

Die Medaljekomitee het eenparig besluit om nie vanjaar 'n medalje toe te ken nie.

Die skielike heengaan van Dr. André van der Merwe, 'n baie aktiewe lid van die Vereniging, 'n vroëre redakteur van die Bulletin en wie laasjaar met die goue medalje bekroon is, op 4 Desember was 'n groot skok. 'n Hele paar lede van die Vereniging het die roudiens in Pretoria bygewoon en medelye aan sy eggenote en familie betuig. Ek wil ook graag melding maak van die eerste noodlottige ongeluk wat ons Antarktiese Ekspedisies getref het nl. die afsterwe van Gordon Mackie van SANAE X wat op 3 Desember in die berge na sy dood geval het. Ons as Vereniging treur saam met sy maats en wil ook ons innige meegevoel met sy familie betuig.

'n Nuwe Antarktiese uitstalling wat o.a. 'n diorama van 'n Antarktiese toneel met lig- en klankeffekte asook 'n nabootsing van 'n gedeelte van die woonkwartier by SANAE sal behels, word tans beplan en sal hopelik in die loop van 1970 voltooi word. Die Departement van Vervoer het goedgegunstiglik 'n ou hondeslee en ander toerusting spesiaal van Antarktika vir die uitstalling laat terugkom. Bo en behalwe beligte groot kleurfoto's, gaan kleurskyfies d.m.v. 'n outomatiese projektor vertoon word. Hier is 'n kans vir lede wat foto's van algemene belang besit om hulle vir moontlike duplisering beskikbaar te stel.

Mr. Kingwill has put forward a very interesting suggestion concerning club membership, viz. that we confer membership of the Association on all past and present expedition members. From this year on, every returning expedition member would receive on arrival

in Cape Town, a letter (or card) from the Hon. Secretary advising that he was now a member of the Association. Such members would not be called upon to pay annual subscriptions, but it would be indicated that voluntary contributions to the Association's funds would be welcome.

Those who have not wintered over in Antarctica or on the Islands, would, as in the past, be able to join the Association, but would have to pay annual subscriptions.

At the present time although we have distinguished Patrons, we do not have any Honorary Members. The Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Association may be a suitable occasion for electing one or more distinguished Antarctic explorers and/or scientists to Honorary Membership.

Last year saw the establishment of the four-man wintering over base in the Borga and the exploration of much virgin territory. This work and the long traverses now being planned up to the great Polar Plateau is arousing considerable public interest at present.

U komitee het deeglik op die saak van metaalwapen ingegaan, en 'n ontwerp laat maak, en 'n tender ingewin.

Ten slotte wil ek u verseker dat dit vir my 'n besondere voorreg was om as u voorsitter te kon optree. Ek wil my opregte dank betuig aan die Vise-Voorsitter Dr. Duncan Baker, die ere-sekretaris mnr. Hannes Loots, die eretesourier mnr. Ferdie Viljoen, en mnr. Marten du Preez, bestuurslid, vir hulle gewillige hulp, ondersteuning en diens. Baie dankie, en sukses vir die Vereniging op sy 10e jaar.

NEWS FROM SANAE AND THE ISLANDS

SANAE Newsletter for April 1970

This month came to a close with the Borga team still halted just north of Muskeg depot besieged by bad weather conditions and mechanical problems. Snow accumulation was so bad on days that the inhabitants of the 'Bread-Wagon' had to be dug out.

Earlier in the month the snow melter became blocked. During attempts to clear it a marker pole was accidentally dropped down the shaft, and landed on Willem's left hand. Consequently Peter had to put aside his crowbar and spade for a while and amputate the tip of Willem's left little finger, which is now covered by a huge bandage.

About a fortnight ago there was a brilliant display of aurora which competed with the full moon. Harm who was in the seismic hut at the time saw the magnetic disturbance registered on his instruments and in his haste to get outside and see the display slipped at the top of the shaft and fell twenty feet breaking his right patella. His leg is now in plaster and he is busy learning to use a pair

of crutches. We all hope that he will soon regain the full use of his leg.

During a severe storm, driftsnow filled the balloon shaft to a depth of twenty foot and the meteorologist had, as a result, to stop launching balloons until it was cleared.

Early one morning Willem and Peter set out in the caterpillar for substation to collect a toboggan and other supplies. However, they lost their way and had to return to the base empty handed, when overtaken by darkness. Several days later Willem and Eugene left for Draaipunt in the caterpillar taking with them essential spares for the muskegs of the Borga party. It is hoped that these will help to get the party on the move again.

The Skuas have long since left us, but there are still a number of Antarctic petrels and snow petrels to be seen around the base and at the Buktas.

The high point of the month was the celebration of Prieur's birthday on the 25th. Peter was cook and Gert

skivvy for the occasion. The main course on the menu was roast, and a slightly scorched turkey. Our wine glasses were put to good use and there were a number of headaches the next day.

The hours of day-light continue to get shorter, while the temperatures show a continuous downward trend, every day bringing a new 'lowest' for the year. By the end of the month the sun will have set for the last time this autumn and it will be two months before we at SANAE see it again. Most of us are looking forward to the experience of having almost two months of continuous night.

Regards — Donald.

Marioneiland Nuusbrief, April 1970

Ons groet hier van Marion vir ons kollegas in die Republiek op Gough en SANAE. Die 27ste aflosspan is alreeds ses weke hier en begin al goed aanpas by die roetine van ons werk. Al die spanlede is sover baie optimisties oor die jaar wat vir ons voorlê.

Die weer gedurende April maand was van wisselende aard. Oppervlakwinde het talle male stormsterkte bereik. Geen probleme is egter gevind met die loslaat van ballonne nie. In die laaste week van April is ons verras met 'n seldsame verskynsel, 'n donderstorm op Marion, wat 'n goeie deel van 'n nag geduur het. Op een stadium gedurende die maand het die reënvalgrafiek getoon dat as die reënval teen so 'n tempo styg, die gemiddelde reënval van die jaar binne 'n paar weke verbygesteek gaan word.

Die hoë reënval was dan ook die rede vir die uitspoel van die water toevoerpyp by die dam ongeveer drie myl van die basis af tot erge van 'n paar van die spanlede, want dit het meegebring dat die drie myl maal heen en weer met swaar pakke op die rug gedoen moes word.

Met die dae wat korter word, temperature wat by vriespunt kuier en pikkewyne wat ons geledere verlaat het, besef ons terdeë dat die winter vir ons voorlê.

Eintlik moes 'n mens dan die rede hier soek vir al die dinge waarmee die ouens hulle begin besig hou noudat die weer die neem van foto's beperk tot 'n minimum. Soos bv. Koos Visser met sy modelbouery, André Pretorius die grapmaker van die span met sy skilderwerk, Allan Stevani die klanktrou deskundige met sy musiek, Roy Goslin met sake wat na aan die hart lê, Leon Fourie ons radio operateur met broodbak, onversadigbare leeslus en die stil daarvan. Fanie Schonfeldt ons radiotegnikus met sy radiosenders wat net nie reg wil werk nie. Johan Coetzee ons mediese ordonnans, baaskok onder ons, met sy sangoefeninge in ZS2 MI, die verste gebou van Marionhuis af.

Ons wens die lede van die 26ste aflosspan en die span van Gough wat nou terugkeer Republiek toe alle sukses en beste vir die toekoms. Ons wil graag langs die weg vir Hein Pienaar, leier van Marion 26, en sy vrou tjie 'n baie gelukkige en geseënde huwelik toewens van Marion 27.

Gough Island Newsletter for April 1970

This month has been one of cloudy rainy days with at least half the normal total hours of sunshine being recorded. However, the impending arrival of the RSA with the new team and post did cast some cheer on this gloomy scene. The Island has been almost deserted by the birds which having spent the summer nesting here, have presumably left for a more pleasant climate.

Johan Combrink's birthday was celebrated on the 16th. The following is the weather data for the month:

Mean surface pressure	.....	1 017.3 MBS.
Mean surface temperature	....	13.3° C.
Mean relative humidity	.....	87 per cent.
Total sunshine duration	.....	86.2 hours
Total rainfall	.....	310.4 mm on 23 days
Absolute max. temperature	..	19.7
Absolute min. temperature	..	5.2