

Island life, doing things on Marion Island

The Wanderer

**Marion
Gallery**

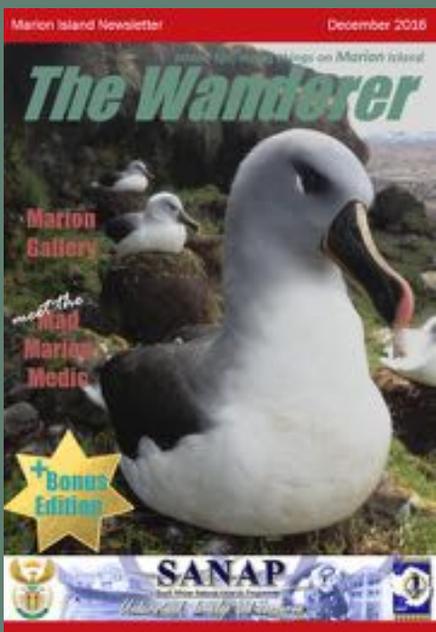
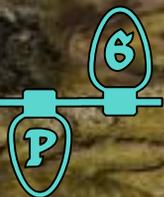
meet the
Mad

**Marion
Medic**

**+ Bonus
Edition**



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Photographer: Kim Stevens

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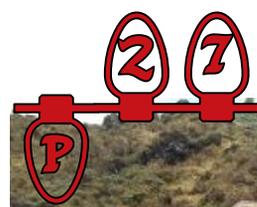
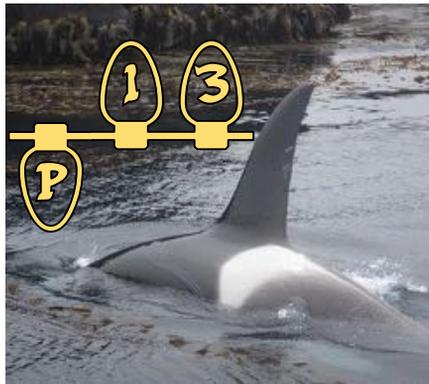
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Christmas Greetings

From Marion 73



LETTER FROM THE

EDITOR

Christmas time...the firm favoured festive season for many. This holiday, for most of us in the real world, is steeped in a sort of festive pandemonium. From organising family holidays, to gift shopping, preparing the feast, and making sure the Christmas tree is decorated just right. Despite the stresses Christmas brings to many, it is eased in the presence of loving friends and family, a time to take a much needed break from a long year and wind down in preparation for the next one.

On Marion, the chaos of Christmas festivities are present too, but take on a different form. Instead of panicking about last minute shopping and queues, we had packages delivered with the ACE cruise, replete with its own challenges such as our remoteness and weather reliant internet. Instead of worrying about breaking our bank accounts in search of personal gifts for 20 separate individuals, we participated in a very special Marion 73 Secret Santa where gifts were hand made (see the bonus edition). And much like everyone at home, before we could wind down for the Christmas break, we still had to meet our work deadlines.

Amidst logger round islands, notebooks containing endless hours of data entry, vegetation plots requiring days of counting grasses, 10-hour rainy Killer Whale observations on the rock, counting and

weighing new-born fur seal pups, monitoring multitudinous Macaroni colonies, deploying devices on an array of Albatross species, and so much more, the M73 team also performed a stretcher rescue (see more about Team cohesion on pg. 26). Each person was involved in some way, whether showing emotional support, carrying the stretcher, preparing dinner or being the teams waterboy on the 5 hour journey from Kildalkey Hut to base. We all came together in this time of need, reaffirming our bond as a team and as a family; underpinning the very spirit of Christmas-togetherness. I would like to congratulate M73 on a very successful rescue, and thank the DEA for their vigorous support during this time.

Since so much happened in December, I have created a special bumper edition, featuring Christmas, the ACE cruise and New Years Celebrations. We immensely enjoyed the company and excitement of the ACE cruise, as well as our first and only Christmas as M73. It was truly an "ACE" Christmas.

Merry
CHRISTMAS

CAMILLA KOTZÉ
EDITOR

News Flash

FLEDGLINGS FLEDGE

We have come full circle with the Wandering Albatrosses (Walbies)! When M73 arrived, monitoring of the chicks had begun whilst they were under the protection of their parents 3m wing span. Fast forward 8 months and they have morphed from fur balls into curious adolescents. Most have already taken their maiden flight, including Fred (the resident Walbie watched from our dining room window throughout the year as we sipped our morning coffee), only to return to Marion in 5-7years time. Good-bye not so little guys, you will be missed.



The Weird and Wonderful

Over the last month, some uncommon creatures to Marion, although not uncommon to the sub-Antarctic, have been spotted around the Island. The PFAIO birders' Grey-Headed colonies have been receiving regular visits from a Black-Browed Albatross (top right), the sealers stumbled upon an Indian-Yellow nosed Albatross (left), and Kyle came across a ginger seal (bottom right)! See the following page for another weird and wonderful species spotted by our O&C birders.



Love affair in the wilderness: Tail of a Pintado

by Deo Masotla



There are some places on the Island where you don't expect to find thriving life, but often if you pay a little more attention, you'll see something worth your eyes. During our November "around the Island" census, Albert and I were fortunate to come across four breeding pairs of Pintado petrels (formally known as the Cape petrel), something we didn't expect, let alone on the skirts of lava rocks. Pintado's are a rare sight to come across on Marion, but are quite a spectacle when you do see them, with their boldly patterned plumage and their pigeon like demeanour, they are hard to overlook. One can easily spend the whole year on the Island without even a glimpse at most. Which makes these independent sightings a privilege. We spent some time simply sitting, taking pictures and watching a pair preening (the action of two birds grooming each other). If I had to be a bird on Marion, I'd be a Pintado, rare, beautiful and interesting.

Breeding is at the heart of life. It is a fundamental prerequisite for a species survival, as such, by means of evolution each species has developed a breeding strategy which works for that particular species. Pintado's have a monogamous breeding strategy, meaning they will have exclusively one mate for at least a breeding season, and both partners will share parental responsibilities in upbringing the young. They lay one egg and will devote all their efforts to their offspring's survival. Whether one parent puts more effort in rearing the young than the other is debatable, what's not debatable however, is the pleasure of their ethereal presence.





Ultamate

Accessories

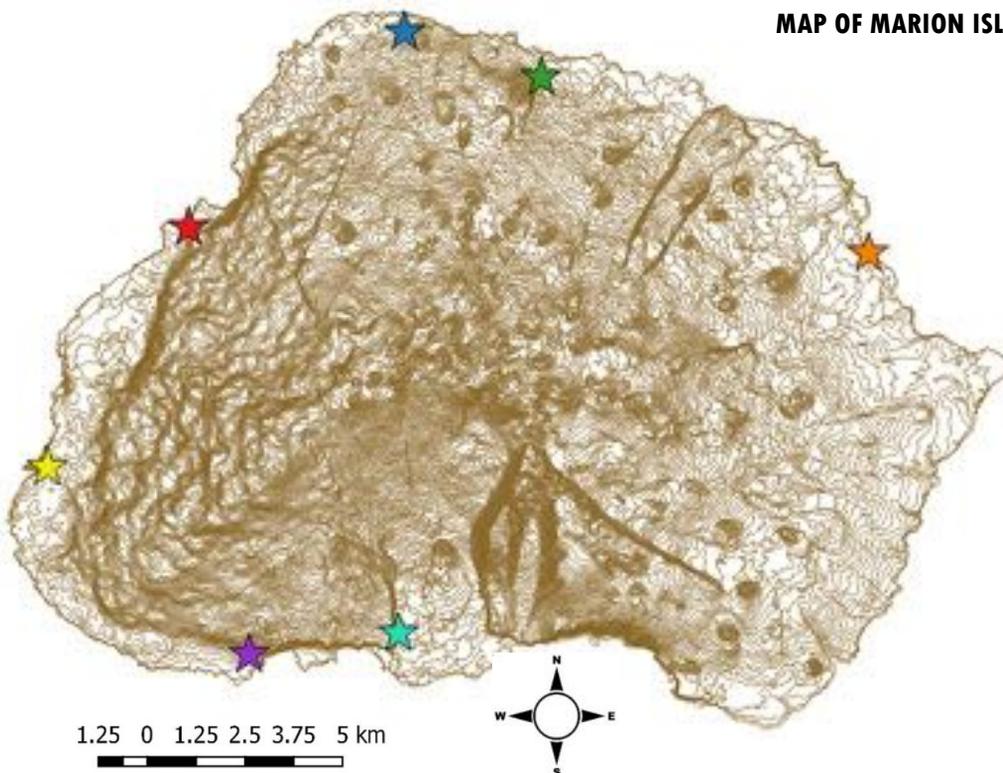
TEXT AND PHOTOS BY CAMILLA KOTZÉ

'Tis the season to be jolly, fala-lalala-la-la-la-la!
This Rudolph Red beanie is perfect for spreading Christmas cheer around base!
Thanks to 'model of the month', Kim Stevens, for this fabulous festive look!



Readers' Round Island

MAP OF MARION ISLAND: Position of Grey-headed



LEGEND

- ★ Cape Davis
- ★ Grey Headed
- ★ Mixed Pickle
- ★ Repetto's
- ★ Rooks
- ★ Swartkop's
- ★ The Buttermut Hotel
- Contours

1.25 0 1.25 2.5 3.75 5 km



Grey-headed

by Camilla Kotzé

The Albatross' Paradise

View of Grey-headed hut from the Ridge. Its named after the hundreds of Grey-headed Albatross nesting on the Ridge; a great place to enjoy a hot beverage whilst sitting quietly amongst the colony. Watch your head for the low-flyers, you will hear them before you see them, ZOOM!

Photo by Kim Stevens



Grey-headed hut is the prototype for the new hut design on the island. It is embellished with a few improvements; Orange, Sliding door, Solar L.E.D. lights, Rain-water collection, and a Raised curved roof.

This respectively means a prettier, safer (door won't rip your arm out of its socket on a windy day), and environmentally sustainable hut (using solar panels and gutters for accumulating power and water), with ample room to manoeuvre on the top bunk without bonking your head in the middle of the night.



Photo by Camilla Kotzé

The Walk from Rook's to Grey-headed

You start the journey with an ascent onto the escarpment, keeping the ocean on your right. Along the way you will pass Rooks Peninsula and numerous waterfalls plummeting over the cliff edges.

In less than two hours you will be at Grey-headed Ridge and lay eyes upon the hut for the first time. Nestled in a lava free depression amongst the black lavas of the Santa Rosa Valley, Grey-headed is perfectly placed. But before you get to the hut,



ROOKS PENINSULA: Photo by Alta Zietsman

you have to descend the Ridge. Not to worry; a ladder is provided for the cliff section, so no need to resort to a make-shift parachute using your hiking bags rain cover!



View from the lighthouse

Photo by Kim Stevens

HUT RECIPE OF THE MONTH

PIZZA

Ingredients

Self raising flour: 250g
 Oil: 1tbsp
 Condensed Milk: 1tbsp
 Milk Powder: 2tbsp
 Warm Water: 1cup

Toppings

Soya Mince: 1 packet
 Chutney: 1tbsp
 Tomato Sauce: 1tbsp
 Mushrooms: 1tin
 Water: 1cup
 Cheese: 1 block

by Alta Zietsman & Marileen Carstens



Method

- Mix all the ingredients for the dough together until dough makes a ball. Add more water or flour if needed.
- Roll dough out into a circle that will fit into a frying pan.
- Fry rolled out dough in a frying pan. Flip dough to ensure that both sides are brown.
- Spread out tomato sauce evenly on one side of the dough.
- Add water, chutney, dried onion, mushrooms and soya mince together in a pot and cook until soya mince is not runny.
- Spread soya mince over dough.
- Add grated cheese over the topping.
- Fry pizza in pan (covered with lid) until cheese is melted.

MAXIMUM WIND GUST	171,7 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL	146,4 mm
HIGHEST IN 24 HOURS	24 mm
TOTAL DAYS WITH RAIN	27 days
TOTAL DAYS > 1 MM	21 days
TOTAL SUNSHINE	119.6 hours

SAWS STATS

November

	AVE	MAX	MIN
TEMPERATURE (°C)	5.5	8.3	2.8
PRESSURE (hPa)	995.5	1018.8	968
HUMIDITY (%)	79	100	42

A little-known historical site on Marion Island requires rediscovery

John Cooper, Antarctic Legacy of South Africa, Department of Botany & Zoology, Stellenbosch University

PHOTO: Greg Hofmeyr stands within the shelter below Laekop in 1992

In the north-western corner of Marion Island lies the Devil's Footprint.

A region of tumbled and partially vegetated black lava ridges running down to the coast between Cape Davis and Triegaardt Bay, it is little visited, being off the usual round-island route and away from the more notable seabird colonies and seal aggregations. A little distance above these ridges is Laekop, a red scoria mound where in the cat shooter days a ski cabin was located nearby, and which lies on one commonly hiked routes between the field huts situated near Cape Davis and Mixed Pickle Cove.

Below Laekop but some distance from the sea among the black lava, lies a little-known historical site, dating prior to South Africa's annexation of the Prince Edward Islands in 1948. What is thought to be this site was first described by biologist R.W. 'Bob' Rand who was on the island with the Eighth Team (M8) over the summer of 1951/52. He reported the remains of a shelter with planks and pottery north of Triegaardt Bay but did not leave a description of the site's locality

Marthán Bester (M33, M38 & M43, 1976, 1981 & 1986) also came across a historical site away from the coast below Laekop while on a round-island in October/November 1976. Marthán remembers seeing some canvas at the site he found. About a decade later, the cat shooters walked just about the whole island and a historical site in the general vicinity was then known as has been reported to the Antarctic Legacy of South Africa by André Botha (M46 & M47, 1989-1990).

Frustratingly, no photographs have come to light until very recently when Greg Hofmeyr (M49, M51 & M63, 1992, 1994 & 2003) contacted ALSA with the picture illustrated here, taken in 1992 about halfway between Laekop and the coast. Greg describes a stone wall, about 1.5 m high, which is

visible behind him in the photo, along with some wooden planks making a rough shelter. He did not remember seeing canvas or pottery.

But the story does not end there. On seeing Greg's photo this month, André says that this is not the site he found, so maybe there are two historical sites below Laekop. He further reports "I found some planks and what looked like an enamel-type bowl sticking out. I went back to the Laekop hut and fetched a spade and returned to the site. The site has no clear natural markings and I remember feeling lucky that I found it again. After a dig or two I found some old bottles. The site is approximately 200 m inland, between a maze of typical Laekop terrain." Archaeologist Jaco Boshoff, with André as a guide, tried to find this site during the 2011 relief but they were unsuccessful.

Why a shelter – or shelters - was built away from the coast is not known, although perhaps some sealers took an inland short cut and needed to over-night. Nearly all the known historical sites on Marion Island from the era of exploitation of fur and elephant seals dating from c. 1804 to 1930 are situated right on the coast or within a few tens of metres of it.

What is now desired is for team members who go into the field and have a few hours to spare while in the vicinity to have a look around among the vegetated black lava below Laekop. Any shelters found should be described and photographed and their co-ordinates taken. However, exposed artefacts, included wooden planks, should only be examined visually and not physically handled, moved or collected in terms of the islands' management plan.

With thanks to Marthán Bester, Jaco Boshoff, André Botha and Greg Hofmeyr.

Gallery

A selection of excellent photographs taken by our team members



WINNER

'Blue-Steel' by Kim Stevens

This Walbie Chick has an unusual ocular rarity caused by abnormal melanin levels, known as *heterochromia iridis*, giving it a single blue eye. Heterochromia can either be inherited or caused by disease or injury.



2nd & 3rd

TOP: 'Arctic Tern' by Nasreen Khan
BOTTOM: 'Ocean Teal' by Kyle Lloyd





Highly Commended

TOP: 'The Swanky Shag' by Nasreen Khan

BOTTOM: 'Walbie Chick' by Kim Stevens





Highly Commended

TOP: 'Cuddle Puddle' by Kyle Lloyd

BOTTOM: 'Weigh Weaners while the sun shines' by Kyle Lloyd





Highly Commended

TOP: 'Moving in for the Kill'
MIDDLE: 'Blowing Bubbles'
BOTTOM: 'Bubble Aftermath'
by Kyle Lloyd



On the 15th of December, a pod of Killer Whales came past Kill Point causing a raucous in the ocean. The tea drinkers watching from the dining window in base noticed the activity on the water; alerting the base inhabitants to a free Killer Whale show in the bay. The flocks of Giant Petrels were a dead give away to the Killer Whales activity, as they hang around, hoping for scraps of food to float their way.



The whales had cordoned off a shoal of fish in the bay and continuously blew bubbles to stun them, bringing them to the surface. It was a wondrous spectacle which continued for at least an hour.

Just another day on Marion Island folks ;-)



Highly Commended

TOP: 'Landfall Beach Master Champion (two breeding seasons in a row)' by Kyle Lloyd

BOTTOM: 'The Landfall Loser' by Kyle Lloyd





Highly Commended

TOP: 'Passionate Preening' by Kyle Lloyd
BOTTOM: 'Bullard South Bathing' by Kyle Lloyd





Highly Commended

TOP: 'The Hunter and the Prey' by Camilla Kotzé
BOTTOM: 'Skewers left-overs' by Camilla Kotzé



Highly Commended; GP three ways:

TOP: by Phillip Chibage



Middle: by Kyle Lloyd



BOTTOM: by Camilla Kotzé





Highly Commended

TOP: 'Grey Petrel' by Kim Stevens

BOTTOM: 'White-Chinned Petrel Pair' by Camilla Kotzé





Highly Commended

TOP: 'Kelp Gull in Flight' by Camilla Kotzé
BOTTOM: 'Posing Paddy' by Camilla Kotzé





Highly Commended

TOP: 'Hooker Beach' by Kyle Lloyd

BOTTOM: 'Orca of the Ocean' by Nasreen Khan





Highly Commended

TOP: 'Base Sunrise' by Louise Gadney

BOTTOM: 'Greenhill Sunset' by Nasreen Khan





Highly Commended

TOP LEFT: 'Babbling Brook' by Camilla Kotzé; TOP RIGHT: 'Ice Patterns' by Kyle Lloyd; MIDDLE RIGHT:
'Amethyst Ocean' by Camilla Kotzé
BOTTOM: 'Van den Boogart Reflections' by Kim Stevens





Highly Commended
TOP LEFT: 'Mating Pair' by Louise
Gadney
MIDDLE RIGHT: 'Skua Egg' by Kyle
Lloyd
BOTTOM LEFT: 'Cotula Mouse' by
Camilla Kotzé
BOTTOM: 'Aphid' by Kyle Lloyd





EARTH'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH THE MOON



It's the brightest and the closest supermoon of the year

It's the largest supermoon since 1948—almost 70 years

The moon will appear 14% bigger and 30% brighter

Today the moon will come within 3,56,508 kms of earth. The average distance between the two is 3,884,402 km

The next time the moon will be this close will be in November 25, 2034



Best time to watch?

After dusk, when the moon is just above the horizon. Try a quiet, high spot away from light pollution of a city

Highly Commended

'Supermoon on November 14th as seen from Marion Island'
by Nasreen Khan

THANDO'S THROW BACK



-THANDO'S WHITE CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

October got us singing 'jingle bells, jingle all the way'; we had the best snow ever. Louise had this brilliant idea of taking out the Christmas tree to take pictures just in case we don't get such beautiful snow in December. Her idea was met with great excitement from Travis and I, snow soldiers, braving a cold afternoon in the name of Christmas. Who would have thought a Zulu girl from KZN, where chances of snow are 0 in a 100, would come to Marion and experience God's awesomeness. Seeing snow for the first time in my 23 years on this earth was super amazing and was met with gratitude and excitement. I've seen so much beauty on this island, things back home we're not privileged to see or experience. For example, we don't just wake up to the sound of pups (Mixed pickle hut), it's always chickens, especially in my grandmother's house though I miss it. We don't have such amazing plant diversity, even though its limited but still it's quite nice, though I miss seeing a tree☺. We don't get to walk above 5km just to get to get to your site and along the way see amazing sites, though I miss seeing a car☺. Only left with less than 5 months here and already I'm trying to capture and see more sites. Though it hasn't snow that much in December, I am still holding on to my dream of a white Christmas, please mother Marion grant my dream☺. I will take this time and send a shout out to my family the Mhlongo's and the Buthelezi's (Mostly my mommy Thandi, my sisters Skhulile, masie and Lungelo, my brothers Khetha and Wandile, family babies Ziyanda and Sbonga; I love you dearly), and all the team (M73) member's families wishing them a fabulous Christmas and a prosperous New Year, I know you miss us and we miss and love you all even more.

To Susan Vosloo:

Thank you for always sharing your kind words of encouragement with the team, we really appreciate all you do.



Years back, a psychologist told me 'to everything there is an end'. This sounded almost harsh to me, I thought 'really!' but with time I realised this is true...Our lives have lots of beginnings and endings, we have seasons in our life, some last long and some finish fast. Some are wonderful and some have hardships, the wonderful seasons are so nice and we want them to last forever but it is in the hard times that we really learn. The bad times teach us to be patient, to depend on others for support. How we deal with this season is the key. Love never fails; never underestimate this, we are created to be with people and love one another. Love is powerful and is the same as light, light brings life, plants need light to grow and so do we. Enjoy this festive season and make every day count.

Shalom!!!! Susan

Team Cohesion

by JJ Skelete



Text completo (Full Text)

Team cohesion is the degree to which individual members want to contribute to the group's ability to continue as a functioning work unit. Members of cohesive teams have emotional and social bonds that link them to one another and to the group as a whole. These ties enable members to sustain their efforts on behalf of the team and make it more likely that the team will achieve its goals.

How Cohesion Develops

Team cohesion develops over time. Social scientists have explained the phenomenon of group cohesiveness in different ways. Some suggest that cohesiveness among group members develops from a heightened sense of belonging, as well as from collaboration and interdependence. Others note that cohesion comes from the interpersonal and group-level attraction common between people who share similar backgrounds and interests. Because teams have clear boundaries regarding membership, [barriers](#) to belonging also contribute to cohesion

Consequences of Cohesion

Team cohesion is related to a range of positive and negative consequences. Cohesion creates a stronger sense of commitment to goals, which motivates higher individual effort and [performance](#). Members of more cohesive groups tend to communicate with one another in a more positive fashion than those of less cohesive groups. As a result, members of cohesive groups often report higher levels of satisfaction and lower levels of anxiety and tension. This can improve [decision making](#) and encourage greater participation. Finally, by maintaining membership cohesive teams are able to continue to pursue new goals once they have fulfilled their original purpose. This makes allocation of resources more [efficient](#), since an existing cohesive team can perform well and more quickly than a newly formed one.

“The moral of the story is that, the end results are conclusively positive and satisfactory”





I have been introduced as a Mad Marion Medic and well hello that is me. Not totally mad I can assure you and it actually represents M=Meticulous and methodical A=Attention to D=Detail. Characteristic qualities that often annoy others but for my entire fellow nurses whom may be following my Marion Adventures, they know THAT these INGRAINED NURSING HABITS SAVE LIVES. "Life is a JOY when you Love what you do".

So a little about myself and how I got to be part of M73. My first over-wintering Expedition, M71 2014/2015, opened my eyes to this wondrous island with all its moods, beauty and God given creatures. Although I have nursed in the Operating theatres, Intensive Care and Trauma units for the past 30 plus years, my heart very much belongs out in nature. I like to consider myself an avid amateur conservationist. Back in South Africa I support SANPARKS as an Honorary Ranger for the Table Mountain National Park region, where if I am not helping with their Junior Ranger program you will then find me patrolling the African Penguins at Simons Town Boulders beach Sanctuary or removing graffiti from Historical sites on the mountain or hacking to remove alien vegetation.



But I am transgressing. Ok back to being the M73 medic. I applied quite late, so prayed night and day that I would be needed. "Trust in the Lord with all your Heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight", Proverbs 3:5-6. My desire was answered so here I am blessed again to experience another over-wintering Expedition, my Marion Adventure part III. I have left behind my two adult daughters, a married son in America, a treasured granddaughter, a devoted Mum, sister and brothers, nieces and nephews and three irate cats. As cats go, everyone knows they do not forgive quickly and as this is their second over-wintering boarding session, I expect I will be treated with sullen disdain despite their adopted Mum, Carol Mancktelon giving them adoring care.

It has been an eventful and quite busy year as the Medic but I have thrived. "Worry ends when Faith begins". You are exactly where God wants you to be at this very moment. Every experience is part of his Divine Plan"

As a Christian I know I am making a difference, growing in character and attitude. "Do not go back to something God has already rescued you from". I may not walk into the field as much as I would like but I gain joy listening to the team marvelling about their experiences on this amazing island. I often love to just sit, watching the sea, its ebb and flow with the hypnotic drift of the kelp that clings to the rocky shores. Snuggling into the *blechnum* slopes, one can almost hear the plants growing and I wonder about the busy microscopic life beneath me. When the wind is still, the island can be very silent. Bird's wheel and whirl overhead but do not cry out. It can be quite surreal, soothingly peaceful, surprisingly comforting and not lonely. It is as if I was living interdependently with the environment, feeling a profound sense of connection with life. "We are all one, no matter in what form, space or time". The orcas, seals and penguins just carry on as they have always done but I still ask the question- What goes on in the minds of animals.



Challenging myself to be first and foremost self-questioning. I have a romantic need that seeks to connect our marauding humankind to the gentle voices of our external world, to recognise our own humility, to learn from nature. It is a profound enigma that perhaps these last 50 years of Research on Marion will give some understanding to these most intriguing creatures with which we share our planet.

As this is a Christmas edition I cannot go without saying "And she will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" Matthew 1:18-21. With still a few months to go I reassure you with this "the greatest adventures of all are the ones that bring us home to those we love". "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer" Romans 12:12. We will soon be home and know that we know that you love us.

BIRTHDAYS



ALTA

GERALD



LOUISE

