Being poor sailors the voyage to SANAE was a nightmare for some of us and the infamous Roaring Forties and Terrible Fifties took its toll.

Our slow progress through the pack ice provided ample time to admire the spectacular tabular icebergs and to shoot 11 seals—mostly crabeaters and Weddell seals—to serve as food for the huskies at the base. The notorious leopard seal however, kept clear of our sight.

Our journey southwards took 20 days and on arrival we were most heartily welcomed by members of SANAE III. The tedious task of unloading the 150 tons of provisions, petrol and diesoline drums left us just about spiritless. On 23rd January, 1963 at 02.00 GMT we took leave of the RSA.

A trip to the mountains was our first major task; four of us left the comfort of the Base on a 3-weeks' trek. En route from Dassiekop to Leeukop seven crevasses were crossed—some being 12 to 15 feet in width. Observations at a later stage indicated that these crevasses practically terminate near Dassiekop where they could be crossed with ease and safety.

As from Muskeg Depot we set out in a WSW direction to Tommeliten and Lorentzenpiggen where we spent two weeks collecting geological samples. Furthermore meteorological observations were taken at regular intervals, while the rammsondes, spire boreholes and proton magnetometer were other tasks that had to be performed. All the same, we spent a busy and enjoyable three weeks in the fields.

Before the actual onset of the winter we had two major tasks to perform—the dog tunnel had to be extended by 50 feet and one of the Bolinder diesel engines had to be transferred from Norway Station to SANAE. After a week's hard labouring we were reassured that our dogs would spend the winter in comfort. To shift the Bolinder, five men had to work continuously in cold weather for 10 days. At last we had both the Bolinder and the Redifon transmitters removed. We awaited the appearance of the first Aurora Australis eagerly; it appeared for the first time on 14th April but was rather disappointing. The geophysicist spent hours in a temperature of − 30°C or even lower, recording these phenomenae.

Efforts were being made to obtain more accurate drift snow measurements. The apparatus designed for this purpose in Pretoria did not record successfully. The radiosonde ascents at 24.00 GMT presented the usual difficulties during storms.

The ionospheric transmissions interrupted every 15 minutes some music or an important news flash, but we got used to it. With the partial eclipse in January 1964, these transmissions were repeated at 5-minute intervals.

July was our worst month as far as the weather was concerned. At 06.00 GMT on the 1st we experienced the worst gale of the year with a peak velocity of 105 knots and on 26th July, four days after the sun appeared above the southern horizon the thermometer registered the minimum temperature of − 46.3°C.

After the winter, we undertook journeys to Polarsikelbukta, the Sub-station and Otterbukta. Early in August the pack ice in Polarsirkelbukta disintegrated and open water was visible. However, a week later the ice was driven back by the wind.

The crevasses on both sides of Polarsirkelbukta have enlarged considerably and it appears that the gradient to the east is definitely steeper. Apparently a part of this Bukta will be carved off as an ice-berg in the near future.

Two of our dogs died during our stay—Oscar, the leader, had to be put to sleep because of festering wounds and Bruno's death as due to peritonitis.

Monthly blood samples were taken by our Medical Officer from each member and analysed; the vitamin content of our food was constantly checked and ever so often an aching tooth had to be extracted or a cut finger bandaged.

The hospital was extremely well equipped—from suntan lotion to the most delicate surgical instruments. The value of the hospital proved itself on two occasions when members of the expedition were seriously injured in accidents. On one of these occasions an emergency operation which resulted in the amputation of two fingers had to be performed on the Senior Mechanic.

Our second journey to the mountains started on 29th October after we had to cancel our departure several times due to stormy weather. The greater part of the 51 days was spent in the vicinity of the Istind complex, south-west of Jekselen; and to the west at Valterkulten, Nupshamrane, Auruupen and Flarjuven. It was here at Flarjuven that we came across a rippling mountain stream to our surprise.

Eventually it was our turn to welcome back the RSA; a heavy heart we took leave of our two friends who volunteered to stay on for another year.

I would like to conclude with this quotation from *The Crossing of the Antarctic* by Sir Vivian Fuchs:

"This was the end of the expedition as the public saw it, but for us it is the beginning of a new endeavour—for now we must produce the results, which we believe, will justify the early faith and vision of all those who supported us in the beginning and sustained us to the end."

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# Nuus van die Vereniging

### Vergadering van 24e Februarie 1964

Na die rustyd van die somermaande is die eerste vergadering van die jaar op die 24e Februarie in Pretoria gehou, met 27 lede en 4 nie-lede aanwesig. Spesiale verwelkoming is gerig aan Mnr. A. M. Venter leier van SANAE IV, wat so pas teruggekeer het, Mnr. Nieman wat een van die twee verteenwoordigers van die Vereniging op die RSA was en Kommandant W. J. B. Chapman voormalige voorsitter van die Vereniging, wat na iets meer as 'n jaar weer van Kaapstad na Pretoria verplaas is. Prof. K. van der Walt het die Konstitusie en reëls van optrede van die Toekenningskomitee vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Medalje verduidelik en aangekondig dat die eerste medalje aan Hannes la Grange toegeken sal word. Mnr. Sean Kavanagh, landmeter van SANAE III, was spreker van die aand oor die onderwerp *Landmeting in Antarktika*, 'n opsomming waarvan in 'n volgende uitgawe van die *Bulletin* geplaas sal word. Hy het ook 'n aantal uitstekende kleurskyfies van Antarktika vertoon.

### Nuwe Lede

Die volgende nuwe lede is aanvaar:
L. A. Whitehead (Departement Buitelandse Sake, Pretoria).
H. R. Hiddes (Ingenieur, Reunies Coasters, Durban).
Prof. Lester King (Geologie Departement, Universiteit Natal, Durban).
J. P. Louw (Stokrybestuurder, Wellington).

### Model van Antarktika

'n Gipsmodel van Antarktika is vir die Vereniging voltooi deur Mej. H. Beatson van die Aardrykskundefakulteit van die Universiteit Witwatersrand. Die model sal gehuisves word by die Permanente Wetenskaplike Uitstalling, Skouterrein, Pretoria.

### Dasse

Die dasse van die Vereniging is uiteindelik vervaardig en sal eersdaags uitgereik word aan diegene wat reeds betaal het, sodat u u das reeds behoort te hê wanneer hierdie *Bulletin* verskyn. Daar sal nog 'n aantal dasse beskikbaar wees teen R2.00 stuk plus 10c posgeld.

### Bouvet-verkenning

Vier lede van die Vereniging is onder diegene wat gekies is om op 21e Maart met die RSA na Bouvet-eiland vir verkenningsdoeleindes te vertrek. Hulle is Dr. J. J. Taljaard (weerkundige en leier), Mnr. A. B. Crawford (weerkundige en deskundige op landings per boot), Mnr. D. C. Neethling (geoloog) en Mnr. F. McCall (P.W.D.).

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# News from SANAE and the Islands

### SANAE

When the RSA departed from Cape Town on 27th December she had 26 scientists, artisans and observers of various denominations on board, apart from the normal crew. Winds were strong and seas high in the Roaring Forties but by the time the ship reached Bouvet Island (1,600 miles from Cape Town)—most of the "stowaways" had already crept from their bunks and showed up on board. After that, everybody remained good seamen. The RSA battered its way through thick pack ice and got stuck on many occasions, and eventually Captain McNish established his record but not for the shortest journey. In Polarsirkelbukta on 24th

January the bearded SANAE IV team had a muskeg race with the ship to reach the shore first. The weather was beautiful and the cargo was discharged in record time by working 12-hour shifts round the clock.

The Public Works Department team and the American seismograph experts immediately set out for SANAE (15 miles from the ice front), where the wooden huts for the seismograph was erected in record time. The "neutron hut" was erected on a complex structure of pipes. Fifty-four blocks of lead, weighing 200 lbs. each, were hoisted up this structure. Meanwhile, the members of SANAE V were busy getting acquainted with Antarctica and each man proceeded to take over his particular programme from his predecessor. Everyone had to learn as much as possible in the minimum time and do the cooking in between. On 7th February the RSA departed and due to a remarkable decrease in the pack ice since the outward voyage, the homeward voyage (2,600 sea miles) could be completed in the record time of 10 days.

On 9th March, "Skroef" van Zyl (leader) reported that after the RSA departed and life in isolation started, the men became very interested in every bit of news from that far away "other side" (South Africa). Time was passing by very quickly and with plenty of hard work on hand there had been little opportunity for exchange of impressions of the new life. The garage was changed into emergency quarters. Numerous essential bits of work and installations were finished. Meanwhile, every team member had already mastered the tricks of the cooking profession (no professional cook has ever set foot at SANAE) and Zac Ezekowitz set a particularly high standard of cooking.

"Skroef" van Zyl's main worry is how to get coffee in bed in the morning and it would seem that he has failed to establish his authority as leader in this connection. The dogs are being cared for by Trevor Robertson and Andre du Plessis. The first issue of "Sanniespos Signpost" the local newspaper, was a success as regards the standard, if not the numbers, of the contributions. The things that are most impressive to the men at SANAE are the vast and lonely expanse of level ice and the severity of the sudden storms and blizzards. The comfort and homeliness of the base is appreciated anew after every day of hard work in the cold and wind outside.

## MARION ISLAND

On 24th February, Ray Statt reported from Marion that although everything is damp, including last year's newspapers, the spirit amongst the team members is particularly high. With the RSA and the relief party so to speak just around the corner, no one has either the time or the inclination to feel as the weather would have them feel. The results of house cleaning, nailing up and packing crates, etc. can be clearly seen in the glut of adhesive plaster and bandages which have suddenly made an appearance. The inventor of the hammer would have been duly impressed by all the choice names given to this implement recently on Marion Island.

Judging by the buying plans of the men when they return to South Africa, our country's economy will be boosted appreciably in March. Vossie Vorster, that amiable "weather wizard" will be sentenced to hard labour for life soon after his return, for he is going to marry Marietjie Nel of the Weather Bureau, Pretoria.

Between the 13th and 25th February, the sea around Marion Island was converted into a miniature Antarctica by the appearance of 20 ice-bergs. Ranging in size from veritable mountains of ice 300 yards long and 100 feet high to overgrown ice cubes, thier presence made a welcome addition to the erstwhile drab scenery.

The RSA departed for Marion Island on 27th February arrived at the Island on 1st March, departed again on 10th March and was back in Table Bay on 16th March. The relief team for 1964/65 consists of T. C. von Ludwig (meteorologist, leader), S. J. Quinn (meteorologist), S. G. Strong (meteorologist), C. Wolfaardt (meteorologist), Sergeant W. L. de Beer (medical orderly), W. J. C. Visagie (radio operator).

## GOUGH ISLAND

Piet le Roux reported as follows on events at Gough Island during January: In December it rained so much that we were expecting Mother Nature to endow us soon with webbed feet. Since late December the rain steadily decreased and finally completely stayed away. The weekly rainfall figures dwindled to something that does not qualify as such on this island. South-westerly upper winds prevailed bringing with them cold, dry air. Occasional short spells of north-westerly wind brought nothing more than a few drops. The soil became parched, rivulets became mere trickles and the smaller streams stopped flowing completely. Former mud pools cracked up—it is surprising to see how quickly this can happen on Gough. We enjoyed the fine weather until we were suddenly shocked to find that our 1,000 gallon reservoir was drying up. This reservoir is filled by a stream with its source near South Peak and with a fairly large drainage area. Realizing the seriousness of the drought, an emergency was declared and restrictions were laid on the use of water. This soon forced us to withdraw to the "beer line". Finally, a six inch centrifugal hand pump was installed in a small stream half a mile from camp and water was pumped across a ridge 20 feet high into the reservoir. A whole forenoon was spent in sweating labour with each man pumping as hard as he could for 15 minutes at a time, but all this effort produced nothing more than 60 gallons in the tanks. Water for the hydrogen plant had to be carried by bucket through the bushes from a pool 150 yards below the base. We started watching anxiously for the moist north-westerlies, and after every sounding the first question became "What says the upper winds?" When at last "the rains came" what else could be expected than pipelines chocked with grass and mud? However, we were overjoyed and worked away in the rain to clear the pipes until at last the water gushed through to fill the reservoir in no time. Coffee once again—but a mountainous pile of dishes to wash!

A proud man on Gough Island is Ollie Oldewage who, ugly though he is, was at his post for the midnight radio—sonde sounding during every single night of 1963.