

Gough Bunting

August 2007



August was the month that we wished would slow down. With takeover looming, we had to balance our final preparations for takeover with some good quality time outside. To add to the excitement of the month we had a section of our roof blown away early in the month. Life on the island is definitely never boring.

Jonathan celebrated his birthday during the month, which we celebrated with a typical 80's party with some serious big hair, and rolled up t-shirt's, nice!

We as the 52nd Gough Island expedition have had a great year. Shortly we will be arriving home on the red taxi. We hope that you have enjoyed our newsletters throughout our year as much as we have enjoyed writing them.

"Find out what you want, find something you really care about. When you know what you want the rest follows. But don't just drift into something because it offers security. Security is never worth a damn. We're meant to live and to live means living dangerously, half on the edge of trouble, half on the edge of achievement"

Hammond Innes

Ed.



Gough 52 Team Photo

From the Diesel Mech.

August was hectic for us at Gough due to strong winds which blew away a part of our roof. We had to wait for the weather to be stable because it was difficult for us to climb on to the roof due to the wind which was very strong. After two days the weather was much better. We sat down and discussed how we would repair the roof. We came to an agreement of using spare material which we had in our store. We replaced the roof and it was fine but after heavy rain we are still experiencing heavy leaks in one of the rooms and the surroundings. Here's the picture below of Gough 52 Team busy repairing the roof.



Everyone getting "stuck in" repairing the roof.

Time has arrived for me to be at Mzantsi and I really miss my wife Xoliswa, my daughter Kwasa, and the only son I have Khumo (Moore). I have enjoyed my time on Gough Island and I thank God for giving me the strength to survive. I must thank all my colleagues and wider family for the great support during my time in the Island. I think the first person I will meet at Mzantsi is my lovely wife and I look forward to sitting in a coffee shop having my quality time. I will never forget this great time in my life where I stayed away from my loved ones, friends & family and enjoying a healthy environment where the air is not polluted. You don't have to lock your doors on the Island. If you left something outside by mistake you will find it the next day, if the wind did not blow it away.

I would like to complement my great team for great effort & energy they put together in order to succeed in Gough Island. God bless Gough Team Members and their families until we meet again for mid winter.

From Thulani

Our last few days!

The happiest moment that I had in my life, is the one that I spent here at Gough Island. I am one of those people who hate goodbye. We will be going home soon, at this point in time I don't actually know how I feel, I am happy and sad at the same time. I can't find the right words to explain how I feel, yes I am happy to go home but on the other hand I'm sad to leave this Island and have to live my life without the guys. Of course to me life was much easier around them than it was before I met them.



The Fondue for Petrus's Birthday

When I heard that I'm gonna be the only lady in the team, I didn't like the sound of it, Actually I was sad, wondering how am I gonna cope around them. At first, I wasn't comfortable, I use to lock my room, but as time passed by I realized that the guys are good, very good, they never gave me any reason at all not to be comfortable, they treated me like a woman with all the respect I needed, never gave me any funny looks nor actions, I can ask any of them any question and they will answer me without any judgement.





Brian and Dineo rocking it 80's style at Jonty's Birthday

If we were having more men like my boys, Mzantsi will be a better place for all. I enjoyed every sec I spent with them and I'm gonna miss them so much it hurts.

On the 9th we were celebrating Petrus's birthday. It was our last party, we had a fondo evening. In shangaan they normal say that (lexi nga heriki xa hlola) so that's it!

What a wonderful year!

Dineo

Dineo's Legendary No egg Island Cake

A chocolate mayonnaise cake, made with mayonnaise in place of eggs and oil.

INGREDIENTS:

- * 2 cups flour*
- * 1/2 cup cocoa*
- * 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda*
- * 1/4 teaspoon salt*
- * 1 cup sugar*
- * 3/4 cup mayonnaise*
- * 1 cup water*
- * 1 teaspoon vanilla*

PREPARATION:

Sift together the flour, cocoa, soda and salt. Cream together the sugar, mayonnaise, water and vanilla. Add dry ingredients to the creamed mixture; stir until well blended. Pour batter into greased and floured layer cake pans (or a 9- x 13-inch pan).

Bake at 350°F. for about 25 minutes.

The end is near

It has been a wonderful and enriching experience sharing this Island with my fellow inmates. We laughed, we cried, we cheered, we missed, we went through it all still in one piece. Looking back at this year, it was time well spent.

Die einde kom al hoe nader en gemengde gevoelens kom tot voorskyn. Die tyd het aangebreek om huis toe te gaan en elkeen sal sy eie weg gaan. Die tyd wat ons saam spandeer het was baie leersaam. Daar was altyd iemand wat geluister het, raad gegee het en ondersteuning verleun het. Die goeie spangees wat dwarsdeur die jaar geheers het was ñ groot plus. Dit het soms twee ure geneem net om by jou kamer uit te kom; jy't iemand in die gang raakgeloop en hy nooi jou saam na wat hy ook al doen, dan was daar die kombuis waar daar laat nag gepeusel was en moet nie die sitkamer vergeet nie, watter fliek ook al speel, jy't jou net neergegooi op die rusbanke.

Die nag was ingelui met horde voëls wat die lug beswadder met sonsondergang en die geluide wat hul maak om jou aan die slaap te sus. Die uitstappies wat ons mee gemaak het en die rotsvorme, berge en dale en plantegroei was absoluut asemrowend. Dan was daar die muise, kyk hulle was nogal ñ handvol party dae met hul lanie gedrag.

Die weer het ons baie goed behandel; reën, sterk winde en groot see swelle wat teen die rotse gebreek het. Die wolke en verskillende vorms daarvan was altyd interessant om te aanskou. Daar was baie aande waar ek net die sterre met al hul prag en praal besigtig het. Daar was altyd iets nuuts om te sien.

Ek was gelukkig om my verjaarsdag die maand te vier. Die span het ñ baie gesellige aand vir my gereël en ons het tot vroeg oggend lekker gekuier. Dit was nou groot sports.

Ek het myself baie geniet met my span en die dag wat ons afskeid gaan neem sal baie teer wees. Alle bydraes, motivering, kennis en vriendskap beteken baie vir my. Alle lekker dinge kom tot ñ einde.

JK



Jonty on a warm summer's day with the view of the Rowetts and Hag's Tooth in the background.

Die einde:

There is sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love.

(Washington Irving)

Soos met alles in die lewe moet dinge tot 'n einde kom. So het ons tyd op die eiland finaal aangreuk. Menige traan sal nog gestort word sodra ons die eiland verlaat. Net nog 'n klein bydrae tot die “memories” wat ons met ons saamdra. In ons oudag of op ons siekbed gaan dit al wees wat ons oorhou. Party van ons gaan heelwat meer hê as ander.

Ongelukkig kom ons einde baie kru tot einde. Na amper 'n jaar se rustige voortbestaan moet ons, ons nou halfdood werk om alles vir die komende oorname gereed te kry. Die hele basis word stuk vir stuk uitmekaar gehaal, skoongemaak en weer aanmekaar gesit. Vertrekke, stoorkamers ens. wat nooit gebruik is nie word nou van hoek tot kant skoongemaak. Die gras word gesny wat nie 'n klein taak is nie. Ironies genoeg het dit begin sneeu terwyl ons met die gras snyery besig was. Nie baie mense kan aanspraak maak dat hulle in die sneeu gras sny nie. Catwalks moet opgetel word, die gras moet gesny word en die catwalks moet terug gesit word. Hierdie stukke metaal weeg 'n hele paar kilogram elk. Dit is nie so groot probleem nie maar as jy 'n paar honderd keer hierdie proses moet uitvoer raak dit nogal uitputtend.

Voete wat heel jaar nie skoene aangehad het nie moet nou heeldag in skoene wees. Slaap patrone moes die laaste paar weke ook drastiese aanpassings maak. Dalk gebeur al hierdie dinge net om ons na die werklikheid terug te bring. So groot as wat die basis is word die plek te klein in oorname met die hordes wat ons wêreld toesak. So diep as wat die eiland in jou hart kruip wens jy tydens hierdie tydperk dat alles moet net klaar kry dat ons kan huistoe gaan.

Diegene wat gereeld gebel of email gestuur het wil ek net 'n baie groot dankie sê. Weg van alles en almal is dit wanneer vriende hulle ware waarde wys.

Ons dae as 'n groep is ook verby. As 'n ou eilander is dit elke keur vir my baie sleg dat sodra ons van die skip afklim die span nooit weer almal bymekaar sal wees nie. Midwinters sien ons party maar nooit is almal ooit weer saam nie. Almal verlaat die eiland “groter” en wyser.

In great matters men show themselves as they wish to be seen; in small matters as they are.
(Gamaliel Bradford)



The various stages of the base cleanup

The final month at Gough Island

August was not just our last month, but a month which was filled with lots of things on our side. The most notable one was a section of our roof which was blown away by the wind. This was a very disturbing event because everything happened at night and it was also raining. We spent a lot of time on the roof trying to fix all the areas which were blown off so that our base does not become another Atlantic ocean. You can imagine trying to hold on to a corrugated iron sheet with the wind blowing at ± 50 knots. Even though the roof is still leaking here and there, at the end we were triumphant as we managed to fit in some sheets where it was needed most.

On the 16th of August, we celebrated Jonathan aka Jonty`s birthday. With his long afro-styled hair, he reminded us of the 80s style so we organised him a 80s dance party. He led the old dance styles which reminded me of guys like Pat Shange, Chicco and them. Way to go Jonty, mapantsula and maphanka are still there.....happy birthday mfethu. I hope you enjoyed it ...

While I was sitting in the met office looking through the window, I saw this beautiful bird which I haven`t seen in months, the yellow-nosed albatross. Lots of birds here in the island migrate during winter seasons, so as soon as they are back, we know that it is also time for the SA Agulhus to come around for take over. It is almost time to hand over our lovely home for the past 11 month to other people.

On a last note, thanks to all who communicated with me while on this isolated island. You made my year....I will see you soon in mzanzi.

Tshifhiwa-wa-Vho-Nthaduleni uri: Mashaaaaa.



Gough guys doing the Mapantsula dance.

Rebirth

Petrus (our medic) often talks about circles. He is referring to friendship circles and how they often overlap. The longer I am in this program the more I see this to be true. The friend of a friend list seems to get longer by the day. I have also noticed that everything goes in



cycles. The beginning of each trip on the islands and in Antarctica is always filled with anticipation. The beginning of something unique.

When we arrived last year the yellow nosed albatrosses were in the process of laying their eggs. The familiar call of the yellow-nosed albatross could always



be heard. As summer approached we watched in awe as the first eggs started to hatch and grey balls of fluff appeared.

The chicks grew and eventually lost their baby feathers and developed into the majestic yellow noses that we knew. Finally with winter approaching all the yellow noses left the island. The plants started to die back, the team in turn fattened up for the winter.

Winter passed and the fresh shoots of spring started to push their way through the brown landscape. The yellow-nosed albatrosses have returned to the island. Gough 52 is going home, Gough 53 is starting their year, the yellow-nosed albatrosses are in the process of laying their eggs, the cycle continues.

The rebirth of Histioglossis

Brain

Personality of the Month

Brian Bowie Radio Technician and Team Leader.

Why would you say Gough is the place to be?

Because of all the chicks. We have yellow nosed albatross chicks, sootie albatross chicks, and skua chicks to name a few.

What do you like about coffee in the morning?

It tastes cinnamomny good

What happens after Gough?

Good question, next one.

Who will win the IRB World Cup?

Kazakhstan

Where do you call home?

Currently Piets Pit, Room 5, Gough House, Gough Island, Southern Atlantic Ocean. In Mzansi it is Centurion, Gauteng

I've heard that you have been to SANAE right? What were you doing there and could you please tell us where it is located?

I went down as a space physics engineer. Basically my job was to run and maintain the experiments that the University of the North West is running at SANAE. SANAE (South African National Antarctic Expedition) is located in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica.

If given the opportunity to change something about Gough. What would it be?



I would improve the internet.

How did you manage to cope with your team as a team leader and what advice would u give to someone who would like to be a leader in future?

I have had a very good team this past year. They have made my job as team leader a pleasure. I have enjoyed being team leader and I feel that I have learnt a lot over the past year. My advice to someone would like to be a leader in the future would be to back yourself as a leader and to trust your decisions. As our team motto goes, "A man must believe in himself at all times."

Does your name Brian have a special meaning?

if yes then what is it?

No meaning that I know of (or can remember). Maybe "man with long hair and bald spot?"

Where do you see yourself in two years time?

With less hair.

Can u please tell us the good and the bad part of being an Islander?

Bad part:

Missing all the important events of my friends and family back home.

Good part:

Getting to experience some of the most unique and relatively untouched environments in the world. Also being able to live with people from many different cultures, all of us learning from each other.

We would like to thank the following sponsors:

- Bondi Blu (Sunglasses, T-shirts, Sun cream, deodorant, back packs)
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- Durbanville Hills (Red Wine)
- Engen (Jackets, Beanies)
- Eveready (Batteries, Torches)
- Exclusive Books (Books)
- Flagstone (Red and White Wine)
- Ina Paarman (Sauces, Spices)
- KWV (Brandy, red wine, Caps)
- Nintendo (Game Cube)
- Pen Bev (Coca Cola, Fanta, Sprite, TAB)
- SAB Miller (Castle Lager)
- SABC (Videos)
- Uniross (Rechargeable Batteries, Peak Caps, Lanyards)
- World Space Radio (Satellite Radio, Peak Caps, T-shirts)
- YUM (KFC Chicken, KFC chips, KFC sauces)

Sponsor of the Month



*The **Flagstone** white wine went down great with the baked cray-fish.*

From the Weather Office

**CLIMATE STATS: August
2007**

Ave. Max Pressure	1016.2 hPa
Ave. Min Pressure	1004.6 hPa
Ave. Pressure	1010.3 hPa
Max Pressure	1030.6 hPa
Min Pressure	978.4 hPa
Ave. Max Temp	10.5 °C
Ave. Min Temp	5.6 °C
Ave. Temp	8.3 °C
Max Temp	14.5 °C
Min Temp	-0.1 °C
Ave Humidity	76 %
Max Humidity	95 %
Min Humidity	46 %
Max Wind Gust	30.2 m/s or 108.7 km/h
Total Rainfall	261.6 mm
Highest in 24 Hours	42.0 mm
Total days with rain	27 days
Total days >1mm	20 days
Total Sunshine	96.7 hours

Gough 52 Team is

Team Leader
Radio Technician
Brian Bowie
Deputy Team Leader
Diesel Mechanic
Thulani Jakalashé
Senior Meteorologist
Jonathan Kotze
Assistant Meteorologist
Dineo Matsana
Assistant Meteorologist
Bigfish Mashau
Medic
Petrus Kritzinger

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**The place with lots of sun
and hot chicks!**



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