

G60



Gough Bunting

October 2014



Breaking news!!!



G60 has landed!

From the editor

The end of October marks our first month alone on Gough island with G60 being the sole human population in several hundred kilometres. Although that feeling may bring unease to most people, the 9 of us on G60 have come together to spend a year on one of the most remote islands in the world. Different people have different motivations behind deciding to do this year 'in isolation' and we have decided to dedicate the first issue of the Gough Bunting to introduce to everyone the members of our new family. We want our family and friends to get to know our G60 family so that they can be at ease about us

going and doing such a crazy thing as decide to live on Gough. So far so good, we have really bonded as a team and shared some amazing meals around our dining table so no need to worry about what we are eating.

The issues to come will include articles from the team members about various topics. If you as the reader would like to send us any comments, feedback or requests for articles to be in the Bunting please send a mail to mish.risi22@gmail.com.

I hope you enjoy the first read,

Michelle





From the Team Leaders office:

A warm welcome to all our readers from 'Gough 60, the 60TH Expedition to Gough Island!



Just a bit about Gough Island: Gough Island is a volcanic island in the central South Atlantic Ocean, about 2700 km south south-west from Cape Town and over 3200 km from the nearest point of South America. It lies at latitude 40° 20' South and longitude 9° 54' West.

Gough Island is a World Heritage site and falls under the administration of Tristan Da Cunha Island. The distance between the two Islands is just over 400km. Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited island in the world and Gough, although even a bit more remote, has no permanent residents other than the SA meteorological and research teams visiting since the early 19th century. Gough Island, just like Tristan da Cunha and surrounding islands (Nightingale and Inaccessible) as well as Saint Helena are British Islands.

A breakup of the team: 3 x Meteorologists, 1 x Medic, 1 x Diesel Mechanic (Electricity supply is by means of diesel/electric generators), 1 x Radio tech/operator (Including satellite communication), 1 x Environmental officer and 2 x field workers (research on the Island). This is an extremely positive team, and there is a lot on our 'to do' lists especially now that the summer is finally (just) breaking through! The weather can be

quite interesting and even sometimes intimidating especially for the field workers. We are based in the 'roaring 40's which is known and respected by many sailors. Typical about these Islands one can experience 4 seasons in a day!

Why Gough? The weather observations here serve sometimes as early warnings for sea vessels and the continents up north. The data recorded and research done by the field workers is extremely important for the preservation of some seabirds and other species, even plants.

We set sail from Cape Town on the 4th of September, and we arrived here on Gough on the 12th. We went via Tristan da Cunha Island where we offloaded some tourists, biologists as well as Tristanian residents who either were on leave or business trips in SA and even in Europe. The offloading of the cargo was cut short because of 'choppy waters and harsh weather conditions and we sailed to Nightingale Island to offload some building material. Again after one attempt by the helicopter it was decided not to go ahead and we continued on to Gough.

No one can ever prepare you for the beauty of this island beforehand. You have seen pictures, there were safety introductions and presentations on the ship but nothing ever will put this picture in your mind other than being fortunate like G60 to experience it first-hand.

We as a team are looking forward to entertain family and friends all over the globe by this monthly newsletter. I hope we will be able to give you a glimpse through our eyes on the beauty that is called; Gough Island

Tom Mc Sherry





Thomas Mc Sherry



Position: Team Leader and Medical Orderly Gough 60 (☺ And running the friendly grocer on the Island, even putting out specials weekly and fresh ‘snoek and crayfish).

Grew up: Brits, and I will always love Brits and surrounding areas. The Magallies mountain range, the Crocodile River and Harties and Roodekopjes dam as well as the ‘warm’ bushveld. A lot to do in and around Brits and Hartebeestpoort and a variety of places to visit while having breakfast on your motorbike!

Being a ‘free spirit’ personality I call ‘home’ wherever I sleep tonight. I still own a duplex flat in Brits though.

Studied: Studied at Pretoria Ambulance Collage (Now Lebone), and qualified late 1990 as a Paramedic. Also studied at the South African Fire Institute for fire fighting and rescue qualifications, and have done several ‘bolt on’ courses through various EMT institutions like Medical rescue, Hazmat Operations, High angle rescue, advanced driving, International trauma life support, Dental medical emergency and other relevant courses.

Working experience: Total of 25 years; 16 years on SA roads and 9 years abroad ranging from the DRC, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia,

Mozambique, Sudan (before it was divided in North and South Sudan) as well as the Middle East and Eastern Countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Marion Island and now second time around on Gough Island.

Happy place? Without a doubt Gough Island – I hardly ever revisit a place, but Gough is different. It’s close to my heart. It’s beautiful and moody...the weather is so interesting and the fauna and flora are out of this world. It’s heaven to me.

Family and friends: I have got the 2 most beautiful children; Nicolene and Chris, and we have a wonderful relationship. They have accepted the fact that their dad is an adventurer and we found a great way of supporting each other through this long distance relationship. My sister and brother in-law are both adventures and we always share stories around the ‘braai’. I also have lots of friends all over the world, as far South as Tristan da Cunha Island and all the way up into the northern hemisphere, Afghanistan and Scotland.

Hobbies: I love fishing, motorbike riding (more adventure motorbike riding – off-road through the roads less travelled in Africa) and even Skydiving although I had to quit after a bad landing which resulted in injury a number of years ago. I’ll go back though, one day!

Bucket list: I would really love to visit the ‘Glen – Quest bay’ on Gough Island although it is quite a challenge for base personnel to go on a long hike. I got to give it a try this year though! Then I still need to tour Africa (certain parts in Central to East Africa) on a motorbike and it will be a bonus if I can do it with my son who is also a keen adventure motorbike rider. I would also love to write a book about my experiences in the DRC and some other places I have visited. I’m sure



there will be more but I try not to think of things I would still love to do!

Your expectations for this year on Gough?

Nothing too much, I just want to have a great peaceful and enjoyable expedition with one of the best teams in recent times I believe.

What do you stand for: This is the ‘deeper part’, and I have difficulty to put it down on paper but I would give it a go: ‘Love one another, forgive, give each other enough space to enjoy life, be considerate in all you do and although I don’t like selfishness I believe sometimes you have to stand still, slow down and make time for yourself. There will always be pain and regrets; put it behind and ‘live life to the best you know’.

Maxaxuma Makasongwe, and people on the Island call me *Max*.



Position: I am the diesel mechanic for the year although I have a great deal of responsibilities; electrical maintenance of the base, all mechanical maintenance, refrigeration and general maintenance.

Like the old saying; ‘a Jack of all trades’ and I am very proud on my position here. As you

gather I do carry a lot of responsibility on my shoulders but I can work under pressure.

Grew up: I grew up in the Eastern Cape and always had a love for mechanical work and admired good tradesmen. I am finally on an expedition where I have the opportunity and freedom to carry out my work on a world heritage site.

Home: Mvuzi A-A (Eastern Cape SA) and my family supports me all the way.

Studies: Graduated from Nolitha Technical school in Eastern Cape and completed my Trade test at Olifantsfontein where I qualified as a diesel mechanic.

Work experience: Department of public works – roads and works’- Eastern Cape.

Happy place: Without a doubt with my wife, children and family.

Hobbies: I love domestic animals like sheep, goat and cattle. I am also a hunter.

Bucket list: I would love to travel Europe with my family!

The journey this far: I have enjoyed the new experience sailing down here on the SA Agulhas 2 and when I first laid my eyes on the Island I was stunned with its beauty. All the seabirds, seals and beautiful ocean compliments our stay here on Gough Island! This is a new experience which I am fortunate to share with the team; Gough 60!





Michelle Risi



Position: Conservation officer responsible for the eradication of invasive plant species- *Sagina procumbens* and assistant to the field biologists. Also, the editor of the Gough Bunting and jump photo co-ordinator.

Grew up: My family (Parents and two older brothers) initially lived in Johannesburg. When I was 11 we moved down to the North Coast of KZN. Ballito was a great place to grow up with the beach at our doorstep.

Studies: I completed BSc and Honours degrees in Marine Biology. Before coming onto Gough I submitted my thesis for my MSc focussing on phylogenetics of zoanthsids (hopefully I will graduate next year) and I have completed a Post Graduate Certificate in education which qualifies me to teach Life Science (Biology) to high school students.

Working experience: As a student I have had various jobs ranging from being a waitress at a wedding venue, tutoring high school students, demonstrating practicals for undergraduate students and being a border mistress for two years at Durban Girl's College. This is my first full time job.

Happy place: I have a huge thirst for adventure, and am happiest when I am going somewhere that I have not been before. Also, when I am taking jumping photos.

Special people: I am fortunate to be on Gough Island with my boyfriend Chris Jones, we have done a lot of travelling together so he is now my travel buddy and work buddy. I have my parents; Paul and Wendy Risi, two brothers, Craig and David, sister in Law Jaquie and two nieces: Candice and Claire. My parents were very encouraging of me going on this adventure.

Hobbies: As I said earlier, I really, REALLY love travelling. I also love the ocean and SCUBA diving, so my favourite hobby is combining the two. So far I have travelled to Egypt, Borneo and Mozambique with SCUBA diving as one of the drawing points. When I am not travelling or dreaming of/planning my next travel adventure I enjoy reading, especially Harry potter, watching films and just laughing and having a good time. Also, taking that perfect jumping photo.

Bucket list: My aim is to travel to at least 100 countries in my life time. So far I have made it to 20. I look forward to travelling after this year on Gough. It is really cool that we get to spend a year on one of the most remote islands in the world. I really love learning about new cultures and interacting with other people in this world. It is so eye opening and creates a huge thirst in me to keep on travelling and discovering new places and people.

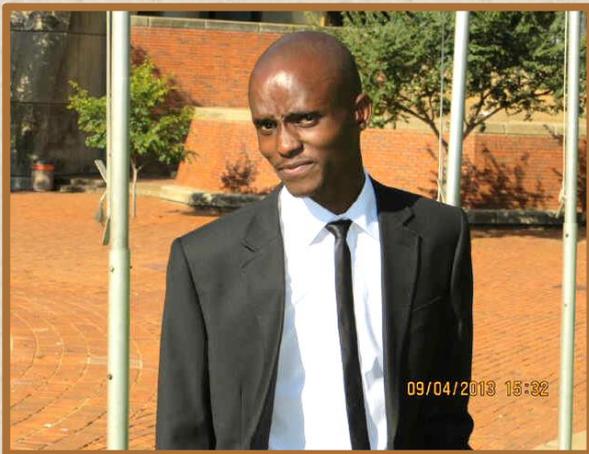
What do I think of my time on Gough so far: Although I had spent so much time researching this island, what you see over images on the internet cannot prepare you for the raw beauty of this island. It feels like something out of Jurassic park, with these beautiful seabirds that we get to interact with on a regular basis. It really is so special and I



feel so fortunate to be here to contribute to the years of data collection on Gough. Also, the weather is not as bad as you think. Despite most people thinking that it will rain all the time we have had several days of sunny weather and a few sunburnt faces around base.

My aims for the year: I would love to put a dent in the seed bank of *Sagina* and do my absolute best to prevent this plant from spreading any further. I really look forward to seeing the chicks of the seabirds and just making many awesome memories with the team.

Morgan Vhangani Mugeru



Position: Senior Meteorologist

Home: I grew up in the Limpopo Province. More specifically in the western part of Venda, in the Makhado area. The Soutpansberg Mountain range and the rain that usually falls after a very hot day distinguishes this area. I grew up in the Catholic Church at Our Lady of Peace; this was the best part of my upbringing.

Education: I went to school at Munau Primary School in Venda from 1997. I then matriculated from Sinthumule High School in 2008. In 2009 I started my first year at the

University of Johannesburg, studying BSc Geology, engineering geology and environmental management.

In 2012 I graduated from the University and proceeded to do honours in Geology. My honours project was based on the Dykes of the Eastern Bushveld. I worked with Moosa Khanyi, Working with Moosa was a wonderful learning curve from which much experience was gained. I graduated with honours in 2013.

Happy place: in my short life I have travelled a bit, but my place is anywhere there is peace, and Gough Island is that place for me.

Relationships: I have a special lady friend named Marupeng Rataba. She is supportive and knows how to make days brighter. I sometimes think she is the female version of me.

I have a good relationship with my parents and my two younger brothers, my cousins and my extended family. My most preferred relationship however will be that which I have with my most grandparents, along with my uncles and aunts.

Hobbies: I love outdoor activities such as mapping and hiking. I also like reading.

Bucket list: I would love to do my masters in Engineering Geology, travel the world and have many holiday adventures with my special lady friend.





Gerald Magoshi Kgasago



Position: Junior Meteorologist, Gough 60.

Grew up: I was born and raised in Limpopo Makgoba village next to Bakoni Platinum mine. Atok in the Eastern side of Polokwane, currently residing in Pretoria CBD.

Studied: I matriculated in Matsimela high school in 2010 and went to further my studies at Tshwane South. College Pretoria West Campus. I completed my N6 in Electrical Engineering heavy current in 2013. I was doing my practicals when I seized the opportunity to spend a year on Gough Island as part of South African National Antarctic Program. For me being on Gough is a good experience. Spending a year with nine people. I found it very interesting because I like challenges.

What is expected from you? To provide accurate information on time and to help to prevent *Sagina* from spreading.

Why Gough Island? For the love of weather and climate.

Hobbies: Soccer, table tennis, baseball.

Relationship; I have good relationship with my mom and I have special friend; Vincent Nakedi Mailula. Almighty Father be my guide wherever you lead me, I will go,

wherever you forbid me, I will renounce and whatever you command me in your strength I will do. Lead me, then unto the fullness of your truth. Amen.

David Hartzenberg



Position: Deputy Team Leader and Communications Technician Gough 60.

Grew up: Northern suburbs of Cape Town, all my life.

Studied: Western Province Technical College, Northlink College and Cape Peninsula University of Technology

Working experience: Total of 20 years; I have always been involved in electronics in some form or another. I have done 2 expeditions to Marion Island. My first year I was a young man of 20 years old and I have just recently returned from my second year.

Happy place? You will almost never find me outside. I'm most happy in my Radio Room or in the Electronics workshop. The only time I go out outside is for a braai. Back in South Africa I enjoy driving and a 4x4 track.

Relationships: I'm divorced but we never had any children.

Hobbies: I am one of those fortunate people that my work is my passion and also my hobby. I am an amateur radio operator. This hobby can be practiced form anywhere in the



world and being on a remote island just makes it that much more special.

Bucket List: I would really love to see Antarctica one day, and visit NASA. Mars would be nice too, but I don't think that one is going to happen.

Your expectations for this year on Gough? Not being a nature lover at all, I would like to tackle some small electronic projects and keep myself busy that way.

What do you stand for: Truth. The truth shall set you free.

Werner Kuntz



Position: Field assistant A.K.A Birder Gough 60.

Grew up: I was born in Pretoria, Gauteng, but moved to Lydenburg, Mpumalanga when I was about 9 years old. I loved the outdoor options the area allowed, and perused fishing as a hobby, in particular fly fishing which the general area is famous for. I also developed a fondness for nature and loved spending time in local game farms, as well as the Kruger Nation Park, being about two hours' drive from home.

Live now: I moved to Cape Town, Western Cape, due to studies, and have been in Cape

Town for the last 6 years. Currently I happily call Gough Island my home.

Studied: I started studying in 2009, after a few gap years abroad. I decided that Oceanography was the career for me, and after about three years after matric, took on the challenge. I had to teach myself the self-control to study all over again. I managed to complete my National Diploma in Oceanography in 2011, and won an award for best open choice project. I was proud of myself, because out of a class that started out as 40 students, only 5 of us completed the Diploma.

After another gap year, working as an intern at the Department of Environmental Affairs, I took on the challenge of graduating with a Bachelors Degree of Technology of Oceanography completed with the help of DEA.

Working experience: I have quite a general CV, covering a few different careers. I worked in Restaurants, bookshops, managed farms, managed a fly-fishing shop and even worked in a High class golf estate in Florida. Only recently after studying I started racking up experience in my field of study. I completed a year internship with the Department of Environmental Affairs, which was a huge learning curve for me. I worked with lab equipment, dissected whales and seals, and presented to the general public during events such as marine week. I am now a qualified Commercial diver, and am hoping to complete my skippers soon.

Happy place: There is no one place I can call my happy place, but rather call it my happy moments. It is times when I get to spend time with my loved ones at places like Sodwana bay that makes life worth living.

Family and friends: I have a mother, father, brother and a sister. They are scattered across



Africa. My Brother Deon Kuntz (29), lives in Durban, and my Sister (17) mom and dad (n/a) live in Solwezi, Zambia.

Hobbies: I have too many hobbies for my wallet to support. But my favourite ones are SCUBA Diving, fishing and Computers. I feel one should be able to have fun at all times, whether it's indoors, outdoors, or underwater.

Bucket list: Unfortunately we do not have enough space in the Bunting to include my entire Bucket list, but in the near future, I want to get a motorcycle and drive through Africa, to Zambia at least, and just tour. I would also love to see Europe, and especially Greece, with its blue waters and white beaches.

Your expectations for this year on Gough: I expect to have a good time, learn a lot, and most importantly have fun while doing it. Gough 60 is a good team, and I feel we have the making of achieving greatness.

What do you stand for: I believe in the fair treatment of people. I give everyone the benefit of doubt, and don't like taking other people's opinions of others. I like to formulate my own opinion about people, and have gotten far in life by doing so. I also believe in having good manners, and being a gentleman, sadly a much underappreciated attribute in recent times.



Thembile Girlie Shazi



Position: Assistant Meteorologist

Background: Was born in Port Shepstone, KwaZulu-Natal and proudly 100% Zulu. Most of my childhood was spent with my grams and she was the best granny you can ever have. Moved to Durban in 2003 till now. Who would have thought that a Ntuzuma Township girl could one day be at Gough!

Studied: I went to Cedara College of Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg, and attained my Diploma in Agriculture. I'm a proudly CEDARIAN.

My favorite place: No doubt the beach, I mean I'm from Durban after all :) Love going to the mall with friends, everyone needs some shopping therapy sometimes!

Relationships: I'm happily in a relationship (that is all I'm saying) and I love him so much and he knows it. I have the best relationship with my family especially my mom, I love her so much, she is the best mom in the world and also have a great relationship with my 3 amazing sisters and my two brothers, and yep there's six of us. My mom was blessed with twins twice, sadly I don't have a twin (wish I did). I also have the best relationship with my



friends especially, Fanele, she's always been there for me and for that I'm so thankful for :)

Hobbies: I love playing touch rugby and watching rugby, love running it makes me feel free, I love reading romantic novels with happy endings :) and I love shopping, chilling with friends and family. And I love the Sharks- my favourite team forever.

Wish list: I would love to meet James O'Connor one day (My favourite player of all time) and after all I got interested in Rugby because of him when I saw those three tries on his debut back in 2008 I was like WOW, some people are just too good and I wanted to see more, so that is how I got to love rugby :) and then there is Naomi Campbell, she's amazing and would love to meet her someday.

My goals: I want to study BSc Meteorology at University of Pretoria in 2016, get a driver's license as soon as I get back and enter comrade's marathon maybe in 4 years from now, after all you only live once. And after my graduation would love to go to Marion and SANAE.

My expectations for this year at Gough: To be able to live without my family for a year, so far I'm doing alright, get along with everyone on the team and enjoy this beautiful Island and get up close and personal with penguins! :)

What I believe: We are all God, Jehovah's children hence we have his attributes and by all means we can try and show those attributes even though we are not perfect but it worth trying and if we try we can all succeed. Love is his best attribute and forgiveness, so we must learn to love and forgive.

My favourite quote: "If people can be taught to hate, they can also be taught to love, and it all comes down to love and where there is love, there is respect always." I love and respect everyone who gives me the same attitude. So respect is earned, you just have to give it to get it back.

Christopher Jones



Position: Field Biologist

Grew up: All over KwaZulu-Natal but mostly Durban. Durban, what an excellent place of endless summer, saucy cuisine and tasty waves!

Studied: I earned a B.Sc. in Zoology from the University of Pretoria in 2011. The following year I completed a B.Sc. Honours in Ecology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal with a research project focused on African Penguins. I am planning on using data collected on Gough for a M.Sc. at the University of Cape Town. Auxiliary education has involved rope access training.

Work experience: Before coming to Gough, I worked at the CSIR, Coastal Systems Research Group in Durban assisting with several environmental monitoring programmes along the KZN coast. I have also worked as a demonstrator at UKZN and tutored high school students.



Happy place: Right now...Gough Island, this place is wild! But I am probably most happy anywhere in nature away from hustle and bustle.

Special people: I am lucky enough to have my girlfriend Michelle here on the island with me. She is also a biologist and a free spirit so we have a lot in common and have lots of fun together☺. My parents Darrell and Alison live in Durban, younger sister Sarah is studying in Grahamstown and older brother Nick lives in England. Michelle's parents, Paul and Wendy Risi, deserve a mention here for all their help with our preparations for Gough.

Hobbies: I enjoy travel and outdoor/adventure related activities in general, particularly surfing and SCUBA diving. I am also quite keen on photography and am always learning more along the way.

Bucket list: The whole world...haha! Too many dream destinations to mention! To be more specific in the short term I would love to go to Marion Island and then travel Europe.

Expectations for the year on Gough: Hopefully a successful year of field work producing good quality data. Otherwise, really looking forward to a tranquil time, the adventure ahead and having good times with the G60 team.

What you stand for: These two quotes sort of sum it up, "New experience is the core of human spirit" and "Happiness is only real when shared"...Oh and science, of course!

GOUGH ISLAND SEATEMP AND CLIMATE STATS REPORT

SEATEMP REPORT: September 2014

Date	Sea temp	Date	Sea temp	Date	Sea temp
01	13.1	11	13.1	21	SWELL
02	13.0	12	13.5	22	SWELL
03	13.2	13	13.3	23	13.2
04	12.6	14	13.7	24	13.7
05	13.0	15	13.5	25	13.5
06	13.2	16	13.3	26	13.4
07	13.2	17	14.0	27	13.2
08	13.0	18	13.4	28	13.2
09	13.4	19	14.0	29	13.5
10	13.2	20	14.0	30	13.5
				31	13.6

CLIMATE STATS: September 2014

Ave. Max Pressure	1018.0 hPa
Ave. Min Pressure	1010.4 hPa
Ave. Pressure	1013.9 hPa
Max Pressure	1030.0 hPa
Min Pressure	988.9 hPa
Ave. Max Temp	17.2 °C
Ave. Min Temp	11.2 °C
Ave. Temp	14.2 °C
Max Temp	23.8 °C
Min Temp	7.0 °C
Ave Humidity	79 %
Max Humidity	96 %
Min Humidity	55 %
Max Wind Gust	44.3 m/s 159.4 km/h
Total Rainfall	102.4 mm
Highest in 24 Hours	64.2 mm
Total days with rain	18 days
Total days >1mm	26 days
Total Sunshine	124.0 hours



Always remember to look up and
enjoy the view!