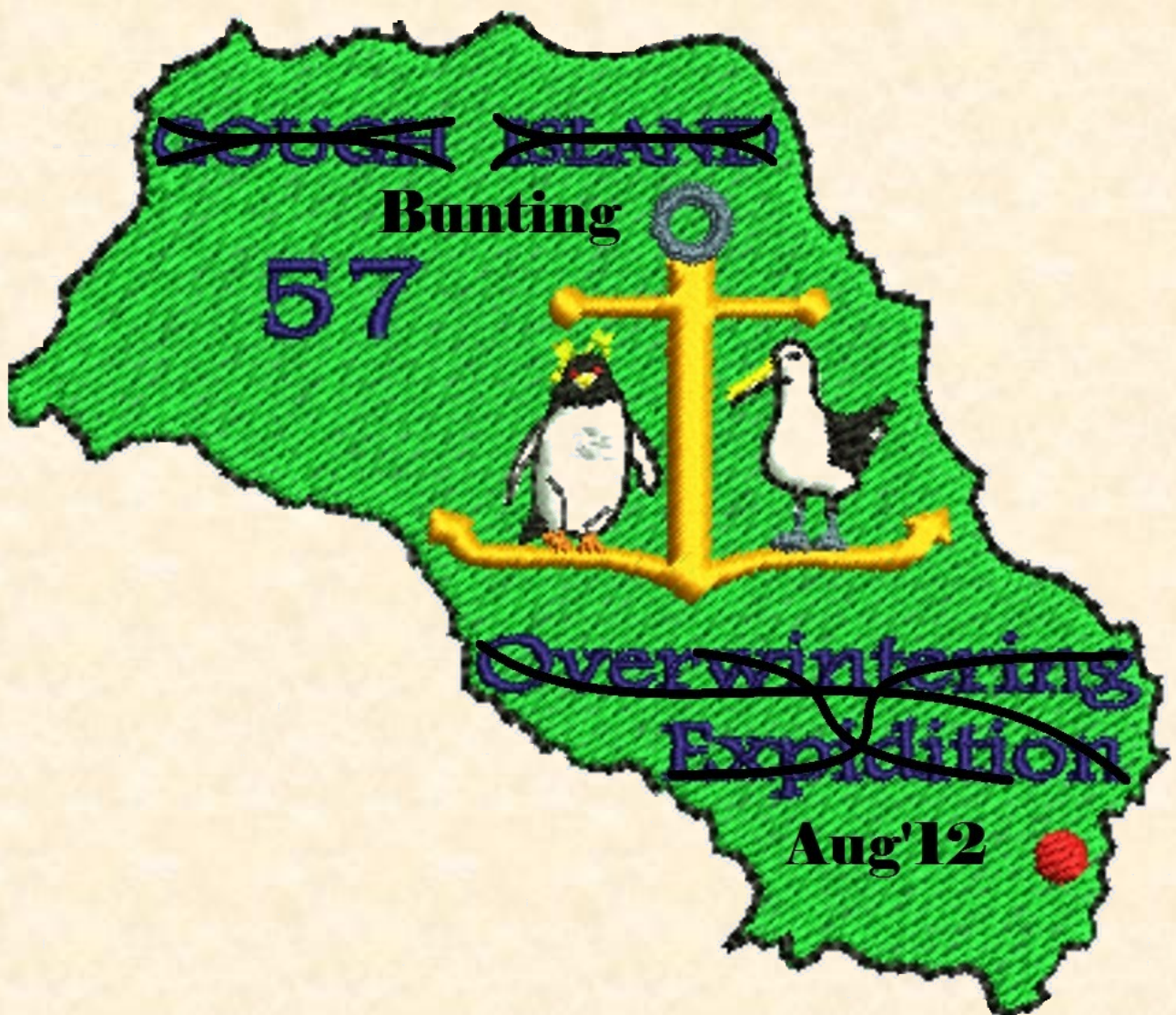


Gough

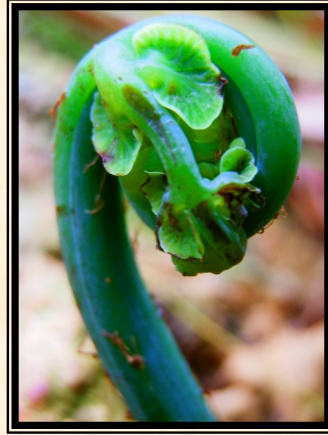


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Time has come

I took a walk the other day to Swemgat on my way back I saw this new little fern coming out.



Thinking about it, new things are in the pipe line for the team, new experiences, all going in our own directions. Its sad knowing that our time is done on the island, but we need to look towards the future and see that there are new things in store for each of us (another island, new jobs, different countries.) We will always have memories of the island. (and a lot of photos) To all that stood with us through this year THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your support and prayers.

Wish all the best for the future for the rest of the team and Thank You for a brilliant year.

Nettie



Combating the winter blues

It seems like the winter is only starting now that is supposed to be on the way out. We had snow on the mountains and the wind is very unpleasant so the only solution now is to make a lot of biltong and watch as many movies as possible. This is also the best time to start packing most of our stuff into containers as there will be little time for that when the ship arrives and we are already hectically trying to clean and improve the house for the new occupants.

It is also a good time to do some planning for the trip back home and submit a few CVs to the employment agencies. Who knows? One might just end up with a nice job in the New Year and the sooner the better if you take a look at the way prices have gone up in S.A. I suppose some team members will be applying for relocation to other Islands and I wish them luck.

So I just had to try my hand at making some biltong (See picture). I can assure you that no animals were hurt during this process. Not this year anyways, as we receive them all dead and nicely packed in plastic bags in a frozen state. Luckily those terrible Island flies also seem to have disappeared after the cold spell so there is no problem during the drying process.



The new team is at this stage in full swing with their training and I am sure they are full of anticipation about the journey ahead. I was lucky to talk to one of them over the phone.

I also submitted another snapshot in this newsletter just to remind us of what we are leaving behind and to give the new team an Idea of what they can expect.

Advice for new visitors: If you are thinking of doing a few islands it might be a good idea to bring along a special jacket onto which you can stitch all your team badges and memorabilia of all your voyages and expeditions. This garment is then usually donned to special Antarctic gatherings such as midwinter festivals and takeover parties. Please also bring along some extra badges to swop for other team badges. I have included a picture of my own jacket. Would have liked it to be a leather one but can't afford that.

For my support group back home I just want to thank you again for your support and friendship during the year. Without that I could not have survived.

I wish the G58 team and visitors to Gough a safe journey.

See you soon.

Leo.



THE GOFF'S

The Goff's have been a bunch of busy bees the past couple of weeks cleaning and polishing their house and getting the cobble stone pathways and gardens just right , the lawns look better than the greens at St Andrews. Redcross has being zooming about, much faster than Zoom, making sure the Goff's did not miss a single spot. Their little island on the big lake is starting to look as bright as a new penny.

Princess and Zoom have been going around making sure all the feathered friends bracelets are on just right and nice and shiny. Princess even gave a few new bracelets to the feathered ones. Techie thinks she even made sure not a feather was out of place or a beak was dirty as she had taken a soft cloth and a comb with her.

Tall, Short and Mopp have been getting all their data in order, packing the clouds at the right altitude and getting the winds to blow in the correct directions (will not help Princess though, as directions still confuse her tremendously).

Techie has been polishing the Magic Machines that give the Goff's power and making sure their house and the surrounding buildings are neat and tidy. All the water pipes and equipment needs to be perfect and shiny.



Now you may be wondering why the Goff's are such busy bees at the moment, well let me explain. Redcross had entered the Goff's into a competition to go visit the Real World and to get there they would travel aboard a luxury cruise liner.

Guess what, the Goff's won and that explains why they are running around getting things just right. Redcross wants the little island perfect as she has arranged for house sitters to look after their home while they are away.

Bags are being packed and plans are being made, all with excitement and a bit of sadness (leaving home can be a bit scary). Redcross has been telling them about the luxury cruise liner the "Vomitia Comet", with its five course meals, fresh fruit daily and onboard entertainment (the passengers take part in calling for "George", while in various locations on the ship). Froggie Brightcap, a fellow with years of experience on the seven seas will be the captain for their journey across the big lake, so the Goff's feel real safe knowing Froggie is driving.

Maybe in the not too distant future I will be able to tell you all about the Goff's adventures in the Real World.

Marius



From the Lab – by Karen & Sylvain

We completed the counting and checking of Atlantic Petrel burrows but we had to finish that without the burrow scope as the screen broke. Thus, we used a recorded call playback that we played at the entrance of the burrow to stimulate a response by the incubating bird. However, we found that only 10 % of birds responded! We also used a twig that we gently entered into the burrow so that when the twig touched a bird, it bit the twig and/or called. Finally, we used a hand-sized camera that we entered in the burrow to take pictures of the incubation chamber when possible. This allowed us to have some nice pictures of incubating Atlantic Petrels and of chicks... Overall, we counted, characterized (size of entrance: small, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Atlantic Petrel or Great Shearwater entrance size; signs of activity: digging, disturbance, vegetation, feathers, guano...) and checked the content of 1149 burrows and had 237 contacts with Atlantic Petrels plus a couple of contacts with broad-billed Prions and Soft-plumaged Petrels.

We marked 144 burrows for further visits to estimate the breeding success and we recovered and deployed further geolocators. We were surprised to find one geocator waiting for us about 0.5 m from the burrow entrance, still attached to the plastic band but without any bird. Firstly, we thought that the bird was preyed upon by a Skua (but it was even stranger to have found the geocator so close to the burrow without a carcass...), but after some further attempts to recover geolocators, we found that three birds had lost theirs... So, we have been very lucky that this bird lost its just next to its burrow!

Atlantic Petrel chick



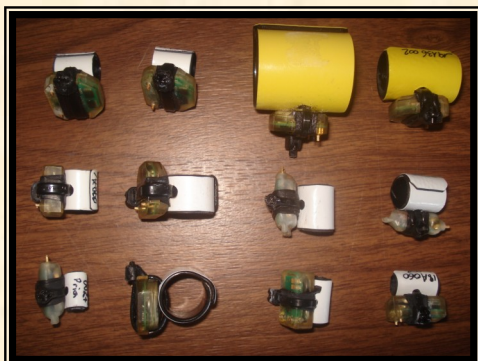
Incubating Atlantic Petrel



Sadly, Tristan Albatross chicks have still been disappearing. We recorded again about 20 failures, the percentage of nests with an egg in January-March exhibiting a chick in August being only from 37.8 % (Hummocks) to 70.2 % (Albatross Plain). We witnessed some orgies of Giant Petrels and Skuas feeding frenetically on a chick which just died, probably killed by the former. It was this frenzy which attracted our attention, Giant Petrels and Skuas calling, chasing away and after each other, taking off, landing, running, flying... The chick corpses were mauled, dismembered and cleaned to bones in less than two hours. As two chicks were killed while we checked them 3-4 days before without finding any wounds from mouse attack, we highly suspect that some Giant Petrels are specialized in killing healthy Tristan Albatross chicks. Besides, Giant Petrels just started to breed, laying their eggs in August, so these chicks could be a source of food quite easy to exploit ...

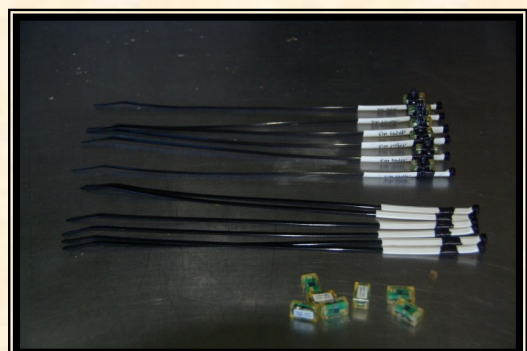
After all, we ringed 95 Tristan Albatross chicks, leaving about 30 for our successors, Mara and Chris, to exercise and find their feet. We hope that they will survive until the take over and off course, above all, until they fledge!

We saw the first Sooty Albatross back on the 27th of July and then we have seen some of them regularly but punctually. We observed the first Yellow-nosed Albatrosses back on the 22nd of August. Until now, no penguin and no Great Shearwater although Boy saw one of the latter in August...



Geolocators ready to be deployed for various species

Geolocators being prepared for Penguins

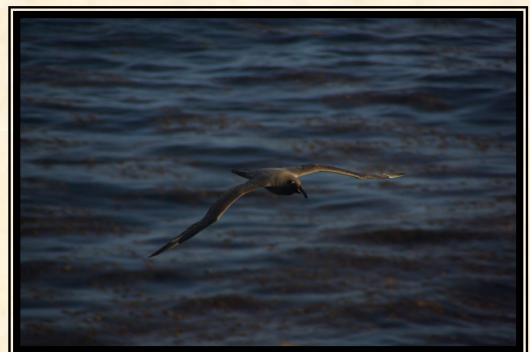


As this is our last newsletter, it is also the time to take stock of this year of fieldwork and monitoring on Gough Island, even if it is not final as we will spend one more month on the island... We removed more than 14000 *Sagina* plants, stripped soil in about 25 square-meters of highly infested area, sprayed about 100 L of a diluted mixture of herbicides and checked several hundred meters of cliff around the base. We spent more than 30 nights in a tent, the half of them at Gonydale, one quarter at the Giant Petrel colony, one quarter at Waterfall Camp and one night at "Hag Tooth" and one at the Glen. We went 24 times to Gonydale, 17 times to Tafelkop and 4 times to the northern part of the island. We performed 1873 Tristan and 974 Yellow-nosed Albatross nest checking, and 845 Giant Petrel nest checking. We characterized and checked 2196 burrows for Great Shearwaters and 1239 for Atlantic Petrels. We banded 562 birds with metal and/or plastic (Darvic) bands. We deployed 44 and recovered 36 geolocators. We deployed 19 and recovered 15 GPSs. We counted 14637 Rockhopper Penguins, 1421 Tristan Albatrosses, 782 Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, 439 Sooty Albatrosses and 17249 calls of Moorhens. We obtained 76 samples (feathers, down, regurgitates and/or food remains around nests) for Albatross diet study. And after all, we have not done everything we would have liked to do...

Sylvain banding a Tristan Albatross chick



Sooty Albatross



Yellow-nosed Albatross



Voilààà, c'est fini... / The end is coming - by Karen

Alors que cette année sur Gough s'achève, on a tendance à vouloir dresser un bilan de cette expérience. La première question serait « quel est mon meilleur souvenir sur l'île ? ». Le choix est difficile mais je dirais la première expédition. Elle a débuté par un survol en hélicoptère avec une escale à Gonydale et une autre à Low Hump pour débarquer à Waterfall Camp, point de départ de notre tour de l'île pédestre pour compter et baguer les poussins d'albatros de Tristan. Nous étions sur l'île depuis 24h à peine et nous découvriions déjà ses beautés et rencontrions les mythiques albatros de Tristan. La deuxième question serait « quel est mon pire souvenir ? ». Je pourrais dire la première expédition. Eh oui, les 10 jours passés sur un bateau sans exercice physique et la marche particulière sur Gough ont rendu cette randonnée et l'adaptation au déplacement sur l'île difficiles... Je ne me souviens pas avoir eu aussi mal aux genoux de toutes mes randonnées précédentes. Ceci dit, malgré la douleur, je me revoie marcher à petits pas avec un grand sourire aux lèvres... Alors, si c'est ça mon pire souvenir...

While this year on Gough is ending, one would take stock of this experience. The first question would be: "what is my best memory on the island?" The choice is hard but I would say my first trip. It began with a flight by chopper with a stopover at Gonydale and another one at Low Hump to disembark at Waterfall Camp, our starting point for our island tour by walk to count and band Tristan albatross chicks. We had been on the island for only 24h and yet we were already discovering its beauties and meeting the emblematic Tristan albatrosses. The second question would be: "what is my worst memory?" I would say my first trip... Indeed, 10 days spent on a ship without physical exercise and the specific walk on Gough made this hike and adaptation to the island walking difficult... I cannot remember having suffered as much from my knees during my previous hikes. However, despite the pain, I can see myself taking very short steps with a big smile on my face... So, if this is my worst memory...

Ensuite, on peut se demander « qu'est-ce que ce séjour m'a apporté ? ». De l'aventure, de la nouveauté, de la nature à l'état brut (ou presque), des rencontres avec pleins d'oiseaux marins, beaucoup d'émotions, une famille un peu spéciale... « Qu'est-ce que j'aurais dû emmener sur l'île ? ». Des Kinder Buenos, du Nutella, des M&Ms, du camembert, du reblochon, plus d'épisodes de Grey's Anatomy... « Qu'est-ce qui m'a manqué le plus ? ». Désolée pour la famille et les amis, mais j'ai pu vous parler au téléphone, communiquer par email... Donc je dirais mon loulou, mon pti père, mon bébé : Salam ! « Serais-je prête à rééditer l'aventure ? ». Oh que oui !

Then, one would wonder "what did this year bring to me?" Adventure, novelty, unspoiled nature (almost), discovery of many seabirds, many emotions, a special family... "What should I have brought on the island?" Kinder Buenos, Nutella, M&Ms, camembert, reblochon, more episodes of Grey's Anatomy... "What did I miss the most?" Sorry for my family and my friends, but I have been able to speak to you on the phone and to communicate by emails... So I would say my "loulou", my "pti père", my baby: Salam! "Would I be ready to live this experience again?" Definitely YES!

« Qu'est-ce qui a fait que cette expérience a été positive ? ». Gough elle-même. Bien sûr il faut aimer l'île sur laquelle on passe une année pour apprécier son séjour... Le travail. Le fait d'aimer ce qu'on fait est aussi un élément essentiel du succès d'une telle expérience. Je ne dirais pas que j'ai aimé tous les aspects du travail accompli sur l'île, mais tout ce qui a touché aux oiseaux marins et plus particulièrement les suivis individuels, j'ai adoré ! Le fait d'être venue avec mon compagnon. Venir avec un être cher facilite grandement la vie d'une année loin de tous les autres. L'équipe. Quand on passe une année à huit sur une île perdue au milieu de l'océan, et bien il vaut mieux s'entendre avec les sept autres personnes ou le séjour peut devenir un cauchemar... Chaque membre de l'équipe a contribué au bon déroulement de cette année.

Boy avec son intérêt et sa curiosité débordants pour toutes sortes de choses. Brendan avec son enthousiasme et sa jeunesse. Leo avec sa sagesse et sa bienveillance. Marius avec son intérêt pour notre travail, sa créativité, ses gâteaux au chocolat, chocolats chauds... Nkoane avec son dévouement, sa bonne humeur et son sourire quasi permanent. Sunette avec son petit grain de folie et sa compréhension. Un grand merci donc à tous pour cette année !

"What made this experience successful?" Gough itself. Off course, it is important to like the place where you spend one year to enjoy your stay... The work. To enjoy your work is essential to make such an experience a success. I would not say that I enjoyed every aspect of the work on the island, but everything that concerned seabirds, particularly individual monitoring, I loved! To have come with my companion. To come with your loved one makes this year far from all your other dear ones easier. The team. When eight persons spend one year together on a remote island in the middle of the ocean, it is better if they get on well, otherwise the year can become a nightmare... Each team member has contributed to the good progress of this year. Boy with his unbounded interest and curiosity in all kinds of things. Brendan with his enthusiasm and his youthfulness. Leo with his wisdom and kindness. Marius with his interest in our work, his creativity, his chocolate cakes, hot chocolates... Nkoane with his devotion, his cheerfulness and his almost permanent smile. Sunette with her streak of eccentricity and her understanding. So, thank you so much to all of you for this year!

One island, one year, one team...

For those who want to live a wonderful experience I would offer them this recipe. Take one island. Neither too small nor too big but a remote one would be better, as such an island would provide astonishing features, sceneries and wildlife. Take one year, the best one is a leap year because you will perceive that each single day on such an island is worth all the rewards. Then, you have to know that seven people made the same choice as yours. Of course you do not meet them before and you even know nothing about them. What's happen now? You have one year to meet each other! No rush! Slowly but surely you get to know somebody. At the beginning, relationships rely on only one thing in common but a steady one: the Island, Gough Island. And little by little, each discovered other things in common. That is how I felt these last months which were the less stressful I have ever spent even if they were probably also some of the busiest ones.

Many thanks to all the team G57 members including Melanie who has put the team under way. Thanks Sunette for your leadership and your efficiency to solve troubles. Thanks Leo, if we have got enough time, you could have taught me many occupations, like to brew beer, to make biltong, to fly and to watch the sky... Thanks Marius for the long discussions we were used to get in the kitchen, these ended every time by the same conclusion "the world is a mess". I am also very grateful to Nkoane, I could have shared much more nice music, readings and movies with you if we would have stayed longer. Thanks Brendan for your good companionship on which I could have ever relied. And thank you Boy for your curiosity and your interest for the languages from which my English took advantage. Now, as we are close to the end of our stay, I tell myself that we could all together face to a more challenging year like a journey to Mars, a stay in a cave or in the abyss...but may be on this condition that the aliens would be still the mice. But I think that the most challenging task we have to do now is to get ready to cope with the real world. This newsletter is also for me the occasion to celebrate my grand-mother's birthday, the 100th on the 21st august. Happy birthday Granny!

Sylvain

I don't want to go home

As the end of our island experience comes closer I start to remember the beginning and how nervous I was to be here alone with only 7 other people. I have grown very use to this setup and the change will be something new to get use to. Takeover is about 3 weeks away and the base will be alive with lots of people busy and running all over the place.

During this last month I kept myself occupied by doing something I very seldom do. I read 3 books in a series called The Riftware Saga written by Raymond E Feist. I usually get very carried away when reading books, I sometimes have very strange moods. If I stopped reading where there was a certain emotion I will be walking around the base reflecting the emotion and will sometimes be asked whether I am okay. This gave me a bit of a chuckle.

We also continued cleaning the outside and have finished a while back only the cleaning on the inside of the base is left which as we have been working, I think we will have finished in no time at all.

I think I am the only one amongst the team who feels like staying for longer because dinner time talk sometimes touches on the subject of going home and it looks like everybody seems ready for life back in the big cities.

One thing that I am glad of is that I was placed in this team, because it is not something that you can choose beforehand and even though we have our differences we managed to pull our own weight for the entire year. Our team has survived without any serious issues and I that most of us will leave in good spirit and with good memories of our time here.

My next step is to try and do both of the remaining islands and hopefully I will be blessed with teams with the same spirit as the team of Gough 57.

To all of you guys out there that kept us in your thought, a very big thank you and may God bless.

Signing off from Gough Island

Sayounara - Goodbye

Gerard

"Time to say goodbye"

When I thought of this title I decided to check out Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli's 'Time to say goodbye' lyrics. The song may not be so relevant in this context but it's a master piece performed by very talented musicians and the title at least makes sense. They also mention the horizon and sailing on ships upon the seas. Or maybe the entire song does make sense because when the time is right I'll get on board the SA Agulhas II and leave this beauty behind.

It's kind of difficult for me to put in words how I feel about having to finally say goodbye to Gough Island. I find myself full of mixed emotions. A part of me knows very well that nothing lasts forever while on the other hand it's so difficult to let go and move on. I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to do Gough twice. The first expedition was a wonderful experience and me being back clearly proves that. This one is even better so far and I'm optimistic that I won't have any regrets when I look back once I'm off the island. I'm also comforted by the wonderful memories that I'll cherish for as long as I shall live. The pictures and videos will help when time tries to steal those memories from me.

Being a metkassie on the island gives one the opportunity to engage in a number of extra opportunities during one's spare time. I feel fortunate to be able to do my work and still get the opportunity to do some other things. It all started back in 2007 when our medic, Kholekile, was approached to do some monitoring on some of the birds here on Gough Island as there were no field assistants in our team. That gave all the team members the opportunity to work with him. We did some monitoring on the Yellow Nosed Albatrosses at the study colony close to the base, from when the birds were sitting on eggs.

Kholekile Cita and I surviving the harsh conditions of Gough Island.

653



The arrival of John Cooper and his two assistants, Richard and Brian brought some excitement in the summer of 2007/2008 and we had the opportunity to work with them on Tristan Albatrosses. During takeover, 2008 I was fortunate to be part of the team that went to band some of the chicks at Gonydale.

After Gough more field work followed at Marion Island on Penguins, Fur and Elephant seal pups, Grey Headed Albatrosses, Giant Petrels, Wandering Albatrosses and Skuas. There was even some caterpillar collecting and a couple of evenings in the field for 'mousing'.

This time around I didn't do many trips to Gonydale but I am honored to have been able to work with Karen and Sylvain every once in a while.

During this month's visit to Gonydale and Albatross Plain with Karen and Sylvain the weather was on our side for only two hours or less. Even on our way there we could see that the cloud was very low at Gonydale and it got worse the closer we got. For most of the day we couldn't see more than a kilometer away, so no glimpse of Edinburgh Peak while at Albatross Plain. The next day visibility improved at Gonydale but we still got wet and cold and working with paper and a pencil was very difficult. The weather was so bad that I didn't take even a single picture but Sylvain braved the cold morning of our second day to take several pictures of Skuas and Giant Petrel devouring one unfortunate chick. It's always sad to come across an empty nest with a carcass close by and I recorded seven failures at Gonydale during this last monitoring trip.

Assisting John Cooper band a Tristan Albatross chick



John, Richard and Brian who joined G53 for the summer of 2007/08

On our way back to the base, I found myself feeling like a new person after spending a night in the field and later on in a conversation with colleagues I learned that they also get the same wonderful feeling. People may ask why would walking and working in such harsh conditions make you feel renewed, well, I don't have a clear answer but it obviously works wonders as I'm not the only one who has noticed. We get so wet and cold but that's what makes us appreciate life and nature.

The weighing of Seal pups was always a job and a half that we don't go to the gym the next day but I guess more so for Brendan as he does most of the weighing with me being more like his assistant. We started with them when they were still very small with black fur and we've seen them grow to be more energetic and a bit aggressive making it less easy for us with every weighing session. During this month's weighing I managed to weigh at least over twenty pups and one even rewarded me by gunning for my arm. Thanks to several layers of clothes I escaped unharmed. Well, it was painful for a couple of minutes and the bruise lasted for two days.

I guess all these adventures make me an assistant to the field assistants or should I say an honorary field assistant, and I've loved and enjoyed every moment.

As far as my work is concerned, each expedition provides an opportunity to learn more, gather more experience. Weather is fascinating as it changes constantly. This year we have witnessed quite a number of thunderstorms that got everyone excited. We've also had solid precipitation on a number of occasions but more on the colder western and northern part of the island than at the sheltered area where the station is situated. Gough Island is characterized by strong winds and even stronger in winter and the ocean gets restless with swells of up to 6m and a roar as the waves crash against the cliffs.

Gough is different from home in every respect and I'll sure miss its beautiful landscapes, fauna, flora and the ever changing weather.

...and that's a wrap!

God bless!

Nkoane Mathabatha

Not so easy to say goodbye!

Well this will be the last newsletter article for me as a member of G57. It's rather sad actually. To me it means I will no longer be documenting and updating on my stay out here, and that means I will soon be home. The pleasure and the pain of the situation. Not so easy to say goodbye. But, I'm reminded how easy it is to say hello.

What an absolute pleasure it has been. If I look back on the time we have been out here and think of all the moments we have shared and the memories we have made and the lessons learned I can stand up with confidence and complete surety and declare that the memories and lessons will last a life time. An experience as unique as this is not easily forgotten!

Saying this makes me think of those team members and other individuals who have experienced multiple island expeditions. Each of them continues to express with the greatest enthusiasm how much each trip has meant, and how much they have valued each one and why they yearn to go back again and again.

If I were to have encountered an islander before this I would have had so much admiration for them and would have listened so attentively as they told stories. Now this feeling stands stronger than ever. Now I can relate to all that they say.

So what a huge honour and privilege it is to be associated with the same individuals whom I would be so inspired by and continue to be inspired by. What a great opportunity this has been. And I only hope that my enthusiasm and gratefulness for having had this opportunity can be felt through my writing, and can inspire in others the same desire for adventure as Gough will continue to do for me.

This being said I need to express my heartfelt appreciation to my team who have helped me through this. Who have inspired and pushed me further and further. I will forever be telling the G57 story till the end of my days. I am so fortunate to be associated with such a unique group of people.

It has been a relatively sedate past couple weeks for myself. Much time has been spent arranging things for takeover as well as planning for the return to civilisation, whilst trying to savour each passing moment and the peace and quiet that this isolation brings.



Preparation for the return stretches beyond the obvious and delves deeper into the mental prep. I'm sure it will be rather overwhelming adjusting to the hustle and bustle of city life and coming to the realisation that your space is now so limited. Fortunately the adjustment should be easy to make as it is something myself and the rest of the team are well acquainted with. The hardest part is going to be accepting the fact that we are home when we just want to be alone and have that peace and quiet. Living in denial and hiding out will not be the answer. Best way to do things will be to dive right back in. A spot of shock therapy if you will. That seems to be my solution to our imminent return.

Alright I'm being overly dramatic. I know it won't be that bad and I can promise that I'm no different (read as looper) from when I left. So it will be right back into the swing of things. I am very excited to see those friendly faces I know and love, as well as those new faces that have popped up onto the scene.

On top of all this there was the opportunity to once again weigh the Seal pups down at Tumble Down.

Another enjoyable time out and about on Gough. All went well and the pups are really fattening out. There will be one final weigh-in during takeover with the help of the project supervisor, where we will hopefully be deploying a couple of GPS tracking units on the seals, and then it will be time to wish my favourite island animals farewell. I've grown rather attached to the little fellas. But fortunately the work has afforded me the opportunity at living a long standing dream of doing research on marine mammals. It may be a small part, but it was always a big dream. I even have the smallest of scars to remind me of it. And you know what they say about scars: They are tattoos with a story. So as small as this "tattoo" is, it is accompanied by the story of the fulfilment of a young boy's big dream.

Strong cold fronts have been ravaging Gough's shores through the course of the month. The roaring forties are finally coming to the party and living up to their fearsome reputation by almost blowing me off the observation platform when I was busy changing the sunshine chart.



The strong westerly winds brought with it a fine chill that resulted in liberal fall of small hail through the month, this left the mountain peaks with a sprinkling of white. The icing on the cake of what has been a great expedition.

The strong fronts not only brought about gale force winds, but dragged with it the associated sea conditions. And we once again had mighty waves crushing against the sea cliffs sending sea spray cascading down upon us in a shower of nature's brutal force.

August has definitely turned into one to be remembered. What a way to top off a truly spectacular year, with an even more incredible team.

To each of you I wish you well in all your future pursuits and great and courageous exploits, and may the beauty of Gough remain with you and forever enrich your souls.

Thanks everyone else for all the love and support. See you soon enough.

Brendan



GOUGH ISLAND SEATEMP AND CLIMATE STATS REPORT

CLIMATE STATS: August 2012

Ave. Max Pressure	1016.0hPa
Ave. Min Pressure	1006.3hPa
Ave. Pressure	1011.6hPa
Max Pressure	1031.3hPa
Min Pressure	992.1hpa
Ave. Max Temp	11.5°C
Ave. Min Temp	6.3°C
Ave. Temp	8.9°C
Max Temp	15.7°C
Min Temp	1.4°C
Ave Humidity	89%
Max Humidity	95%
Min Humidity	44%
Max Wind Gust	38.2 m/s or 137.1 km/h
Total Rainfall	210.6 mm
Highest in 24 Hours	70.8 mm
Total days with rain	28 days
Total days >1mm	22 days
Total Sunshine	106.7 hours

August seems to have been the coldest month with a minimum of 1.4 °C. Due to the cold conditions solid precipitation fell on numerous occasions especially at the higher, colder parts of the island.

We've also experienced a number of thunderstorms brought by Cumulonimbus clouds.

The bad weather also affected the state of the sea, bringing large swells, wind waves and sea spray.

24 hour rain is higher compared to the previous month's 55.6 mm, whereas both months have the same number of days with rainfall and just one day difference with regard to total days with more than 1mm.

Surprisingly the maximum wind gust is lower than the previous month's even though we had many days with strong winds.

As a result of the cumulus clouds and precipitation in the form of showers, the sky was open for most of the period leading to more hours of sunshine as compared to the previous month with a total of 63.9 hours.

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