

Although the station is on shelf ice almost 20 kilometres from the sea, mirages are often responsible for excellent views of that world north of the ice front.

On 25th April the following signal was received: As the approach of winter draws closer we are very busy with the final preparations for colder days. Sufficient fuel for this period has been pumped into the drums in the snow passage. The caboose has been emptied and the sledges raised on drums. Those of us who have aerial systems to maintain are making final close checks to save us from repairs at temperatures below minus forty degrees Celsius. The absolute magnetic hut has been lifted from under several feet of snow and placed in a new position. Meanwhile Skroef van Zyl and Andre du Plessis have been doing sun and star fixes to obtain our exact position. Trevor Robertson has observed the first faint aurorae.

The successful cultivation of tulips, pot plants and a variety of vegetables under artificial light and heating conditions at SANAE caused quite a flutter at the station and in South Africa. This is of course not the first time that plants have been grown in greenhouses in Antarctica (see, for example, page 2 of *Antarktiese Bulletin* No. 1) but it is undoubtedly a triumph for the du Plessis (Andre and his father) and it will certainly raise the morale of the men at SANAE. (It is hoped to publish a detailed article about this venture in the next issue of the *Bulletin*).

MARION ISLAND

The RSA arrived at Marion Island on 2nd March with the new relief team. The weather was not particularly favourable for off-loading and the ship could only start the return voyage on the 10th, arriving back in Cape Town on the 17th.

The first news from the new team arrived on 20th March, as follows: Once more Oubaas (the dog) has to get used to an array of new faces. He is the only permanent inhabitant of the station and it will be understandable if he should turn into a neurotic being with so many strange "basies" to get accustomed to every year. The present set of new faces belong to: **Theo von Ludwig**, meteorologist and leader, hailing from Stellenbosch, engaged; **Steve Quinn**, technician (meteorology); **Port Elizabeth**; **Sidney Strong**, learner technician (meteorology), Mafeking; **Wynand Visagie**, radio operator and technician, Pretoria; **Loutjie de Beer**, medical orderly and excellent cook, caretaker of the biltong and dried sausages, Pretoria, but with his heart in Durban; **Kosie Human** and **Cedric Roberts**, two handymen from the Department of Public Works, Cape Town. They are both married. Tidying and patching up the place and welcome assistant cooks.

On 1st April the news from Marion read that with plenty of unpacking and storing of supplies, there had been little time for prowling round the island. The weather had been exceptionally mild during March, except for a brief snowfall and 60 knot winds on the 18th. It was practically cloudless on the last four days of the month.

Two of the members of the team had the fright of their lives while fishing one morning when two killer whales surfaced right in front of them. They swore that they could feel their breaths.

After two months on Marion, that is, at the end of April, it was reported that at last the low pressure generator was functioning and that the met blokes could almost guarantee that after filling up with the necessary chemicals something very much like hydrogen would be emitted. The 800 gram balloons supplied for the IQSY have occasionally been too much for the men because they reach alarming proportions when fully inflated in a 40 knot wind. With these balloons the average pressure level reached in the soundings of April was 46 mb., something to be proud of. **Loutjie de Beer**, the medical man, developed a very successful secret call to entice the sheep to come running from wherever they are grazing to be locked up for the night.

GOUGH ISLAND

Once again Gough Island was drought stricken during March. Only 12.7 mm of rain fell during the last 12 days of the month and the stream from which the station's water supply is derived, dried up completely (the pipe line was shifted to a more perennial stream during the visit of the RSA two weeks later).

The swan song of Piet le Roux and his colleagues, as reported fully in the Weather Bureau News Letter for March 1964, was quite moving, but lack of space does not permit its reproduction here. The year had been eventful at Gough, the outstanding event having been the death of leader Johan Smalberger. A notable achievement was the installation of the Väisälä radiotheodolite and the commencement of wind soundings since December.

The relief team to Gough Island departed from Cape Town on 22nd March. Instead of sailing directly to Gough the RSA made a detour to Bouvetoya to carry out a reconnaissance of this island in conjunction with the British patrol ship HMS *Protector*. Thus the men arrived at Gough only on 9th April after having covered almost 3,000 miles at sea and endured some rough weather at Bouvetoya and on the voyage to Gough. Daily radiosonde soundings on board offered some diversion during the prolonged cruise.

The off-loading was handicapped by poor weather but the helicopter, which had been hired for the Bouvet reconnaissance, was employed to carry about half the cargo to the recently erected station above Transvaal Cove. The helicopter has proved to be marvellously versatile and useful for ferrying men and material from ship to shore and if there had been sufficient space for it to come in among the "forest" of derricks to pick up loads directly from the holds, it would have been a piece of cake to have off-loaded the 50 tons of cargo for the station.

The new team consists of: **L. I. Naude** (meteorologist and leader); **M. Fourie** (technician, meteorology); **G. R. Vallance** (technician, meteorology); **A. J. Kriel** (learner technician, meteorology); **J. S. Bouwer** (medical orderly); **D. N. Jonker** (radio technician); **De W. T. Mynhardt** (radio operator).

Little has been heard from the new team—they are evidently very busy getting "method into the madness" of the new conditions, work and the "untidy heap of boxes" piled up during the off-loading of the RSA. When everything is finally sorted out they hope to sit back and enjoy the luxuries to be gained from a new washing machine, snooker table and record player.

Nuus van die Vereniging

Jaarlikse Dinee en Oorhandiging van die Eerste Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Medalje

Die tweede jaarlikse dinee van die Vereniging is op Saterdag, 21e Maart, in die Union Hotel, Pretoria, gehou. Altesame 45 persone het die dinee bygewoon, onder wie 8 eregaste, naamlik **Mnr. A. E. Morris** (hoof van BP in Transvaal) en sy gade, **Mnr. G. Fitzgerald** (Publieke Skakelbeampte van BP in Transvaal) en sy gade, **Prof. en Mev. S. P. Jackson** en **Mnr. en Mev. D. G. Kingwill**.

Prof. K. van der Walt het as seremoniemeester opgetree. **Mnr. Kingwill** was die hoofspreek (sy toespraak word in hierdie uitgawe weergegee) en **mnr. M. P. van Rooy** (Direkteur van die Weerburo) het hom bedank.

Dit was ook die geleentheid vir die oorhandiging van die eerste Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Medalje aan **Hannes le Grange**. **Prof. Jackson** het die motivering vir die oorhandiging voorgedra en die medalje is deur **mnr. Morris** as verteenwoordiger van BP, wat die medalje aan die Vereniging geskenk het, oorhandig.

Nog 'n item wat die geleentheid merkwaardig gemaak het was die oorhandiging van die topografiese model van Antarktika, wat deur **mev. Hazel Beaton** van die Aardrykskunde-fakulteit van die Witwatersrandse Universiteit gemaak is, aan die Vereniging.

Algemene Jaarvergadering, Pretoria, 27e April, 1964

Vier items van algemene belang is by hierdie geleentheid behandel, naamlik die finansiële staat vir die jaar 1963, die voorsitter se verslag vir die periode vanaf die vorige Jaarvergadering, die verkiesing van die nuwe Bestuur en die goedkeuring van die voorstel vir verhoging van ledegedelde na R2 per jaar. Die finansiële verslag word aan lede van die Vereniging alleen gesirkuleer. Die jaarverslag van die Voorsitter word hieronder aangegee. As Bestuur vir die tydperk tot die jaarvergadering van 1965 is die volgende lede gekies:

Voorsitter: J. J. le Grange (herkies).
Vise-Voorsitter: W. J. B. Chapman.
Lede: I. Lloyd (herkies); E. R. Boden.
Ere-sekretaresse: Mev. C. M. Taljaard (herkies).
Ere-penningmeester: C. Sanby (herkies).
Ere-ouditeur: M. du Preez.

Jaarverslag

Die Voorsitter het die volgende verslag voorgelê:

Inleiding: Vir ons jong Vereniging is dit weereens 'n aangename taak om op 'n jaar terug te kyk wat gekenmerk is deur vooruitgang. Dit is nie alleen in ledetal nie, maar haas op alle fronte van ons aktiwiteite, soos neergelê in die konstitusie, dat ons besig is om uit te brei. 'n Terugglyk op die bedrywighede getuig van net een woord en dit is SUKSES.

Byeenkomste: Die gehalte van die byeenkomste en aanbiedinge, hetsy akademiese van algemene en sosiale aard, was gereeld hoog. Dit is daarin geslaag om 'n verskeidenheid aan te bied wat seker al ons lede—en hulle verteenwoordig verskeie groepe van die samelewing—tevrede te stel.

Sedert die vorige Algemene Jaarvergadering 13 maande gelede is altesaam 10 funksies gereël, insluitende twee dinees, twee voordragte deur oorsese deskundiges (Drr. Adie en Robin), filmvertonings oor Marion- en Goughelands, voordragte oor Antarktiese geologie en landmeting in Antarktika, 'n bespreking oor leierskappe vir Antarktiese ekspedisies en lesbes, 'n gesellige onthaal vir Sir Vivian Fuchs.

U sal opmerk dat in die tydperk tussen die twee jaarvergaderings daar twee dinees gehou is. Mag dit as 'n wenk dien vir die nuwe Bestuur wat vanaand gekies sal word?

By geleentheid van die dinee op die 21e Maart vanjaar is die eerste Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Medalje toegeken en was ons geëerd om verteenwoordigers van BP Suidelike Afrika, Beperk (wat die Medalje geskenk het) in die persone van mnr. A. E. Morris en G. Fitzgerald en hulle gades teenwoordig te hê.

Die bywoning van vergaderings en funksies was redelik goed, naamlik 'n gemiddelde van meer as 30 persone en by geleentheid selfs meer as 70.

Fasiliteite vir byeenkomste: Ons is baie dank aan die Universiteit van Pretoria verskuldig vir die beskikbaarstelling van die Aardrykskundesingsaal vir ons byeenkomste. Die saal is gerieflik ingerig en is sentraal geleë. Die Universiteit het ook by geleentheid projektors voorsien.

Komitee: Die Komitee het in die afgelope jaar baie tyd bestee aan vergaderings, besprekings en ander aktiwiteite. Altesaam 16 formele vergaderings is gehou maar daar is ook aansienlike telefoniese skakeling gedoen.

Daar moet veral 'n woord van dank gerig word aan die Medaljekomitee wat bestaan het uit Prof. K. van der Walt, Dr. J. Taljaard en mnr. I. Lloyd, met Mev. C. Taljaard as sekretaresse. Hulle het baie tyd spandeer aan veral die opstelling van die handleiding vir toekenning van die Medalje, sodat daar vir die toekoms 'n stewige grondslag gelê is.

Die Komitee wil graag Prof. S. P. Jackson, ons beskermheer vir sy bereidwilligheid bedank om, wanneer versoek, vergaderings van die Komitee by te woon en advies te verstrek.

Die Tesourier, mnr. F. Viljoen, is in November na Durban verplaas en mnr. C. Sanby is in sy plek aangestel.

Ek wil persoonlik die Komiteelede bedank vir hulle spontane samewerking en diens gedurende die afgelope jaar—ek neem dat dit ook die gevoelens van die Vereniging vertolk. Elke Komiteelid het sy plek volgestaan, maar veral aan die Sekretaresse is baie dank verskuldig vir haar toegewyde werk.

Finansies: Soos reeds op die vergaderings van Oktober en Desember bespreek, is die finansiële staat van die Vereniging sedert sy

stigting sulks dat daar steeds net in geslaag kon word om kop bo water te hou. Met die ledegeld verhoog tot R2 per jaar—ons sal later vanaand finale aandaag daaraan bestee—behoort die posisie in die toekoms te verbeter. Soos geblyk het uit die Penningsmeester se verslag, was daar op 31e Desember slegs R5.99 op hande gewees. As gevolg hiervan moes Komiteelede by geleentheid die hand in eie sak steek om sprekers en besoekende gaste te onthaal.

Membership: Membership of the Association showed a substantial increase during the year and now stands at 120. As a substantial number of new members joined during 1963 this implies that a few ceased their membership. Since this happens in any association we need not be unduly alarmed. However, there is one point which needs adjustment and improvement and this concerns the members of expeditions returning from our island stations. The recruitment and stimulation of interest in our Association and its activities should be carefully investigated by the new Committee.

Publicity: The Association enjoyed noteworthy co-operation from the Press and the Radio, both in announcing meetings and reporting the proceedings. This can perhaps be interpreted as indicating that our activities and meetings are also of general interest to the public.

It is the intention to further improve our display at the Permanent Exhibition of Modern Science and for this purpose an appeal is lodged for contributions. More items should be added to this display, but it has become imperative, too, to set up a mobile display. Items from the islands will be particularly welcome because these are virtually absent from the present collection.

Highlights: In the first (January 1964) number of "Antarktiese Bulletin" the editor summarized our major achievements and I will therefore only mention a few points. The Association now has a patron—Prof. S. P. Jackson, dean of the Faculty of Science of the Witwatersrand University. Three Antarctic veterans have accepted honorary membership of the Association, viz. Sir Vivian Fuchs, Prof. R. W. James and Dr. Harvey Pirie. The Association now has its own tie. The publication of "Antarktiese Bulletin" was made possible by BP Southern Africa, Limited, who furthermore consented to sponsor the annual award of the South African Antarctic Medal. The University of the Witwatersrand constructed a topographical model of Antarctica for the Association and this is now on display at the Permanent Science Exhibition. The Department of Transport allowed two members of the Association to accompany the RSA to Antarctica during the fifth relief voyage to SANAE.

The future: A week ago the Committee held a meeting to try and assess whether the Association is on the "right road", since some of our members have from time to time expressed doubts as to whether the Association is sticking to true course.

The Committee considered the matter very carefully and found that, on the contrary, the Association is proceeding closely along the road that has been indicated at our previous Annual General Meeting and at other occasions. The Association is of course developing dynamically and that is how it should be. To draw an analogy, our Association is in the same position as a man on a bicycle. If he does not move forward then he is bound to fall off.

This then is our wish for the coming year—and it is also our message to the new Committee—let us not rest upon our laurels, but let us work together for the benefit of the Association.

Your retiring Committee wishes to thank you for your loyal support during the past year and expresses good wishes for the future.