

Gough



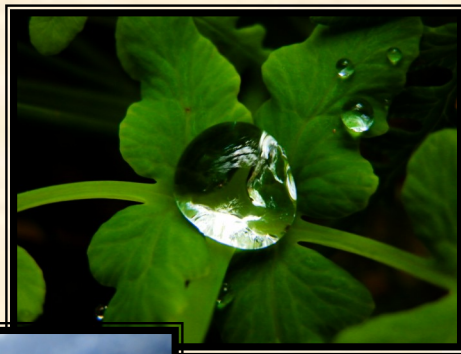
Index:

1. Winter's rolling in
2. Beer tides
3. The Goff's Part 3
4. From the Lab
5. *Mi-parcours/* Mid-winter
6. The shortest year
7. Gough during March.
8. A day out with the Birders
9. Passing seconds
10. Weather stats

Winter's rolling in

Days are getting short for walks, rains making it slippery and wet. One thing though is that u can take pictures that amazes you. A drop of water caught in between fern leaves. The greyness of the day, the clouds being shaped by the upper winds. It makes u stop and think

WWWOOOOHHHHHHH.... The nights are getting cold sitting by the heater watching a movie. Makes you miss the people u wane share this beauty with.



Enough of me missing home. Wish u can all be here to experience this beauty, maybe one day u will.

Nettie

Beer Tides

So I worked Wednesday right through Human Rights day without even realising it was a holiday. As if I thought it's my right to do so. And what if I knew? On the Islands there is no off days or holidays. You just try to stay busy everyday so that you don't go off your rocker. I think the loneliness is starting to tell on the Islanders and not having any pets around does not help much. The closes we get to domesticated animals is the pestly little mice that every now and then fearlessly take a nibble of your toe while you are watching movies.

So what else do I do to keep busy? Well I am once again busy on my Computerised flight simulator. Trying to master the art of flying Helicopters, I realised why all real life chopper pilots has such big egos. (And why all the girls tend to like them so much). Whilst it is relatively easy to fly an aeroplane, a helicopter is a total different type of animal with multidimensional characteristics. So thanks again to all the pilots and aero engineers that transport us safely to and from the Islands.

Then I am also studying and experimenting again in the most ancient hobby known to mankind, brewing beer. Luckily for me there was a beer kit that was left over from one of the previous teams some years ago with brewing sugars and ingredients that was still usable. Although my first trial was not as good as some of the Ales I brew at home, it is still quite palatable and with the help of more study material, that was generously loaned to us from Cape Town Library, I will try to do even better in future. Thank You Cape Town Library for lending us some of your best books for such an extended period.

I might just name one of my creations after the Gough Bunting and flavour it with some local flora or how about a Seal-beach Bitter with a slight taste of sea salt. Talking about beer, in the old days every housewife was a brewer and beer was part of the family's daily diet. Even children were drinking small-beer which was a secondary (Secunda) or tertiary draw (Tertia) of the Prima Melior. Water sources could not be trusted and milk was often contaminated due to lack of pasteurization which held many health risks. And you might not want to believe this but the Churches operated the biggest breweries at some stage.

Also being on an Island without access to fresh fruit, vegetables and heavenly mouth-watering salads, just made me think on the possibility of contracting scurvy. Which is an old almost forgotten disease that was most prevalent in the days of sailing ships but can still happen due to a shortage of vitamin in your diet. I decided to look up the symptoms and cures on the Internet just for safety sake. History has it that many trading companies which operated sailing ships also started their own breweries as a method of nutrition to rid their sailors of scurvy on their long voyages at sea.

So if you sitting on island with pains in the limbs and other noticeable symptoms like bulging eyes and you know it is not caused by the girls you see on the beach, because you don't have a beach. You might just be in for a bout of scurvy and it is the ideal opportunity to start a brewery.

Another reason why anybody who is looking to a new hobby should consider brewing is that it can be done by all age groups even if you are old and have only one arm and one eye left and of course a slightly dry throat, there is great rewards to be had from your brewery. Beer is not only used for the purpose of getting intoxicated although that is an option. Beer has many medicinal qualities and is good for your heart and kidneys. Just to name a few. Brewing beer is also not illegal. So don't worry. The cops will not come into your house and kick over your barrels. So why do people not brew their-own anymore, because they are lazy and it is easier to buy a tin of lesser quality beer over the counter at exorbitant prices. The big breweries just love this state of affairs because it gives them the monopoly over brewing. So go out there and start your brewery. If you possess a clean dustbin or Sterinappy bucket (Now do not go and throw the baby out with the bathwater) and a few empty bottles you are already halfway there. Even if it is just ordinary Hop or Ginger beer that you favour there are endless possibilities and recipes for true and other Novelty beers as well. And if you need advice I will gladly assist. And of course, if you're first attempt is not totally satisfactory do not despair. It can easily be turned into bread or mixed with lemonade to create a drinkable beer shandy. Then there are also some excellent cooking recipes which involve beer. I still have to try some of them.

Until next time.

The Cloud Goffins



Mop

Short

Tall (Boss)

The Goff's

Early morning the sun has not even woken and Short is outside looking up at the sky. He carefully considers how to describe the clouds are they fluffy and happy, or dark and angry. Tall (the boss), Short and Mop have funny names for the clouds there's Curious Nemo's and Stratos Very Curious to name but a few. Short then goes to a white wooden box out front and looks at the glass tubes inside, these tubes tell him if it's hot or cold or even dry and wet. Most of the other Goff's just put their hands out the window. Tall says the people in the Real world need to know about the clouds and weather on Goff, so they know what will happen in the real world the next day. So now we know that Tall, Short and Mop can see the future and they don't even need a crystal ball, they are real fortune tellers. The three of them take turns looking at the clouds each one works for five days one in the evening one during the day and one is off to relax until it's his turn again.

On a normal day Princess and Zoom wake up when the sun is shining bright, Princess is not a morning Goff and only starts waking up halfway through breakfast with a little smile on her face and a piece of chocolate cake. After breakfast Zoom and Princess go to their lab and plan their day, the other Goff's will often see them hanging on the cliffs removing little plants called Pearl Gina's. Princess says if they don't remove them, they will spread and cause problems. The Gina's are very naughty plants and don't belong on Goff. Other days they will go count the birds, Princess gives those names and writes it in a book and Zoom puts a bracelet on them so they can tell them apart. Sometimes they go for long walks for up to three days, camping and eating canned food Princess loves her pasta and sardines.

Techie has being lucky enough to go on walks with them and Princess has shown him all her favourite places even if it was raining or so misty that they could not see much. Techie says Princess is the best tour guide ever, even if she gets north and south mixed up at times.

Redcross wakes up like the Duracell bunny in the morning has a coffee and gets ready to make sure the Goff's have enough food in the pantry enough blood in their bodies and that all is good in the house. Redcross has a lot of reports to do for the people in the Real world, but sometimes she will relax and have fun. Techie and Redcross always find fun things to do and many times just enjoy playing pool in the bar and drinking too much herbal drinks, which make them really thirsty the next day. Redcross loves taking photo's and the Goff's will see her wandering around looking for the perfect rain drop on a fern that's when she's at her happiest. Every few months Redcross goes down to the food store and gets the food ready to be taken up to the house then all the Goff's get together and help. A lot of laughter and fun is had by all, as the food is transported in the little blue wagon.

Grandad wakes up most of the time very thirsty and sometimes like a bear with a thorn in his foot. He keeps himself busy with his servers and mutters about things like Linux and Virtual servers. At times he will be brewing herbal drinks, but most of the time he will be enjoying his herbal drinks. Techie is normally awake early in the morning after having his coffee he will go check on the magic machines and walk around the house just to make sure all is well for the Goff's. Techie then brews the coffee for the rest of the Goff's as they stumble into the kitchen.

Every now and then Techie will bake a cake or two, something he really enjoys doing and he knows it puts a smile on Princess's face when she walks into the kitchen. In Techie's free time he normally goes walking around taking photos just like Redcross or learning more about the birds from Princess. Going for extended walks around the Island to visit the birds and learn more about them is always a highlight for Techie.

And now you know what the Goff's get up to on their little Island in the middle of the big lake.

Till next time

Marius

From the Lab - by Karen & Sylvain

This month, we are a little bit sad because we know that it is time for yellow-nosed albatrosses to leave the island. Chicks have almost fully grown feathers, have lost most of their down and started to go away from their nest to exercise their wings again and again. Adults are now rare as we can see only some of them still feeding their chick while we do not see non-breeding birds any more. We have ringed all the 16 chicks/fledglings of the study colony and we hope they will fledge soon. We are happy that they survived the rearing period but many chicks were not as lucky as them as we observed a lot of carcasses in the area along the path to Tafelkop. It is quite difficult to know what happened as only bones remained but they may have been preyed upon by mice and/or Skuas.



Recording A Tristan Albatross



Yellow-nosed Albatross Fledgling



Tristan Albatross Chick

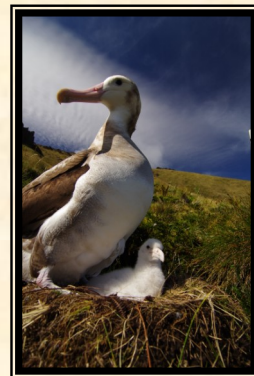
We have pursued the monitoring of Tristan albatross nests at Gonydale, Hummocks and Tafelkop, and were pleased to see hatchings and very young chicks. Almost all the partners are identified and we recorded only a few breeding failures for the moment. We finished the whole island count resulting in more than 1400 breeding pairs for this year. We also recorded GPS coordinates of 56 nests at Albatross Plain that we will monitor once a month to check for breeding failures and attacks by mice. To complete Tristan albatross work we received valuable help from other team members. Sunette and Marius, then Nkoane came with us for day trips to Gonydale and Green Hill helping with nest monitoring, partner identification and nest count. We were pleased to do a 3-day trip to the north of the island in company of Marius to complete the whole island count. Unfortunately, weather conditions were not as good as expected and we had to walk in the mist and the rain and to count nests when the mist cleared.

However, we also had some sunny spells allowing Marius to catch a glimpse of mountain and north island magnificence. Brendan joined us for 3 days at Gonydale helping with study colony monitoring and nest marking at Albatross Plain. Again, these were occasions to share nice and funny moments in addition to save us time and effort.

Rockhopper penguins returned to the colonies to moult. While we observed some moulting birds in January and February, now they are moulting in numbers, old feathers strewn over the ground as it had snowed. Unfortunately, we were not able to recover many geolocators. Maybe because they are difficult to detect under ruffled moulting feathers hiding most of the legs or because birds equipped in September were non-breeders which moulted earlier and already left the island. While summer breeders are on the way to leaving the island, winter breeders have arrived. After grey petrels last month, it was Atlantic petrel turn to do their come back. They arrive in numbers just before the darkness and take over from great shearwaters for the whole night calling activity.



Left to right, Edinburgh Peak, Windy Ridge and Tarn Moss



Tristan Albatross (Mother and chick)



Moulting Rockhopper



Atlantic Petrel

Mi-parcours/ Half-way; by Karen

La fin du mois de mars s'annonce déjà, marquant la moitié de notre « séjour » à Gough. Déjà un peu de nostalgie m'envahit... Les « beaux jours » sont derrière nous. Fini le temps des trajets vers Low Hump et sa colonie de pétrels géants. Finies les journées à Seal Beach à observer les couples de gorfous s'occupant de leurs poussins en attendant le retour des femelles équipées de GPS. Finies les soirées avec l'arrivée de milliers de puffins majeurs vire-voletant au-dessus des terriers et les nuits au cours desquelles nous étions bercés par leurs chants. Finis les parades, regroupements, effets de plumes et becs des albatros à nez jaune, les adultes ayant déjà quasiment déserté l'île. Finies les virées nocturnes à la recherche des océanites. Partis les petits puffins et les pétrels plongeurs dont les cris rarement entendus nous emplissaient de l'espoir d'une rencontre...

The end of March is already on its way, marking the half of our stay on Gough. I already feel a little nostalgia... Good days are behind us. The walks to Low Hump and its giant petrel colony are over. Days spent at Seal Beach observing Rockhopper penguin mates which guard their chicks and waiting for GPS-fitted females are over. Evenings when great shearwaters arrived in thousands twirling above their burrows and nights when their calls lulled us to sleep are over. Yellow-nosed albatross displays, gatherings and feather and beak effects are over as most adults have already left the island. Nocturnal walks searching for storm petrels are over. Little shearwaters and diving petrels of which the rarely heard calls filled us with the hope to see some of them are gone...

Pourtant, l'automne et l'hiver australs promettent de beaux moments... Les poussins d'albatros de Tristan commencent à montrer le bout de leur bec, petites boules de duvet blanc immaculé. Les pétrels de Schlegel arrivent en nombre et se préparent à la reproduction. Les chants des pétrels gris emplissent les nuits en montagne. Les prions de Forster et les skuas nous offrent un retour précoc. Et nous attendons toujours notre rencontre avec les pétrels noirs...

Yet southern autumn and winter promise good times... Tristan albatross chicks, small fluffy balls of immaculate white down, started to show their beak. Atlantic petrels come in large numbers on the island and get ready to breed. Grey petrel calls fill the nights in mountain. Broad-billed Prions and Skuas offer us early returns. And we are still waiting for finding great-winged petrels...

Je me souviens des premiers jours passés sur Gough, mélange d'excitation, d'ébahissement, d'incertitude et d'inquiétude. L'excitation de découvrir quelque chose de nouveau et de vivre quelque chose d'exceptionnel. L'ébahissement face à la beauté, la grandeur de l'île et la multitude, l'exceptionnalité de sa faune et sa flore. L'incertitude quant à ce que j'allais réellement vivre. L'inquiétude concernant cette année à venir, mes capacités à m'adapter à ce nouvel environnement et à m'intégrer dans l'équipe.

I remember the first days spent on Gough when excitement, amazement, uncertainty and anxiety were mixed up. The excitement of discovering something new and experiencing something exceptional, the amazement of seeing the beauty the size of the island and the multitude the uniqueness of its wildlife. Uncertainty of what I will actually live. Anxiety about the year to come, my abilities to adapt to this new environment and to integrate well into the team weighed heavy on my mind.

Maintenant, c'est comme si j'avais toujours vécu là. Les habitudes se sont installées sans devenir une routine, sans que l'ennui s'installe. Six mois et demi déjà, six mois et demi à peine... Comment le temps peut-il passer si vite et lentement à la fois ? Probablement du fait de la nouveauté, la découverte d'un lieu et d'espèces exceptionnels et l'occupation d'un côté et du fait de l'absence, le manque de nos familles, amis et autres compagnons de l'autre.

Now, it is as if I have always been living here. I got used to living and working on the island but there is no routine, no boredom and no tediousness. Already six and a half months, only six and a half months... How can time fly and pass at the same time? Probably because of the novelty of discovering this amazing place, species and being busy on one hand and because we miss families, friends and other companions on the other hand.

The shortest year

I remember the reaction from the people who learnt that I will spend a whole year on a remote island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean. At first, they were happy for me and in the second time they were wondering how I will manage such a long time with so few people and so few things to do. I was unable to answer them in the details, but I said to myself that it should be the occasion to experience new things, new time, and new life... the NEWNESS being the best way to keep awake in your existence. I was right but not as I expected. As everybody, my vision of the life on a remote island was stained by the stereotypes and my concern was to keep busy for repetitive long days. First antidote: reading. Books were the first things that I remember I have prepared for my packing. I was excited to have the occasion to read with receptiveness of mind, and I sorted carefully twenty books to bring in my stuff. I added juggling balls which are efficient ways to empty your mind and to exercise your hands, and some parlour games to have fun with my companions. I also selected some music to complete and my "entertainment stuff" was ready!

Almost all of those haven't been used for the six months we have already spent on the island.

Even if I knew that I will be very busy with the job of field assistant, I could not imagine that Gough Island would absorb all my spare time. This island is like a realm from where you can't escape, titillating your mind every time as you wonder what new sceneries there are to explore beyond the mountain and further north, how is the shoreline along the east coast, how the wildlife changes throughout the seasons...? The sketches that you get at the early stage of your stay bring further questions, and you can never end your attendance, as you have to be aware that all what you experience will happen only once. For the birder, five years on Gough should not be an excessive long time. That may allow you to observe, to compare, to improve your feelings and get intuitive sights about the island. Five years could be also enough time to read all the books I brought plus those provided by the Library of Cape Town.

One more time I notice that the frustration is the counterpart of exciting experiences.

Sylvain

Gough during March. Life always surprises!

This month turned out to be a bit of a challenge for me. I had the bright idea to give up my computer; I think one of the only things that keep me occupied the most and drives the time by quickly. So computer gone, what else will I do than to keep busy!! I decided to study a language I would like to speak because I watch a lot of cartoons and they are usually in Japanese.

It didn't take me long to find the resource I needed to start learning it and I was learning quite quickly also. Most of my time was spent with my nose in notes I have made and trying to get the wording for everything right. Four weeks now and I can basically greet, ask for help, say what I like and dislike, ask for direction and introduce myself. According to the notes I am at the same level as a grade 2 student. Yippee!!

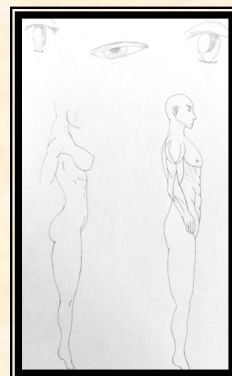
I hit a bit of a platform about a week ago with the studying, the more I learned the less got in. It seemed I needed to take a break and I got into one of the things I always wanted to do since grade 10, drawing. At the moment I am doing basic human anatomy for male and female, which are the basics according to the experts, but I do not want to stop there, I want to see how far I can take it and maybe start drawing scenery and bring back a portrait of Gough Island when I go back home.

One thing I have learned while here it does not take you long to decide what to occupy yourself with, because in life there were things that you always wanted to do, but never had the time for it, guess what, here you have all the time that you need.

Our team is still doing very good as far as I can tell, there are certain days that we can see something is brewing, but it blows over very quickly and without a hitch which I think is very good.

Greeting to all the readers

Gerard

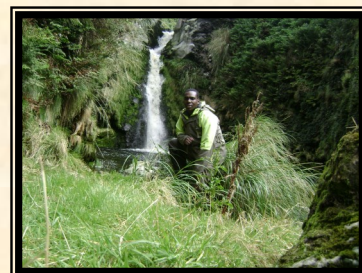
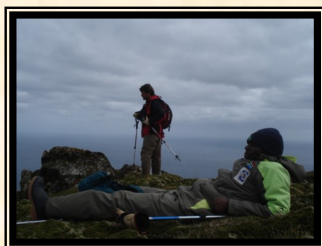


A day out with the birders and so much more

It was raining and I didn't feel like getting up but I told the birders that I'll join them to Gonydale for their Tristan Albatross monitoring. When my alarm went off I still didn't feel like getting up. A part of me was saying, well, if they don't see me they will just leave without me but I also thought that will be kind of rude. Instead of getting up at 05:30, I got up half an hour later, which left me with an hour to prepare myself before we leave. The rain was gone but it was still overcast and a bit windy. The day turned out quite fine though. We did what we went there for and I even enjoyed a nap on the spongy vegetation before going up the top of Greenhill to count those breeding on that side. The counting was the last task for the day at Gonydale and when we checked time it was around 15:30 and it was Karen's turn to cook which meant we had to rush back to the base.

The waterfalls at Swemgat still look amazing even after seeing them about a thousand times. It's more like a place to go relax on a nice day and enjoy the view and the sound of the water as it comes down.

Sunette and Marius invited me again to go fishing during one of my off days. I joined them a bit later and when I got there Sunette had one in the bag already. I felt like it was going to be our day, I was wishing it to be our day but the ocean wasn't happy that day. The swell was coming straight at us with the water sort of constantly moving the lines. When the wind picked up, we knew it wasn't to be. I was still keen but I knew it was best to pack our stuff and leave. It was just not our day but supper was great. With Sunette's catch of the day, the only catch of the day and what we've collected during two previous fishing trips there was enough fresh fish for everyone.



Another day for weighing fur seal pups arrived. The day turned a bit windy around midday but was otherwise fine as there was no sign of rain. On our way there we were actually sweating. Well, another reason for that could have been because we walked fast as we didn't have enough time. We got to Tumbledown after 12:00 and it looked like we were not going to finish our day's work as it was also our turn to cook back at the base. Just before we started we saw this one Rock hopper penguin that was different from the others. Most part of it was white, even the flippers. Despite the males charging at us every now and again, we managed to finish weighing 100 pups by 15:30.

The funny part was that this time we were getting more females than males as we did on the past two occasions. After the 50th female we still had 9 more males to weigh. After weighing the last male pup we washed our hands and faces with the salty ocean water before sitting down for some jelly babies and a slab of chocolate. While we were sitting there we saw one female breast feeding and both of us were seeing that for the very first time. And then it started raining but fortunately our work was done. This was our third time to go to Tumbledown but we still lost the path several times. We also spared some time to look at the Yellow Nosed Albatross chicks some of which have lost their fluffs and the white color looking so bright and beautiful. During supper we mentioned the odd penguin and the birders confirmed it and added that they have spotted two the last time they were there.

The rain was good this month with our standard rain gauge recording 105 mm in 24 hours, the highest since our arrival here. It was also the first time we were reporting heavy rain. That day it rained the whole day, from early morning, around 03:00 until just before 18:00, reaching 21 mm in an hour at some point. And of course the highlight of the month goes to Leo's birthday. I had to save the best for last. Some of us had to search for ideas on Google and we all didn't disappoint. We looked convincing. I've to admit that I've always enjoyed watching pirates and their treasure hunt and I've to thank my younger brother for buying me a pirate hat. It sure made the difference. To the younger generation, I'm not talking about the pirated movies sold illegally on the streets.

I'm talking about the real pirates, kind of, and not the Somali pirates who are robbing ships, killing people and taking hostages. Oh, and sorry Orlando Pirates fans, I'm not talking about those 'sea robbers' either but congratulations to them for winning the biggest derby in the country. I'm talking about movies like Pirates of the Caribbean and there were few of those when we were growing up. There's something funny in Pirates of the Caribbean, 'Dead man's chest'. Those Indians, I think they are Indians; they said 'malekelekeng' and ran to the cliffs. Most Northern Sotho speaking people will relate to that. Well, I think that is what they say. For those who don't know what it means, well, I don't have the exact word but it's got something to do with cliffs, tall building or anything similar.

The party was great; we really had a wonderful time.

So long!

Nkoane



Passing seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks and months!

I hope it doesn't come as a surprise to anyone that I do count all these things! I'm pretty sure our whole team has had moments, as fleeting as they may be for some, where they have also been caught up being mathematicians.

If we didn't then it may likely mean we don't miss anyone! But going on what I have seen and what I have experienced, I can say with certainty, that all of us here are aspiring mathematicians and have spent a fare while figuring out how long we have been gone, and how much longer till the Big Red Taxi comes to pay us a visit. And this shows that we all miss home to some degree.

This becomes ever so evident when you hear someone on the phone, or see them as they just finish chatting to someone at home. Those magnificently crafted smiles that are shaped so joyfully onto their faces tell a story, and paint such a beautiful portrait. And those of you reading this are the artists of these masterpieces which are left for all of us here to enjoy.

The happiness of just one contagious smile flows through the base like a elegant albatross soaring on the currents with such grace.

Credit must be given to the people that form the backbone of this team. For without all of you we would be unable to stand so strong in the face of this challenge. With every moment that passes it is the love and support of everyone standing behind this team that keeps us going.

And with that, I have chosen to dedicate this time spent on this incredible island, to those irreplaceable team members back home that have helped us through with all their love and support that has been indispensable and unfailing! I'm ever so grateful, and I know for certain that the rest of the team will share my sentiments.



But aside from counting the time that passes, we do fill that time with all sorts of odds and ends. And I'll let you in on a couple of our favourite past times out here. Some insight for you into our special place which you all are a part of.

One activity we are all beginning to excel at is cooking. Get dumped on an island with food enough for a year and a half and all the time in the world and you are bound to start loving it. From your typical braai, to a lamb roast or even lobster, boiled, roasted or grilled. You learn to love food and love preparing it. And my word has everybody taken to it with enthusiasm and gusto. It will be clearly visible when we arrive in Cape Town. But we do try and keep the winter padding down as best as possible. And that brings us to another favourite, hiking and gym!

With such an incredible landscape to explore it is no wonder that everyone has at some point been up into the mountains to take in the remarkable panoramic views that are on offer. We hike to experience the beauty of the island and all of its remarkable animal life. The fact that it aids us in staving off our extra layer is actually secondary. I am a healthy by product of an immense opportunity to explore such a unique place. The rudimentary gym is also extremely well utilised, and has been a huge help in keeping us sane and keeping us from tipping the scales.

The only weights we wish to pick up are those found on the racks. The ones we can put right back down when we done. So the exercise is definitely required, and not only because of the food. There is also the aspect of laziness that is to blame. Becoming a couch potato is really easy, and a comfortable lifestyle to adopt when you have several terabytes worth of entertainment and plenty of time to pass. We all enjoy watching a movie every now and then, but out here it becomes more of an occupation. We have all watched our fair share of movies and series. And surprisingly enough it doesn't seem to get old.

On the odd occasion we have been known to pick up a book and indulge in a more traditional and mentally stimulating pastime. Whether it's ink on paper or text on a PC it still counts.



A couple individuals have also been known to grab a guitar and try strumming a few chords. Although the music side of things is still in its infancy, we hoping to have a couple songs written by October. First have to learn to play properly. Little by little we are getting there.

And if things get really tough, we may head over to the bar and throw the music on whilst we play a few games of pool or table tennis. This mixed amongst the occasional beer.

This gives a pretty broad summary of what we get up to and how we get by. I left out the "boring" stuff like work and figured I would indulge you all with our social lives. After all we know you all live for the weekend, and so do we. Our weekends just happen to extend from Friday to Friday.

Hope you enjoyed it and you were able to get a small glimpse into our unique lives.

Till next month

Brendan

Disclaimer Despite what is written, we actually do work. We wish our weekends ran from Friday to Friday.



Pirates day out

Marius



Leo

Boy



Net



The Party of the month. To let the creative juices work and let the party begin. Being pirates was very fitting seeing we are stuck on a island. The night started with a fondo dinner. playing pool and chatting the night away. Laughter was the in thing for the night. **Happy B-day Leo.**

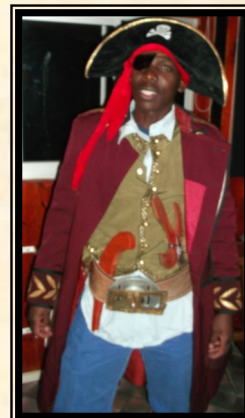
Karen



Sylvain



Nkoane



Bren



CLIMATE STATS: March 2012

Ave. Max Pressure	1011.4hPa
Ave. Min Pressure	1003.2hPa
Ave. Pressure	1007.0hPa
Max Pressure	1018.1hPa
Min Pressure	989.2hPa
Ave. Max Temp	18.0°C
Ave. Min Temp	12.2°C
Ave. Temp	15.1°C
Max Temp	22.0°C
Min Temp	8.1°C
Ave Humidity	81%
Max Humidity	97%
Min Humidity	48%
Max Wind Gust	32.6 m/s or 117.36 km/h
Total Rainfall	361.2 mm
Highest in 24 Hours	99.6 mm
Total days with rain	26 days
Total days >1mm	21 days
Total Sunshine	113.5 hours

Continuing with our evaluation and comparative analysis of monthly climate statistics

We can see the month of March was not much cooler on average when compared to other summer months (January and February), despite the gradual onset of autumn.

January February and March are the hottest months of the year for Gough Island, and according to past averages, the temperature will begin to show a fairly steep drop toward single figure averages as we move into the cooler winter months.

In regards to rainfall we had a rather substantial increase of near 50% over February's total. This month saw 361.2mm of rain fall being measured on 26 days, compared to the 183.8mm that fell in the month of February, on just 19 days. This is the most rain we have experienced since G57 took over in October. It still does not come close to the 512mm that fell on average, from 1964-1993. However, it does surpass the average of 286mm for the period 1993-2001. An increase in rainfall of this nature, from February to March, has been a trend since 1964.

The most rain to fall over a single 24hour period was 99.6mm, which accounts for more than a third of the entire month's rain fall.

The greater amount of expected rainfall, along with the decreasing duration of daylight associated with the transition from summer to autumn/ winter would logically point to fewer hours of sunshine. And as such we received only 113.5 hours of sunshine for the month. This is likely to decrease even further in the coming winter months as the days shorten, and expected rainfall increases, as has been observed since 1964.

March's maximum wind gust of 117.36 km/h was only slightly higher than last months, 110.9km/h. This is still well shy of January's 144.7km/h. However, Gough is notorious for its winter storms and it is likely that January's maximum will be eclipsed in the coming months.

Sponsors

