFTEN FOUND IN HIS ROOM LISTENING TO THE BBC WORLD SERVICE AND KEEPS US UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST WORLD EVENTS AND SPORTS NEWS.

TOJAN WHO IS ALWAYS SEEN WITH A CUP OF ROOIBOS TEA IN HIS HANDS IS STILL FOLLOWING A STRICT DIET AND SWOTTING HARD. ON FOGGY NIGHTS DOING DUTY HE SAVES HUNDREDS OF PRIONS THAT HAVE FLOWN INTO THE BUILDINGS, JUST HOPE HE ISN'T TAKING ANY FLYING LESSONS FROM THEM.

MIKE (MR RESISTOR) ENSURES THAT ALL OUR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT STAYS IN ONE PIECE, ESPECIALLY OUR RADIOS AND TRANCEIVERS, WHICH IS QUITE A HANDFUL CONSIDERING THEIR AGE.

GERALD OUR CATWALK CASUALTY WAS OUT OF ACTION ONCE AGAIN AND I

THINK WE GOING TO ISSUE HIM WITH A PAIR OF SAFETY BOOTS AND A HARD HAT. NONE THE LESS HE STILL ENSURES THAT OUR LETTERS ARE SENT AND ARRIVE HERE SAFELY.

CT WHO HAS BEEN FLOATING AROUND BASE LATELY HAS VERY LITTLE WORK DUE TO THE CLOSE WATCH HE KEEPS ON OUR HEALTH EVERYDAY. HIS TWO - WEEKLY SHOPPING TRIPS DOWN TO THE STORE HAVE ALSO BEEN CUT SHORT BECAUSE THE FOOD SUPPLY IS RUNNING LOW AND THE PRICES HAVE GONE UP. LAST BUT NOT LEAST WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE TEWIS ON TURNING A QUATER OF A CENTUARY. HE RECKONS ITS TIME TO GO ON PENSION BUT WE HOPE NOT AS HE GIVES US OUR WARM WATER AND ELECTRICITY EVERYDAY AND IS GETTING THE BASE INTO TIP TOP SHAPE FOR THE NEXT TEAM.

AS FOR MYSELF, THE BIRDS HAVE ALMOST COMPLETED A FULL BREEDING CYCLE AND ARE PREPARING TO HEAD TO SEA FOR THE COMING WINTER. I'LL HAVE TO START GETTING ACCUSTOMED TO A NEW TYPE OF BIRD LIFE AGAIN ONCE BACK HOME.

THIS IS THE LAST NEWS LETTER SO HOPEFULLY THE NEXT TIME YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM US IS WHEN YOU SEE US. WE'LL BE LEAVING THIS PLACE WITH MIXED FEELINGS, GLAD TO BE GOING HOME BUT ALSO SAD BECAUSE MARION HAS BECOME OUR HOME.

WITH KIND REGARDS
PETER LAFITE
BIRDMAN

