

# NEWSLETTERS

## Sanae Nuusbrieff vir Maart 1971

Ten spyte van 'n laagste minimum temperatuur van  $-33^{\circ}\text{C}$  en windstote by tye van tot 70 knope, was die weer oor die algemeen matig gewees en kon buitewerk nog gedoen word sonder te veel ongerief. Vanaf die 9de is daar weer begin werk aan die verskillende programme terwyl die middag nog spandeer is aan basiswerk. Alhoewel die hele basis nou omtrent heeltemaal bedek is met sneeu, verhoed dit nogtans nie die jagsneeu om die ysgange binne te dring nie sodat die uitgrawe van ysgange na elke storm nog steeds voorrang geniet onder die term basiswerk.

Alhoewel daar tot op die 31ste nog in aller haas gewerk moes word aan die Radioteodoliet Antennas, kon die eerste ballonopstyging op 1 April gedoen word en daarmee het die weerkundige program in volle werking gekom. Ander programme wat ook reeds teen die einde van Maart in werking was, was ionosfeer en luggloed. Die geomagnetiese en kosmiese straleprogramme sal hopelik onderskeidelik die middel van April en begin van Mei in volle werking wees.

Intussen het die Borgaspan gevorder tot ongeveer 20 km van Jekselen af, nadat hulle vir vier dae vertrap was op ongeveer dieselfde plek waar die vorige jaar se Borgaspan voor die winter probleme gehad het. Onge-lukkig moes een van die Muskegs by Muskegdepot agter gelaat word. Hulle vag word nou deur middel van aflosse verder geneem.

### MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST

The team have settled down in the new Base, and by April 1st, the meteorological, ionospheric and airglow programmes were under way. It is hoped that the geomagnetic and cosmic ray programmes will be functioning by mid April. The Borgia Base team were about 20 km

from Jekselen when they experienced much the same difficulties encountered last year and one Muskeg had to be abandoned at Muskeg Depot.

## Marion Nuusbrieff vir Maart 1971

Maartmaand en ook 'n jaar van verblyf hier op die eiland is verby en nog is die einde van ons verblyf nie mooi in sig nie. As gevolg van probleme wat ondervind is met die samestelling van die 28ste aflosspan, en die gevolglike vertraging, verwag ons die RSA aan die einde van April. Ten spyte hiervan loop die geesdrif nog hoog want ons gaan tog een van die dae terug.

Vroeër die maand is Koos en Leon met die nodige uitrusting vir 'n staptog om die eiland. As gevolg van gunstige weersomstandighede kon hulle die afstand aflê in die tyd van vier dae. Hulle het veel gehad om te vertel na die tog. Snaakse landformasies, mooi landskappe, verwensde lawaklinkervelde, hoë kuskanse en die gevolglike bergklim, alle kleur katte orals, voetseer en blase, nat klere, moedeloosheid en wat nog als. Volgens hulle was daar volop kanse om interessante fotos te neem wat hulle inderdaad benut het te oordeel aan die aantal fotos geneem. Hulle het Molly Mawks met neste en kuikens teëgekom, 'n seldsame verskynsel op Marion.

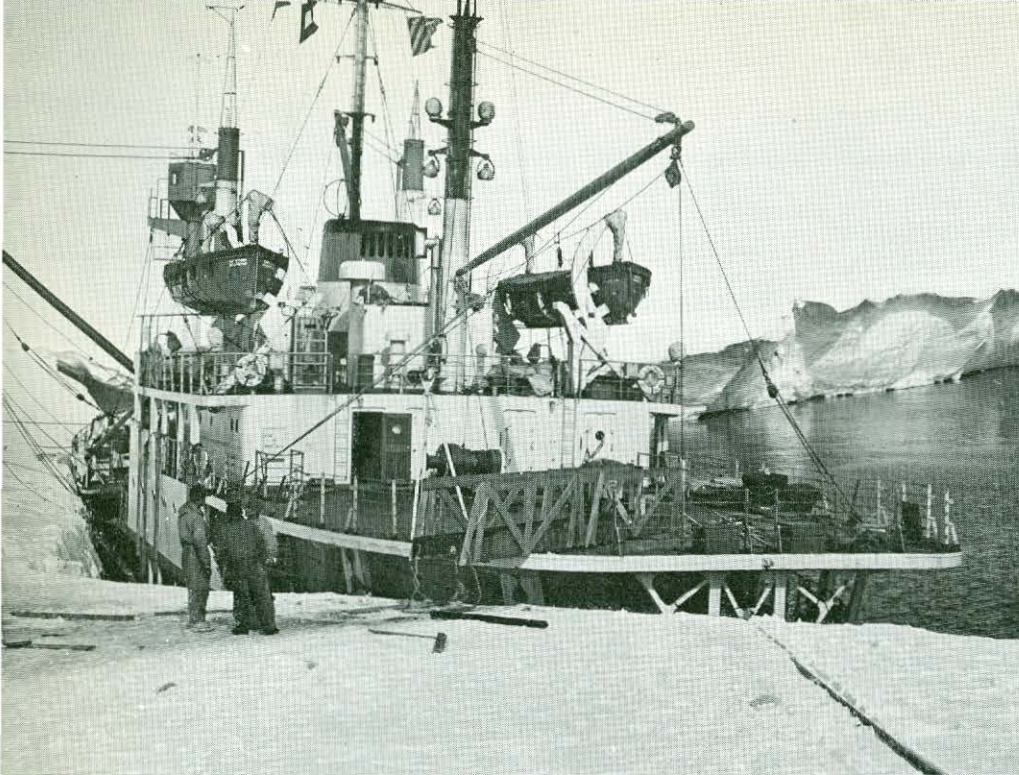
Die twee huiskatte, Neelsie en Blikkies, het elkeen hul eerste muis gevang om sodoende die astrante muis in die huis deeglik bewus te maak van hul baasskap. Die twee katte verskaf veel plesier met al hul kaskenades.

Die winter nader nou vinnig. Dit kan opgemerk word aan die aktiwiteit van die dierebevolking en ook weer-gewys is daar 'n merkbare verandering. Die eerste sneeuvalle het voorgekom in die berge.



*The scene just east of the sleeping quarters. Photos like this were used to locate supplies after the first bad storm experienced by Sanae 3.*





*The RSA at anchor just after the first supplies were removed from the heliport in 1962.*

'n Albatros is in Australië gevind wat hier gebring is gedurende die 26ste aflos. 'n Duif van 'n onbekende spesie is 'n paar dae agtermekaar opgemerk in die omgewing van die hoenderhok.

#### *Weerkundige data vir die maand:*

Lugdruk . . . . .	1 015,0 millibar
Temperatuur . . . . .	8,3 grade Celcius
Vogtigheid . . . . .	87 persent
Sonskyn . . . . .	113,7
Reënval . . . . .	159,5 mm
Hoogste maksimum . . . .	17,7 op die 3de Maart
Laagste minimum . . . . .	0,9 op die 21ste Maart

#### **Gough Nuusbrief vir Maart 1971**

Die sonnige dae gedurende die maand is terdeë geniet en visvangs het heelwat aandag geniet. Dit was 'n besige maand waarin baie loswerkies gedoen is met die oog op die aankruipende winter, naamlik die smering van kables en klamme om roes te voorkom, regmaak van lekplekke op die dak en regpak van die stoor. Daar is ook reeds begin met die skoonmaak onder en om die „Cat-walks”.

Dit was 'n teleurstelling vir die manne toe verneem is dat die RSA nie meer hier aandoen teen die einde van April nie, maar dit laat ons darem nog nie op moed-verloor se vlakke nie. Almal geniet die eilandlewe nog baie en die manne se voorkoms wissel vanaf „Hippies” tot Rooihuide. Een verjaardagviering het hierdie maand plaasgevind, naamlik dié van „Pikkie” Fourie, ons Radio Tegnikus, wat op die 28ste dertig jaar jonk geword het. 'n Vreemde boot is vroeg in die maand waargeneem maar kon nie identifiseer word nie. „Shorty” Moolman het vir hom naam gemaak as die digter in die span en hy het al 'n hele paar gedigte geskryf wat met 'n bietjie verbeelding na talent lyk. Dries Wannenburg het ses steke aan sy hand ontvang nadat hy hard met die „Cat-walk” kennis gemaak het na die loslating van 'n ballon. Die manne kom nou voortdurend met heel

oorspronklike idees wat die koskook aanbetref en heerlike maaltye is al voorberei.

Ons wil die span op Marion vaarwel toeroep en die nuwe span 'n baie suksesvolle verblyf op die eiland toewens. Ons is trots op die feit dat ons nou die „ou manne” op die eiland is.

#### **Sanae Newsletter for April, 1971**

April proved to be a month of great contrasts. The team experienced temperatures as high as  $-6,8^{\circ}\text{C}$  and as low as  $-40,6^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Gusts of wind up to 86 knots also occurred, accompanied by tons of driftsnow, as a result of which the whole base is now covered up to the roof with snow. On the 10th and 11th of this month the team experienced their heaviest storm. One of the heavy doors of the balloon hut was blown open by the wind. The rest of the days were on the average fine and mild. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets occurred and many photographs were taken.

The two husky pups are still being kept inside the base and team members are now trying to teach them some tricks. The one named Whiskey learnt very quickly to lift his paw for a piece of chocolate.

Our Borga team have not succeeded in reaching the Borga Base owing to transport failure and they will now spend winter at Grunehogna.

On Sundays, weather permitting, the team takes the dogs sledging or should we say the dogs take the team sledging. These outings are stimulating and exciting. Further outside activities are becoming less and less as the days grow shorter.

The team would also like to welcome the new Marion team and wish them a happy stay on the island.

#### **Gough Newsletter for April, 1971**

The first five months on the island have literally flown by and have been enjoyed by everyone. The weather is becoming colder and consequently confining us more to



the house with the result that many of our leisure hours are taken up with various indoor activities, snooker and darts being amongst the most popular.

A heavy storm was blown up by strong south-easterly winds, the full force of which was felt on the 18th and gigantic waves caused by it, at times resulted in spray reaching as far up as the brownstore roof – a height of about 170 ft. These winds, unfortunately, also blow directly into the balloon-room, making the release of balloons very difficult.

Les Genlloud and Johann Coetzer went to much trouble in measuring and photographing the eggs and observing the activities of the Gough Island rails in a nest which was discovered nearby the house, in the hope that the information would be useful to biologists, who apparently know little about this bird's breeding habits. However, they became the laughing stock of the team when, after further observance, the nest proved to be that of a stray hen. They had to admit that their "scientific data" was probably well known to many, many years ago.

A considerable area of the ground underneath the catwalks has been weeded and contrary to our earlier beliefs, this work is not so dreadful after all. Why! some even claim to enjoy doing it.

Weather statistics for the month are as follows:

Mean surface pressure . . . . .	1 012,0 MBS
Mean surface temperature . . . . .	12,7 degrees Celcius
Total sunshine duration . . . . .	94,9 hours
Total rainfall . . . . .	236,5 mm on 23 days
Mean relative humidity . . . . .	83 per cent.

## Sanae Nuusbrief vir Mei 1971

Meimaand was hoofsaaklik gekenmerk deur sterk winde. 'n Swart maand vir die bolugprogram waarin 10 opstygings nie gedoen kon word nie. Selfs 'n loslatingspoging waarby 'n oormag van 6 persone betrokke was, is nie met sukses bekroon nie.

Die paar kalm dae wat wel voorgekom het is nuttig gebruik om vir die werktuigkundiges 'n werkswinkel op te rig, sodat hulle nou onder dak sleë kan herstel vir die somer.

Binnemuurse aktiwiteite neem vinnig toe. Daar is begin met die verf van die basis en lê van tapyte. Op ontspanningsgebied is daar gereeld na aandete 'n krieket wedstryd op die pyltjebord. Die ontwikkeling en afdruk van fotos wat reeds lank agterstallig is word nou vinnig ingehaal. Die radio amateurs is ook druk besig om nuwe vriende oor die wêreld te verwerf. Wat die skaakwedstryde met Halleybay en Mawson aanbetref het ons vir Halleybay in 'n verdedigende posisie terwyl die stand met Mawson nog in die weegskaal hang.

Die Borgaspan is teen hierdie tyd reeds ingegrawe vir die winter by Grunehogna en hulle binnemuurse aktiwiteite sluit onder andere tapesirië en modelvliegtuie in. Intussen is die grawe eger nie vir die winter weggepak nie want by twee geleenthede was die ballonkamer omtrent vyf voet onder sneeu – suur-soet herrinerings van die ysgang-grawery vroeër vanjaar het opnuut teruggekom.

Op die misdaadfront het die maand op 'n hoë noot geëindig met oproer en geweld in die huskykamp toe drie honde losgemaak het. Na 'n woeste geveg is daarin

geslaag om twee van die oproermakers weer veilig vas te ketting terwyl die derde, Kero, eers na twee dae in 'n redelike gehewende toestand by die ou basis gevind is.

## Gough Nuusbrief vir Mei 1971

'n Besondere interessante maand met heelwat gebeure is agter die rug. Sommige van hierdie gebeurtenisse sal as van die hoogtepunte deur hierdie span onthou word. Die reënval gedurende die maand was aansienlik meer as die vorige maande en die temperatuur het soms byna tot vriespunt gedaal, met die gevolg dat die hele span hulle met tye in die kombuis voor die stoof bevind het. Van die praatjies voor die stoof kan baie gou afgelei word dat vroumense en motors die middelpunt van bespreking is.

Na ons aanvanklike onsuksesvolle pogings om „gesofistikeerde” vis te vang, het ons hierdie maand daarin geslaag om drie snoek aan te keer. Op die 25ste is twee moorvisse („killer whales”) ongeveer vyftig meter van die land af gewaar. Hulle teenwoordigheid was eger van korte duur aangesien hulle van uit 'n suid-westelike rigting verby die eiland geswem het. Op die 30ste was ons aangenaam verras toe 'n Britse fregat, die *H.M.S. Jaguar*, hier aangedoen het en ons persoonlike pakkies en briewe, wat op Tristan da Cunha gelê het, afgelewer het. Van die mees gewaardeerde artikels – soos die onwillekeurige op en af bewegende kakebene kan getuig – is natuurlik kougom en lekkers; verder spog almal met splinternuwe klinknaelbroeke en seilskoene. Nuwe langspeelplate, tydskrifte, haarknippies en -bande was ook baie welkom. Ons is die *H.M.S. Jaguar* baie dankbaar vir hierdie groot guns wat hulle ons bewys het.

Al die spanlede geniet goeie gesondheid en sien uit na die paar maande wat nog voorlê op die eiland. Die robbe het die wyk begin neem en heelwat minder voëls word deesdae opgemerk. Dit beteken dat ons ons moet voorberei vir 'n strawwe winter waaraan nie een van ons gewoond is nie.

*Gemiddeldes vir die maand:*

Druk . . . . .	1 012,7 mbs
Temperatuur . . . . .	10,9 grade Celsius
Vog . . . . .	81 persent
Reënval . . . . .	380,9 mm in 25 dae
Sonskyn . . . . .	75,9 ure.

## Sanae Newsletter for June, 1971

June was a very good month for the upper-air programme. Only on the first of June was an ascent not possible. Very good heights were obtained after dipping the balloons in diesoline.

The mechanics are still working "full steam ahead" repairing sledges for the summer programme which will include trips into the mountains. We have also finished painting the living quarters, while individual offices such as the geomag., the hospital, the met. office and a part of the engine room have also been finished.

The midwinter festival was held in the true midwinter tradition and a great day and night was had by all. The chess games with Mawson and Halley Bay are still in progress. As far as the game with Halley Bay is concerned, we're in a pretty good position. Unfortunately the same



cannot be said for the Mawson games. Never to fear, we have not lost heart yet – hope springs eternal in the human breast, etc.

The Borga team are enjoying themselves immensely as can be gathered from the fact that their midwinter festivities started on the 20th and ended on the 24th. The winds at Grunehogna have been playing havoc with the equipment and installations. Their hut was almost blown over and their toilet was, in fact, blown away. Fortunately nobody was occupying the said abode.

June has been a very quiet month and everyone is looking forward to the summer season.

– Sanae XII

### Marion Newsletter for June, 1971

Our second month on Marion is now history. But, as yet, we do not think in terms of how many months are left. Considering the past month, we find that we have accomplished a fair amount besides the normal duties. Cleaning up and re-organizing the base has been carried out during fine weather of which there has been very little.

The highlight of the month was the mid-winter celebrations. Len prepared a meal to the best of his ability and although the French menu baffled the boys, they did not waste much time in consulting a French dictionary. The only complaint was one of over-eating.

A braaivleis was held on Gamtoos Point one evening. A friendly fire was started, but unfortunately this attracted the inquisitive night birds. Swooping low over the fire they periodically collided with someone engrossed in his piece of meat. One unfortunate bird crash-landed in the fire but could not be rescued in time. John mercifully wrung it's neck, but not wanting it to go to waste, he cleaned and roasted it. According to him it tasted fishy.

John also thought there was something fishy about the way his crawfish cage disappeared. Convinced that there must be crawfish around Marion he constructed a special cage and baited it with meat. However, when the line was pulled in the next day, the cage was missing. "It must have been a big crawfish," said John.

Snowfalls occurred on six days of the month and on the first occasion Allen built a sledge. However, the snow was not deep enough and none were more disappointed than Allen and "Percy" the sledge.

Koos and Fanie performed an excellent job on the fowlrun and with the VIP treatment the fowls started laying again. The early risers amongst the boys have formed a breakfast club. Koos, however, resigns every time his turn to make breakfast comes around. However, he is allowed to rejoin if he washes the dishes. This suits Koos because his own post toasties club was not a success when he had to compete with succulent steak, eggs and toast.

A funny thing about Koos is his sleeping capacity – any time, anywhere. When Fanie wakes him in the morning, the only thing that keeps him awake is plenty of fresh air followed by a cigarette being popped into his mouth. Without this formula Koos sleeps on.

Greetings to everyone at home and comrades at Sanae and Gough.

### Gough Newsletter for June, 1971

This month has been an exceptionally busy one with quantity-checking, order-writing and tidying-up in preparation for our relieving team. Most of this work has now been completed, thanks to the co-operation of the whole team.

Despite the sometimes depressing weather conditions during the month, spirits are still high and much energy is worked out on table-tennis and darts, of which the latter seems to be more popular at the moment. Fortunately, radio-reception is excellent and Saturday afternoons are set aside for listening to the rugby commentaries – beer included, of course. On the few fine days which we have had, fishing trips were made but the efforts were not worth the results, much to the fishermen's disgust. Our breadmakers have finally perfected their recipes and are having consistently good results. „Flops“ are severely dealt with, the last being hung on the wall as an example of what bread should *not* be like.

Weather statistics for the month are as follows:

Pressure . . . . .	1 017,4 Mbs
Temperature . . . . .	9,3 degrees Celsius
Humidity . . . . .	84 per cent
Sunshine . . . . .	52,4 hours
Rainfall . . . . .	211,3 mm in 24 days.

### Marion Newsletter for July, 1971

This month of July was not unlike any other month of July on Marion. The usual rain, snow and wind was experienced with occasional high swells when the wind swung easterly. The days of fine weather, however, were few and of such a nature that all-day excursions were not possible. However, everybody is thinking of the months of October and November when long walks will be possible.

With the above conditions prevailing, the team was limited mainly to Marion House where the usual snooker and billiard championship, book reading, film shows and house duties carried on. At this point mention must be made of Koos and his hobbies. Everybody has hobbies, but Koos has hobbies which constitute an integral part of his day. These comprise the following: sleeping, smoking and snooker or billiard challenges. The first is divided into dozing, napping and contemplation. All hobbies receive his very sincere attention. One thing must be said of Koos, however, he manages to stay awake when it comes to drum-carrying. Many of the empty fuel drums which littered Boulder Beach have been removed, perforated and committed to the Deep via the Chute. It was on one of these drum removal operations that John's mangled crawfish cage came to light. One of those huge waves had cast it up on the beach. Nobody quite understands how the dead mouse came to be found in the cage.

This "there must be crawfish here" scheme of John's led to another crazy scheme in the minds of other team members, namely to harpoon and capture a killer whale from Gunner's Point and land it on Boulder Beach. This, according to them, would be a great advance in the field of fishing. But let the reader not think that serious work is not being done while such hare-brained schemes are being planned.

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# BP ANTARCTIC MEDAL, 1971

The BP Antarctic Gold Medal for 1971 has been awarded to Mr. Henry Fulton of Pretoria. The award is made for qualities of leadership displayed during three years in Antarctica and the vital supporting role of establishing the four-man team at Borga Base in the mountains 350 km due south of Sanae.

In 1962 he was appointed Junior diesel mechanic with Sanae 3. His cheerfulness and willingness to undertake any task, no matter how menial or arduous, did much to foster the spirit of comradeship which characterised Sanae 3 during the establishment of the first truly South African base in Antarctica.

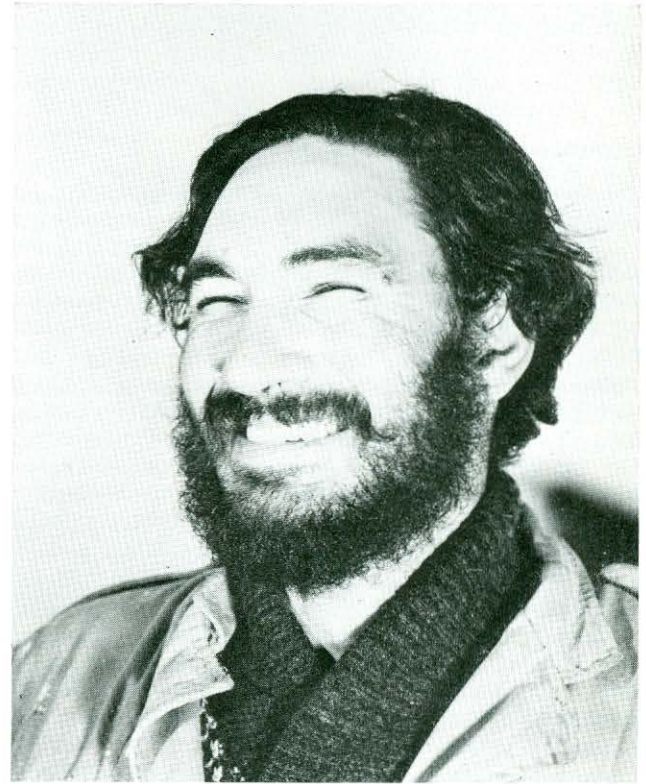
During 1966 he again returned to Antarctica as Senior diesel mechanic with Sanae 7 and displayed qualities of leadership which resulted in his being approached by the Department of Transport to accept leadership of Sanae 10 in 1969.

Despite two arduous and rigorous years in Antarctica, Mr. Fulton and his family were prepared to sacrifice much of their personal life to enable him to accept the post. It speaks highly of the Department of Transport, which administers the Antarctic project, that people such as Mr. Fulton, who are willing to go down to Antarctica for another year of hardship, isolation and the attendant risks that living in Antarctica bring, can be found.

Under his drive and perseverance Borga Base was successfully established. It was here that four members of Sanae 10 spent an isolated winter so that they would be able to avoid the long hazardous trip from Sanae and to explore hitherto unmapped terrain as early as possible in the coming summer.

With typical modesty Mr. Fulton has accepted the award as reflecting not on his own abilities, but rather as a tribute to the high level of comradeship and co-operation in the teams with which he has served.

Mr. Fulton was born in Pretoria in 1930 and is now resident in Erasmia, Pretoria (Telephone Pretoria 66146). He married Freda Gouws in 1950. They have six children of whom one is married.



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Every time it snows John dreads the burst or leaking water pipes which result. Fanie is also always at the ready to nurse, sooth and comfort the injured team members. Allen had a neat hole eaten into his finger by caustic soda. When blood failed to come out of the wound he got such a fright that Doc. had to give him an injection. This put Allen to sleep, but when Doc. checked on him later, Allen awoke and mumbled something about his mother leaving his light on.

We send greetings to all our families, friends and comrades on Gough and at Sanae.

## Gough Nuusbrief vir Julie 1971

Die afgelope maand is terdeë geniet deur al die manne, ten spyte van die ongunstige weerstoestande wat ons beweegruimtes baie beperk het. Ons het vroeg gedurende die maand ons eerste sneeu waargeneem, maar tot die manne se groot teleurstelling was dit slegs van korte duur. Almal geniet goeie gesondheid en die moraal van die span is nog steeds baie hoog.

„Shorty“ Moolman, Steyn Basson en Johann Coetzer (almal leerling tegniese, weerkunde) se aansoek om nog 'n jaar op die eiland deur te bring is goedgekeur. Groot planne word beraam om die RSA in Oktober te verwelkom. Heelwat van ons „Groot“ take is gedurende die maand afgehandel, bestellings is geplaas vir die volgende span en die bruinstoor is in gereedheid gebring vir die groot aflaai wanneer die RSA hier aandoen.

Na 'n beskrywing van die nuutste modes onder die vroumense, „Hot Pants“ ingesluit, oor ons radio-program „Ver in die wêreld“, kan die manne nie wag om dit van naderby te beskou nie. Ons radio-ontvangs is redelik goed en die rugby-toer word met die grootste belangstelling gevolg. Mislukkings kom deesdae min voor wat koskook en broodbak aanbetref want daar word nou hardhandig met 'n man tewerk gegaan en nadat hy goed deurgeloopt het moet hy net eenvoudig langs sy mislukte poging poseer terwyl die kameras fluts. Visvangs is tydelik afgestel en daar word meer gekonsentreer op snoeker en veerpyltjies terwyl die „Beatles“ in die agtergrond blêr en goed bygestaan word met byklanke deur Dries en Peet.

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Die hoogtepunt van die maand was die solo-opvoering van die verhoogstuk „Hair”, uitgevoer deur „Pik” Fourie, ons radiotegnikus. Almal sien baie uit na die koms van die *RSA* en hoop om Kersfees tuis te wees.

*Weerkundige gemiddeldes:*

Druk . . . . .	1 014,4 Mbs
Temperatuur . . . . .	9,1 grade Celsius
Vog . . . . .	82 persent
Reënval . . . . .	237,2 mm in 28 dae
Sonskyn . . . . .	89,7 ure.

**Sanae Nuusbrief vir Augustus 1971**

Louis, Ray, Theo en Eddie het op 30 Augustus vanaf Sanae vertrek na draaipunt in bitter koue weer van  $-43^{\circ}\text{C}$  en is gelukkig veilig terug op 11 September. Mike, Johan (Bothma) en ek sal seker binne die volgende twee dae vertrek om by Borgaspan aan te sluit by Grunehogna.

Die manne se hare en baarde begin al langer word en hoe langer baarde word hoe korter word die tydjie hier op Sanae. Niemand wil dit nou weet nie maar ek is seker ons sal swaar afskeid neem van Sanae waar ons lekker saam gesweet het.

Laaste groot gebeurtenis wat hier op Sanae gebeur het was die vertrek van *RSA* en dit is ook al ou nuus.

Groetnis,

*Gustav Nel en Sanaiete*

**Marion Newsletter for August, 1971**

Again we greet all friends and relations and especially the “Goughs” and “Sanaeans”. We hope that they have achieved maximum success in their individual scientific programmes this month.

And at the end of another month there is speculation as to whether we are reaching the halfway mark in our stay or not. The previous team had spent thirteen and a half months on the island. Before the departure of the *RSA* for Cape Town, Frikkie Loots of the general section had promised that the following relief would be arriving here during March or beginning of April. That means our stay would be eleven to twelve months. Some of us are not so optimistic.

On the 29th Greg celebrated his 20th birthday. Unfortunately our stove was unserviceable and there was no birthday cake. However, everybody expressed the wish that he could spend his 21st in more rewarding circumstances.

On the 27th snow started falling as we had not seen it up to now. The following morning the snow depth was measured at 23 cm. Excitement mounted at the thought of snow sports and beautiful scenery. However, the weather remained unpleasant and not many opportunities were had for photographing the snow scenery. Then came the inevitable rain which all too soon melted most of the snow. For some the melting of the snow

was good news because they had not had a good bath for a few days.

During the month Allen and Len walked a little beyond the East Cape. A walkie-talkie was taken along for testing in preparation for longer walks later. At the Cape numerous cormorants were found making nests. The strange mating dance that these birds perform, like so many other sea birds, was interesting to watch. More visits to the Cape are planned to photograph the birds with their eggs and subsequently the chicks and so to complete a series of photographs.

Again this month excellent work was done in the meteorological programme, the domestic duties and the general clean-up and maintenance of the base. New schemes and ideas are continually being initiated for the improvement and enhancement of the entire programme. We feel that we will leave Marion with the satisfaction of an entirely successful year behind us.

**Gough Newsletter for August, 1971**

With the term of Gough 16 so close to the end, anticipation of the *RSA*'s arrival can almost be felt in the air. Although not all the members will be returning, enthusiasm towards a smooth change-over is shared by all.

Earlier in the month we experienced the coldest temperatures of our stay,  $0,2^{\circ}\text{C}$  above freezing, and we enjoyed the sight of the snow-capped mountains behind the base. There has been a noticeable change in the weather of the past few weeks and this marked the return of much of the bird-life. We hope that this is the start of spring and more pleasant conditions.

The white and black penguins can be seen on the far side of the bay and many white specks dotting the hillside mark the positions of Albatross nesting. The increasing number of sooty Albatross gliding to and fro along the shoreline makes it look very much like a busy airport viewed from a distance. No doubt the seals too will be returning soon, providing awe-inspiring sights (and pungent smells) at one of our favourite haunts, seal beach.

At the beginning of the month we were treated to the visit of a large southern right whale to the shallows of Transvaal Bay and we watched its antics with great interest for almost a whole day.

The team's activities seem to have centred mainly on preparations for the likely changes and activities which the next two months will bring. The team photographer is also being prepared, much to the trial of the photographer's patience, especially when unfamiliar articles like white shirts have to be scrounged out, washed and pressed at the last minute.

Draughts, reading and music are popular pastimes these days but day-dreaming (of home and mail, no doubt) seems to take precedence in most cases.

We are looking forward to learning about the other members of the 17th relief and take this opportunity of sending our greetings and best wishes for a pleasant journey to Gough.

— A. J. Wannenburg