



THE WANDERER

AUGUST 2008



A sealer's thoughts...

As breeding season approaches.

[illegible]

EAT. A lot. I'm going to need it. Sleep.
A lot. I'm going to need it.

One step at a time.

[Author's Comment: The Sealers clearly don't have enough time to write a coherent sentence, never mind an article.]



Ryan, not walking, but thinking about it

Izinto noko ziya zibantle ngoku. Indoda hayi mayiyithethe inyani iqinile ngoku isemandleni ngeyona ndlela. Iindawo ebendisiya kuzo ixesha elide ngoku ndizinqumla phakathi ndixele imela elishushu ebhotolweni. Umzekelo, xa bendisiya e NTABENI (Tafelberg) bendithatha ii-yure ezimbini kodwa ngoku ndithatha i-yure enye. Okokuqala xa ndihamba khange ndiyisebenzise I GPS noko ndiyabona amehlo wam atyhilekile ngoku inkungu ithe sibe hahahah!

Into nje ebimbi kwelixeshana
bendiniqgibelise ngalo yeyoba ndithe xa
ndihamba ndafika kwa Ntaba eBomvu
Yokuqala (First Red), bekukho ikhephu
kwintaba yonke kodwa ndithe xa
ndiphakathi ndabona uba ngoku

ayiselokhephu ntonje ikhephu
 beliseliqinile ngathi lilitye ngoku
 bendimane ndisiwa. Ndithe ndakubona
 ukuba andizokwazi ukuqabela kuba
 ndimane ndityibilika ndiye emva ndabona
 uba mandibe yinyoka ndirhubuluze
 ngesusu! Sithe sokubanda saqina ngathi
 sinamahlaba ndabona uba mandiguqe
 ngamadolo ndibengathi ngingumfazi
 osinda ibala hahahaha! Iye yandibulala ke
 lonto kuba ndifike amadolo wam sesopha
 lonto ke somile likhephu. Ndafika ndalala
 andenza nento le.



Trying to download loggers in winter at Katedraal

Ndiyeva nasemva eMzantsi Afrika ukuba
 izinto azikabi ntle kwaphela u Tito
 Mboweni no Trevor Manuel abantu
 babarhuqisa ng... ngezifuba phantsi
 babatsala ng... ngenwele hahahaha!
 Siyabavela sisonke silapha,
 emthandazweni izinto ziyakulunga
 hahahaha!. Kusemnandi apha nomsebenzi
 usahamba kakuhle, ikhaya nalo ke
 singalilibali liyakhumbuleka elohlotyana
 noko akufuneki ulilibale ikhaya ubengathi
 uli-joyini lika Tebha hahahahahaha!



Mphumzi helping the sealers to weigh seal pups

Masibaleke sizame ukwenza umsebenzi
 kuba ke kaloku siqishiwe silapha nje
 iyafuneka ke uba indoda ikhe ezimele
 iqhawulise nje omnye umcimbi
 okhawulezileyo sokuhamba sidibane
 ngenyanga ezayo. Nihlale kakuhle apho
 siyanikhumbula ninonke nakwezo-ofisi
 zisithileyo zakwa DEAT uyoma ezantsi
 eMdantsane kweyakwa 3 iyuniti apho
 babekade besithi Inkawu ityiwa ilila
 imfene isinda ngogoloza, kodwa ke
 ezintwana zikhoyo kulemihla
 ziyitshintshile lonto zithi Imfene ityiwa
 igoloza injalo, siyabakhumbula nase
 Highway.

Mphumzi.

Outgoings

Since being here, I've never went and
 spent a night outside (which soon I will),
 but I've been out for day walks, I went to
 Ship's Cove and Trypot, after being in the
 base for a while, it was nice to finally go

out and see another part of Marion Island. Being here is good. Imagine being in a place where you do things because you want to, not because you have too. No need to dress up or bath if you don't feel like it, no need to worry about food increase or petrol. No need to put a smile on your face even though down there you feel like you can kneel down and cry; a place where you can be just you. For all those who've been to the island before, they do understand what I am talking about, and for those not, I guess they don't miss anything probably because they haven't experienced island life. But Wow...it feels..., I can't find the right word to say this, but it feels very very good. And yes, at times you can miss things that you like doing while back at Mzantsi. The thing is, you know you'll be home and you'll continue on doing them - it is just routine. But being here is something special and it is an experience that will last forever. I am grateful to be one of those who got the opportunity of being here.

Cheers!

Dineo



Dineo showing the best way to get down a *Blechnum* slope!

Murathu na Mukomana...

Mbudziso ine nda dzula ndi tshi di vhudzisa tshifhinga tshothe ndi ya uri “ndi lungana hune kha zwitangadzime zwothe hune shango la Afurika Tshipembe la vha na vhathu vhane la vha isa hone nga kha SANAP-DEAT vha vha na tshifani tshithihi nga tshifhinga tshithihi?” Fhedzi a hu a thu u tou vha na ane a mphindula ngauri ho vhuya a thi khou vhudzisa muthu, a lwo ngo dala arali lu hone. Izwo zwa nkumbudza musu ndi tshe Tswane ndi tshi vhudzisiwa arali ndi tshi divha munwe ane nda do tuwa nae ane avha na tshifani tshi fanaho na tshanga. Phindulo yo di vha ya uri a thi mu divhi naho ndo vha ndi sa pfesesi uri zwi da hani uri ri vhe kha tshigwada tshithihi. Zwituku nga ha a vha murathu na mukomana: Mashudu ndi muthu we a alutshela ngei Matangari Ha-Tshivhase. Pfunzo dzawe dza nthu u khadzo heneffho Univesithi ya Venda. Musi zwa zwino nga ngeno kha tshitangadzime u khou thusa kha u kuvhanganya ha Data ya dzi-risetshe dzi no khou itwa nga Univesithi ya Stellenbosch. Ngeno Bigfish o alutshela ngei Ha-Masia kha muvhundu wa Tshikwarani. Ngudo dza nthu o di dzi khunyeledza heneffho Univesithi ya Venda. Musi zwino a ngeno tshitangadzimeni, u khou shuma zwa u vumba mitsho. Ndi hune zwine vha zwi vhona ngeno vha zwi rumela ngeo hayani uri zwi thuse kha u vumba uri mitsho I do tou vha hani. Ndi Vho-Mugeri vha ngeno hune na rine ri kona u tshila musu ri tshi divha zwino khou do da na la matshelo kha mitsho.

Zwenezwo naho ro di aluwa fhethu ho fhambanaho, ra si vhuye ra divhana musu ri

ngei mahayani ashu o fhambanaho,ri vha vhane vha kona u tshila sa murathu na mukomana zwavhudi lo lala ngeno hune ra khou wanala hone zwino. Zwinwe zwi mangadzaho ndi uri mukomana ndi wa 23 Thafamuhwe nne nda vha wa 24 Thafamuhwe, ho vha hu tshi do tou fhambana yone minwaha ye ra bebiwa ngayo.Musi zwo ralo, ra ri ri ngeno musu hu tshi khou tambeliwa tshiphuga tsha “pool”,ra pfi ri ime rothe musu hu vhavhili vhavhili. Ro mbo di ya ra vha kunda u thoma henefho. Musi ro wina lwa vuvhili ro rungeliwa na zwinwadzi zwine namusi zwo tou ima sa khaphu thendeleki (ro zwi ambara kha tshinepe itshi). Itshi tsho tou vha tshimangadzo ngauri na ho mukomana hu kale a tshi khou tamba uyu mutambo, kha nne lwo vha lu lwa u thoma ndi tshi u tamba fhano tshitangadzimeni. Na tshifhinga tsha u guda ndo vha ndi si na tsho ngauri khuvha ri dzula ri ngei nnda ri tshi di tou vhuya manwe maduvha. Musi ri tshi khou di tuvha vhuswa, ri di tou di bikela vhuswa na nama ra tou thotha nga zwanda sa vhana vha vhavenda ra bva khomboni dze tshikhuwa tsha ri disela dzone. Ezwo zwi dovha hafhu zwa leludzela nne kha u divha uri zwithu zwi itisiwa hani ngauri naho u nwaha wa u thoma ndi ngeno, are mukomana ndi nwaha wa vhararu a zwitangadzimeni. Musi ndi tshi khou bika ndi vhidzisa zwothe uri ndi kone u bika zwiliwa zwileaho na hone zwo linganaho vhathu. Mizika ya tshivenda nay one ri na yo ine musu ro i humbula ra di tou I dzulela ra thetshesela. Izwo zwi dovha zwa itiswa ngauri vhavenda ri vhararu.



The Mashau brothers!

Khazwo izwi na zwinwe zwe nda si zwi ambe ndi nga amba nda ri, ndi zwavhudi u di wana u fhethu hune havha kule na vhane vha vha mashaka wa di wana u na mukomana. U na zwinwe zwine wa tama u somolana zwa hanwani na zwone zwi a leluwa ngauri u vha u tshi themba ane wa amba nae.Na musu u tshi tangana na thavha u a zwi pfa uri ndi na ane a do di ima na nne naho zwi tshi lemela.

Nga: Mashudu.

The Colombian drug lord...

The beginning of the month of August was marked with one of the spices of the island: a birthday party. On the 3rd of August, it was Anne's birthday. A birthday party in the island is one thing which brings people together from all different work areas. As a norm, every party should have organizers, and they should come up with a theme. The organizers of this one thought that we should dress like South Americans (I have no idea who came up with this, but jaa...). I didn't have any idea on what to wear but in the 11th hour, I

thought of Colombian drug lords we always hear about in the movies. So, there I was, at Anne's party dressed as a drug lord from Colombia (even though I have never met one). We tried by all means to make it a party to be remembered, and we did it (she was the happiest person in the team on this day), again I say happy birthday Anne!!!



The Colombian drug lord and birthday girl

After Anne's birthday party, it was back to work as usual for everyone. The weather here at Marion can be as cold as hell (is hell cold? I don't know), mostly in winter. One day (on the 10th), we experienced very cold weather. With the dry bulb temperature going at -2.0°C , we had "moerse" snow. I have never seen such snow in my life (even though I have been to the islands before). It was too much that we wanted to build "snowman", but it was so cold that you could not stay outside for a long period doing that crap. We only managed to cover each other with all that ice and take some pictures.

Anyway, having this kind of weather is cool; we enjoy it as islanders, but it also comes with a negative impact on our water supply. The pipes which supply the base with water from the tanks sometimes feel the cold and they get frozen, which result in a shortage of water flow into taps in the base (it's not a joke).

Keep well for now, chat soon...

Tshifhiwa-wa-Vho-Nthaduleni uri: nala dza vhathu.



Fish and Shady playing in the snow

My outing to Goney Plain...

So on the 28 August 2008 I went to assist Edith to weigh the Wandering Albatross chicks at Goney Plain and what an awesome day. We left at around 8H00 in the morning and we weighed our first chick at about 10H10. The day was most enjoyable and the chicks are so cute but some of them weigh a ton and when you hold them up to weigh, guys should wear ball boxes because I had some close encounters I must admit. Otherwise we

were also lucky to see vagrant birds - Ruddy Turnstones - on Goney as well. We were able to finish the weighing around 16h00 and we took a slow journey back to base and arrived at 18h00. Had a shower and a lovely meal was served after a long day of work.

Jared Harding



One of the chicks behaving while being weighed

Exploring the island

After spending the whole of July in base, I decided to go out with Genevieve and Edith. Gen asked me to accompany them to do work on the Albatrosses. I gladly accepted the invitation. I realised that a month in one place will drive you nuts at one stage. So off we went and the path was hard because of the snow that fell a few days before. The mires were hard and what a relief to walk without falling into this wet and muddy surface. Thursday (14th), we headed for Goney Plain to work. We reached the destination in one piece

although I took some falls due to the slippery surface. The work involved weighing the birds as well as measuring the tarsus and the culmen length. I was the secretary for the day and believe you me it was great at first. As the day progressed I started getting cold. Because of the short movement we were doing, my fingers and my toes were freezing. At one stage it was a mission to write, but I did it. We finished and headed to Repetto's hut coastal. The engine started to warm up and the blood flowed warmly inside my body. The cold was gone. I guess walking fast is a good remedy to get rid of the cold.

The following morning (15th), we went back to base coastal. From Sealer's Beach, I started walking alone since Gen was busy checking on the colony. I took out the camera and started taking pictures of anything that came my way. I got to base and got something to eat and took a hot shower.

Two days later, Genevieve again, when are you off again? When I heard that question posed on me, I knew there is a trip. 'Wednesday', was my response. Are you coming to Greyheaded with me? Yes, the deal was sealed and done. Come Wednesday I packed my backpack and I was ready. Thursday morning woke up and went for my breakfast. At around 9 in the morning, myself, Gen and Petrus headed out to Greyheaded. What a walk it was. We walked all the way inland until Watertunnel. My engine never over heated at all. Walking on flat surfaces all the way was a great success. When we walked over Karoo Kop (known for its notorious

weather) was great. Although the wind was blowing it was around 10 knots. We crossed easily to Watertunnel. We drank a cup of tea at Watertunnel and headed to Greyheaded. It all came back to me when I reached these places. It reminded me of my stay in 2000-2001. We reached our final destination and did nothing much. Just chilled and drank more tea, coffee. Gen prepared supper and after comms with base, I was down and out.



Shadrack and Petrus enjoying a cup of tea on Greyheaded's stoep!

Jaanong e ne e le nako ya go isa marapo go beng. Letsatsi le le lateng mo mesong, go ne go le maswe kwantle. Phefo le pula tsa teng, di ne di sa go batle kwa ntle. Ke tlhotse ke robetse letsatsi lotlhe. Ke ne ke tsoga ga e le nako ya go ja kapo one mogodungwane. Lamatlhatso la fitlha, Ra tsoga ra bona tsone dinonyane tse Gen a tla beng a dira ka tsone. Re ne ra ja difitlholo ra leba thabeng go dira.

Re ne ra leba Goodhope bay, go tsaya ditshwantso. Maemo a bosa le one a simolola go fetoga. Re ne ra boela morago. Ka ura ya borataro, ke ne ka simoloa go

apaya. Mogodungwane one o ka se salele ko morago. Tota mogodungwane o tsere sefoka e le tota. Ka ura ya bosupa ga jewa, dijana tsa tlhatswiwa. Bolao le bone ba mpitsa. Ka seke ka senya nako, swatlha ka mo dikobong. Ke sa le ke robetse ka tsoga ka latshipi, ke ipakanyetsa tsela. Nna le Petrus re boela morago, re tlogela Gen ka a tshwanetse go dira tiro ya gagwe.

Ra tloga, phefo le yone e re phaila o ka re re dipampiri. Ra fitlha watertunnel mogodungwane mpone. Ra bolola jaanong, ke fa re kopana le Ryan. Ra ema le ena, dikgang tsa tswa. Tom o ne a saletse ko morago. Phefo ga ya mo tlogela. E mo phapaitse go utlwala.

After 20 minutes of chatting Petrus and I headed up the mountains while Ryan and Tom went down. What an easy walk for them. Myself and Petrus were blown all over again. We struggled our way up until we reached the top (Karoo Kop). I was totally exhausted and my legs couldn't carry me any more. I told myself, you can do it and I did it. When I stopped to rest, I asked myself a simple question "O NE O YA KAE, O RATA DILO". Life has to go on. I can't let the weather spoil or stop me to explore. I opted to vote against the weather and I was victorious at the end. But still I took a lot of hammering from the wind. Few tumbles and being picked up by the wind and land half a meter away was scary. I asked myself, how do people with a weight of 60 manage? I mean I'm 80+kg and the backpack that weigh 15kg and still the wind blows me around. I guess they are not getting blown; they are rolled all over the place.

When I reached base, I was finished. The following morning I could feel my legs did a good job by picking me up and helping me fight the wind. That's all for this month.

Ke tla leka go tswa gape kgwedi e tlang.

Pula
Shadrack

Marion trivia

Did you know?

The Prince Edward Islands were so named by Captain James Cook in 1785 after the 4th son of King George III of Great Britain, Prince Edward Augustus. It is unknown why Cook chose to name the islands after the prince, who was only 9 years old at the time.

(Cooper, J.C. (2008) Human History. In: The Prince Edward Islands: land-sea interactions in a changing ecosystem, pp331-350.)

Photo quiz answers...

In the previous Wanderer, we showed photographs of the four species of penguins that can be seen breeding on Marion Island. The answers are (from left to right): Rockhopper, Gentoo, Macaroni and King.



Our quiz for this edition...

Can you identify the following goggas that can be found on Marion?



Marion Island weather data

August's temperature statistics

Average maximum	5.5 °C
Average minimum	0.6 °C
Average	3.0 °C
Maximum	11 °C
Minimum	-3.4 °C

Pressures in August

Average maximum	1012.8 hPa
Average minimum	998.4 hPa
Average	1005.8 hPa
Maximum	1028.6 hPa
Minimum	975.7 hPa

Maximum August wind gust

35.6 m/s or 119.9 km/h

August's rain

Total rainfall	86.5 mm
Highest in 24 hours	13.6 mm
Total days with rain	24 days
Total days > 1mm	14 days
Total sunshine	99.6 hours

Humidity in August

Average maximum	97 %
Average minimum	67 %
Average	84 %
Maximum	100 %
Minimum	33 %

Sponsor of the month



M65 staying connected thanks to Worldspace!

Marion 65 expedition sponsors



generously donated large torches and batteries which mean team members can brave the catwalks outside of the warm base after dark (after 5pm, Marion Time GMT +3).

EXCLUS¹VE BOOKS

have kept the intellectual brains among us occupied with the shelves of varied reading they have supplied.



have been our guiding light by generously sending headlamps for each team member.



WORLD SPACE Although we are neatly tucked away from civilization, our satellite radio connects us to the 'real' world and keeps us informed. Many thanks to Worldspace for this sponsorship.

Colgate Palmolive ensured we will go back with all our teeth and that the field assistants smell a little less unsavoury when they return to base by sponsoring toothpaste, Palmolive soaps and shampoos.

Oleg Neruchev of The Russian House gave the team DVDs for our long winter nights.



Foster Brothers

sent documentaries that tweak the interest of camera fundies and environment carers alike.

Japie de Klerk of FOTOLENS, Durbanville

gave team members special islander prices on camera equipment and bent double with our team training schedule to ensure that the desired pieces were delivered at crazy times of day.

Shiraan Watson must be thanked for the books and DVDs he has given the islanders.

SAB sent down more than a little extra to help us build castle in the skies on the few days its warm enough to have an outdoor braai.

STATE THEATRE have revealed the characters amongst us by supplying stage costumes.

“Only after the last tree has been cut down; only after the last river has been poisoned; only after the last fish has been caught, will you find that money cannot be eaten.”

19th Century Cree Indian Prophecy

That’s it for now folks. So until next month...

