

Island life, doing things on Marion Island

The Wanderer



*an
Christmas*

New Team Member

New Years

**New-born
Gallery**



SANAP

South African National Antarctic Programme

Understand, develop and conserve



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Photo by Nasreen Khan



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Cover: ACE Ship and Helicopter
Photographer: Deo Makhudu Masotla



Dec 2016



You will notice that the word NEW appears on the cover of this bonus Christmas edition three times. All of the action that was bundled into the month of December can be likened to fire sweeping through a forest of Fynbos. It spreads swiftly and burns bright, but eventually through the ashes, everything starts over anew. The team received an augmentation of food and medical supplies generously provided by the DEA, a new radio technician, and an abundance of gifts from home, from one another and from the ACE. The island has also begun a period of rejuvenation, transforming from browns to greens and young life at every turn, which is displayed in our *New-Born Gallery*.

Nevertheless, with 'fire' there is always loss and it is with heavy hearts that M73 recently bid a temporary farewell to one of our most beloved, tenacious, hard-working and fun-loving team members, Jessie Berndt.

She is doing well and is as chipper as ever, but has been taken home for a proper recovery. Currently on board the ACE cruise bound for Hobart, she is in very good hands and will be home with loving family and friends soon. She has her very own roomy cabin and a window through which to spy the islands the ACE cruise will be stopping at on their journey to Australia.

Her presence around base will be sorely missed, but we know we will see her happy face again at the docks in Cape Town upon our return in early May. I have put together a timeline of some of the special moments Jessie and I shared this year. Enjoy the happy memories Jess, we love you and take care China Bean.

Overall, we are all proud to be members of Marion 73. We have overcome a lot together in 2016, so to whatever may come in 2017, we say "Bring it On!". Happy New Year everyone, may 2017 be a great one. And if the tough gets going, remember that every struggle in your life has shaped you into the person you are today, so be thankful for the hard times, they can only make you stronger!

CAMILLA KOTZÉ
EDITOR





FLIGHT TO MARION



INITIATION



MAY-OUR 1ST
ADVENTURE



JUNE-OUR 1ST
ROUND ISLAND



JULY



AUGUST



OCTOBER



DECEMBER ROUND ISLAND: OUR FINAL ADVENTURE



On Christmas eve, some members of the M73 found themselves in the braai room singing Christmas jingles over festive beverages in order to muster some holiday cheer. There was a slight chill in the air, blowing in from the snow-capped tips of Marion's interior. A light dusting of snow fell on the evening of the 23rd, teasing us with the prospect of a white Christmas (however, it was a wet one instead). The clouds over the ocean were a magnificent electric blue on Christmas eve, mirroring the charge of excitement felt by the team in anticipation of Christmas day and the arrival of the ACE cruise.

That evening, the team participated in a Secret Santa where numbers were drawn from a hat denoting the order in which gifts were picked. Christiaan had first choice and Albert last. After exchanging amongst ourselves, we tore open our anonymous prize!

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS BISCUITS

Photo by Marileen Carstens



CHRISTMAS BISCUITS

Photo by Marileen Carstens

CHRISTMAS EVE FROM THE BRAAI ROOM

Photo by Camilla Kotzé



SECRET SANTA WITH JESS

Photo by Phillip Chibage



THE VIP TREE

Photo by Camilla Kotzé





CHRISTMAS DAY



CHRISTMAS MORNING
Photo by Marileen Carstens

Christmas day was bright and sunny. It started off with a Christmas breakfast table in the dining room generously set by Elana who had baked muffins and scones for the team. The biscuits were whipped up by Marileen and Alta, tasty morsels in the form of Christmas trees and cherry circles.



CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST
Photo by Marileen Carstens



CHRISTMAS FEAST SETUP
Photo by Marileen Carstens

With the ACE cruise in the vicinity of Marion and no confirmed time of arrival, M73 decided to go ahead with the Christmas feast preparations. Traditionally, we had a braai as well as a 'lekker kerrie', which was topped off with apple pie and custard. By evenings arrival, the ACE cruise was anchored just outside our front door.



JOHN & CAMILLA
Photo by Louise Gadney



FEAST
Photo by Louise Gadney



LOUISE & JESS
Photo by Louise Gadney



ENJOYING A MEAL TOGETHER
Photo by Louise Gadney

New-born Gallery

A selection of excellent photographs taken by our team members



An Imperial Crozet Shag and it's Chicks
by Camilla Kotzé



Imperial Crozet Shags and Chicks

by Camilla Kotzé





Giant Petrels and Chicks

TOP by Jessie Berndt

MIDDLE by Camilla Kotzé

BOTTOM by Deo Masotla





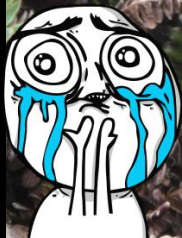
Skua Chicks

TOP LEFT by Louise Gadney

TOP RIGHT by Deo Masotla

MIDDLE by Kim Stevens

BOTTOM RIGHT by Nasreen Khan





Grey-Headed Albatross and Chick
by Kim Stevens





Dark-Mantled Sooty Albatross and Chick

TOP by Nasreen Khan and Jessie Berndt

BOTTOM by Deo Masotla





Macaroni Penguin Chicks
by Albert Snyman





Mums and Pups
by Kyle Lloyd





Fur Seal Pups

TOP by Nasreen Khan
BOTTOM by Kyle Lloyd



Arrival of the ACE



Photo by Marileen Carstens

The sunshine, having expended itself on Christmas day, left Boxing day dark with heavy rain clouds which encircled Marion base. It follows naturally then that the flights were delayed slightly, but eventually the first one came in around 7:10am, bringing with it David Walton (the Chief Scientist on the ACE) as well as a couple other VIPs.

The morning was replete with passenger and cargo flights which kept the M73 ECO's busy as they had to thoroughly check any gear, equipment and packages brought over by the ACE members. Shortly after, field parties had coordinated themselves and set out for a day of work in the drizzle, each group with a Marion field assistant to guide them (see next page).

Some ACE members remained in Marion base for a spectacular lunch of butter chicken prepared by our Killer Whaler, Nasreen.



ARRIVAL OF FIRST FLIGHT
Photo by Kim Stevens



ECO'S AT WORK
Photo by Deo Masotla



UNPACKING M73 SUGAR BAGS
Photo by Marileen Carstens



SOME M73 & ACE Members
Photo by Deo Masotla



HEADING OUT
Photo by Marileen Carstens



RUSSIANS PHOTO OP AT THE OLD BASE
Photo by Deo Masotla



SCIENCE AT SHIPS
Photo by Kim Stevens



TOURING AT SHIPS
Photo by Deo Masotla



KIM AND CHRISTIAAN SUITED UP FOR THEIR SEARCH
AND RESCUE FLIGHT
Photo by Marileen Carstens

The 26th of December was a busy day for all indeed, but the excitement did not stop at the end of a field day like it normally does. That evening, M73 hosted three lovely ladies for the night. And on a more stressful note, we received news of a missing Russian team of three. Our evening search party was unsuccessful in finding the missing group and so, on the morning of the 27th, the M73 field assistants head out on a search and rescue mission at first light. Thankfully our search party hadn't gotten too far before the lost Russian team made contact with the Base. Immediately, both ACE helicopters were deployed, each carrying an experienced M73 team member to aid in locating the Russians amongst the Marion landscape.

They were quickly found and immediately returned to the vessel for a warm shower. Surprisingly and thankfully, the Russian group were fine, it seems that a cool Marion night has nothing on the Russian equivalent.

The rest of the day on the 27th of December was spent tying up the last of the field work. Unfortunately, the weather was still living up to Marion standards with gale-force winds and drizzle which kept a group of 18 ACE members with us for the night. M73 prepared dinner for our guests and hosted a party for them in the bar with some refreshments, snacks, games and dancing.



WE LIKE TO PARTY
Photos by Deo Masotla



The next morning (28th), flights started just after 5am. We said our goodbyes to our guests and before long, they had all been shuttled onto the vessel by helicopter. By midday, the Academia Treshnikov raised anchor, turned away from the island and set sail for her next destination.

For more information on the events surrounding the ACE cruise and their visit to Marion, have a look at their blog <http://spi-ace-expedition.ch/inside-marion/>



SAYING OUR FAREWELLS
Photo by Marileen Carstens



FINAL FLIGHT
Photo by Marileen Carstens



SAILING AWAY
Photo by Marileen Carstens



LINDT BALLS
Photo by Marileen Carstens

Thank-you for the Gifts...

M73 would like to thank the ACE cruise for the divine Christmas gifts; chocolate and wine is always a winning combination. And a very special thank-you to Steven Chown for giving each M73 member a copy of *Marion & Prince Edward: Africa's Southern Islands*. We will treasure it always.



Photo by Christiaan Willem Brink

New TEAM MEMBER

Meet David

M73 is now comprised of 13 guys and 9 girls. This is David, our new Radio Tech and the biggest parcel to arrive with the ACE cruise on boxing day. He quickly settled into the role, having over-wintered twice before on the island as part of M52 and M70. Here is his account of the short time he spent on the ACE cruise.

Radio Technician



Name: David Hartzenberg
Age: 42
Home language: Afrikaans
Hometown: Belville, Cape Town

An ACE Experience

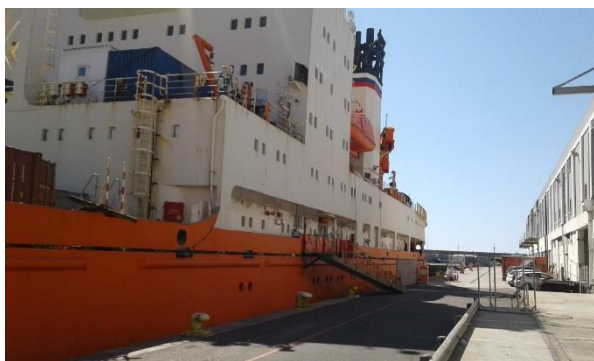
TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DAVID HARTZENBERG

On Tuesday the 20th of December, the Russian ship, Academia Treshnikov, departed from Cape Town to start a circumnavigational voyage around Antarctica. On board were several scientists from all over the world, including 6 South Africans. The first stop for them would be Marion Island. One passenger, however, was not a scientist but a technician on his way to Marion Island. That passenger was me, David. I was on my way to Marion to assume the position of the Communications Technician for the current and following over wintering team.

Departure day was filled with mixed emotions. The excitement of going back to Marion, and also the sadness of saying good bye to friends and family. It will some time before I see them again.

I got myself lost on the ship very often for the first day or two, and since all the markings were in Russian, it did not help me at all. Eventually I learned my way round the ship and also made a few new friends. Meal times were the most interesting times. You hardly heard English among the German, French and Russian spoken by most on board, but almost all could understand English and speak it in some way or another. The kitchen staff was Russian with only one young lady able to speak poor English. The food was Russian based too. This was a new style of food and we often speculated that it was that we were eating.

Just as I started to find my sea legs, we reached Marion and once again I cast my eyes on my home, away from home. The voyage down was a unique experience and I am so thankful that I could have been part of the brief part of the ACE adventure.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

