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WANDERER

MARION ISLAND NEWSLETTER

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LE PETIT MANCHOT

By Otto Whitehead

As you may have guessed, the title is French, and manchot means penguin, but what does the word 'penguin' mean, and where does it come from? The intellect who gave me insight into this etymological mystery was the legendary David Attenborough. It was a dark, moody day and a light drizzle drifted playfully with the gusting squalls that moved alongside the cliffs. Every so often a stream of sunlight would break through the clouds and a rainbow would materialise over the wild seas. I was sitting next to my macaroni study colony and observing their ways whilst being audibly entertained by Sir David's intriguing stories. One particular story involved the now extinct Great Auk; a large flightless bird with a black back, white belly and upright posture, similar to the penguins we know today. Its distinctive features included a grooved bill, the sides of its neck and head were brown, and it had a large white patch in front of its eyes.



Like penguins, the Great Auk spent most of its year foraging at sea and returned to offshore islands in the Boreal summer to breed. As naval exploration began to radiate in the 16th and 17th centuries, encounters with these birds became increasingly common and by the beginning of the 19th century they had been hunted to extinction for their meat and feathers. During those times the Great Auk was known to sea-farers by another name - 'pengwyn'. It is of Celtic origin and when dissected composes of two welsh words; 'pen' meaning head and 'gwyn' meaning white. This may be an odd description for a bird whose head, apart from a white patch in front of the eyes, is predominantly brown or black, but there are further traits about the Great Auk which I have yet to mention. During the winter months these birds underwent a plumage change similar to that experienced by their relatives, the guillemot and the razorbill, in which their fore-neck, chin, and head feathers turned white. This must have made a significant impression on many a sailor, as the name spread throughout Europe.



When these sea-farers eventually ventured further South and encountered similar birds on sub-Antarctic Islands, the name 'pengwyn' was copied and pasted into log books and journals. Interestingly, over the ages the name stuck for those tuxedo-clad birds in the South, whereas those in the North were reclassified as auks, puffins, guillemots and razorbills. In some languages, the remnant of the Northern Hemisphere's 'pengwyn' still lingers in the French and Spanish words for Great Auk, which are 'Grand Pingouin' and 'Gran Pingüino', respectively.



Above: a Gentoo penguin.

Below: a rocky penguin.





King penguin colony.

Macaroni penguin



Conversation with myself . . .

As we have just got into **March**, the last month before take over, I am so grateful to my God that I got this far. It has been another long year. I remember end **September 2010** when I made a decision to come down here again. I was much more afraid to do this again because I did not know what tomorrow could bring for me. Before that time, I had thought it was better to rather stay safe than to go down and take a risk. As long as we may not always acknowledge, everyone would hesitate to go places like **Marion Island** because “**what if something down go the right way, u loose every belief in you**”.

I had been very privileged to again, get the chance to spend this time down here. One other thing that I have to admit only here on this letter (or even some of M68 team members may agree with me) is that, on the end of expedition like this, I am a bit in between the work and the feeling of arriving home. This is mostly caused by the fact that I suddenly realized that there is less time to complete the sampling. When I approach the due time as other people, I tend to increase the intensity of the work rate. Consequently, helping get push the days to the end without worrying much about the exact number of the days left to Take-over. In addition, that has been one of the advantages of been a **field assistants** in the team. We tend to spend more time in the field and worry less about the home going and the home arriving.

Kha vhafunwa ngei hayani, muthu anga amba ari, tshila tshifhinga tshera amba ngahatsho zwila musu ndisa athu tuwa, tshi khou sendela. Ndia zwihumbula uri ndo amba ndari ndido vhuya hafhu. Naho u onesana zwitshi kondela rothe, ro kombelela u fhambana lwa hetshi tshifhinga tshothe tshine tsha fhira nwaha. Mudzimu ndo vhone vha vhothe vhevha divha zwe zwavha zwi tshido bvelela kha hetshi tshifhinga tshothe tsherado tshifhedza ri si rothe. Fhedzi ngau ra themba Mudzimu, u swika namusi Murena vha lufuno na tshilidzi vhoi tsiredza ritshibva ri tshi dzhena hothe he ravha ri hone zwifhinga zwothe. Husi kale, ndi dovha ndo kavha vhukati ha vheiwe. Ndia zwidivha uri zwido dzhia tshifhinga u swika ri tshi dovha he ravha ro funa uvha hone. Ndi dovha nda dzhia tshifhinga ipfi nda livhuwa nothe vhane u swika na namusi, ni khou di dina tshothe u vhona uri ndi wane thikhedzo yothe ine nda ithoga vhukuma musu ndi ngeno kule. Rono konesa zwinzhi rothe, ri do kona zwothe uya magumoni rothe nga Yehova vhari konisaho. Athinga hangwi zwine na dinela nne, ndi ni funa Zwone!!!

Nevertheless, I am still having some fabulous time in this place. I sometimes feel that this year had flown over faster than I thought it would. No, with M69 preparing themselves for this place. This place gave me a very rare window to look through myself in ways, which were never going to be possible if I was in Venda. Moreover, I will always love this place; this place is unique indeed. “**NAYO DZA MUVHUYA DZI SUMBWA NDILA NGA YEHOVA**”!!!

By: Mashudu

Liewe Simson,

Ek is 'n jong man oppad na 'n eiland toe vir 'n jaar en wil graag die grootste wel-erigste baard onder al die manne op die eiland groei. Is daar enige advies wat ek kan volg om die volgende Baard Man van Marion te wees?

Jong Man,

Elke man gaan deur 'n tyd wat hy wonder of hy mansgenoeg is vir baard dra so in die publiek. Jy wonder of jou baard sal aanhou groei dat dit lank genoeg is vir n bokstert of 'n vlesel wat respek sal afdwing en jou wysheid sal verkondig. Met hierdie paar wenke sal jy die kompetisie kafdraf en 'n koninklike wangjas kweek!

Hoe meer testosteroon hoe groter die baard. So doen elke oggend n paar push ups en sit ups en eet daarna 'n steak vir brekfis. As jy op jou eie stap oor die eiland help dit om manlike te skree of te brul soos 'n leeu. Moenie dat jou kompetisie jou sien brul of hardop sing op jou eie nie – as hulle dit ook begin doen sal al die testosteroon in die basis dalk lei tot 'n vuisgeveg! Net die persoon wat die vuisgeveg wen kry nog testosteroon vir ekstra baardgroei! Jou baard laat dit ook lyk asof jy n reusagtige ken het sodat jou vyande jou nie kan pot en duiselig klits nie. Terwyl jy duiselig is hou jou baard op met groei en elke millimeter is belangrik in so 'n jaarlange baardresies. Onthou ook dat as jou snor lank genoeg is kan jy vasbyt daarop vir n mouthguard!

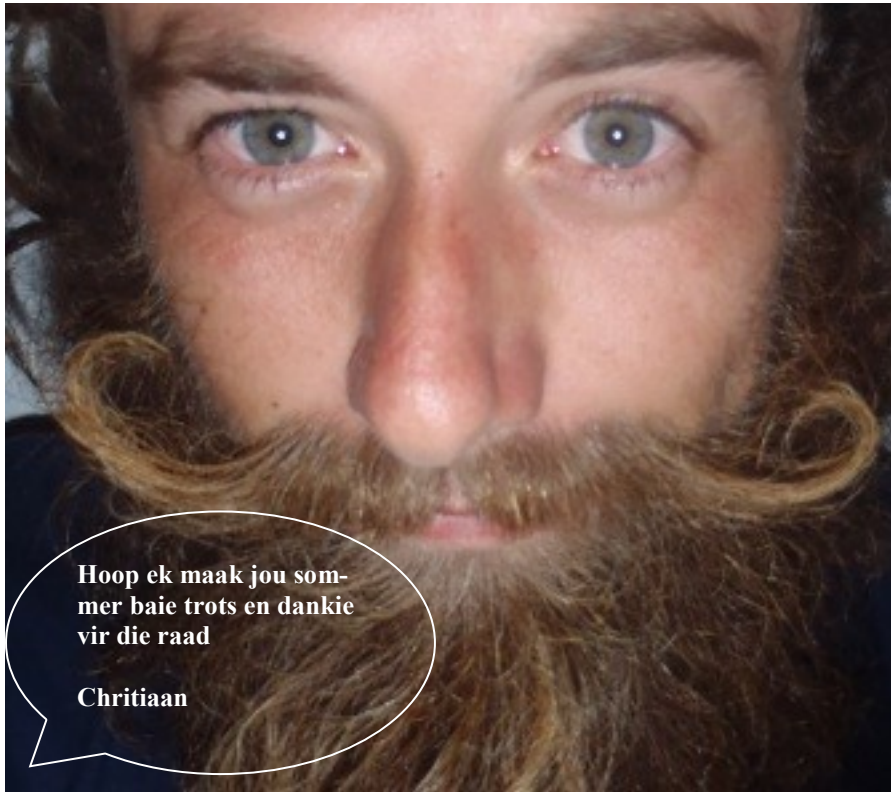
Sover as baard instandhouding gaan is dit belangrik om gereeld voor slaap tyd te soek vir split ends. Hierdie baardsvyande kan enige welige wolwarrelwind laat ontrafel en yl en leweloos laat. EK stel voor dat jy hom gereeld met shampoo en conditioner behandel om split ends te voorkom. As daar geen split ends is nie kan jy jou baard beloon met tien push ups en n brul sessie wat mense keer op keer sal laat terugkeer Kruger toe! Maar net op jou eie in die hut of in die generator kamer.

Onthou ook net as jy in die Kaap aankom en jy sien jou meisie na 'n jaar, as sy daai "Welkom terug Bokkie" teken so stadig laat sak en begin opskeer en verdwyn in die skare – hardloop gou wasbak toe en se vir jou wangjas koebaai. Want n baard in n slaapsak kan nie 'n meisie op die hawe se plek vat nie. Maar wie weet dalk is jy een van die gelukkiges wie se wederhelfde' n wollerig neksoen so in die kaapse winter nie kan weerstaan nie.

Lekker groei weerwolf en onthou as jy jou baard mis na die tyd: brul so bietjie daar in die trafficjam en dink aan al die goeie tye wat jy en jou snormonster gedeel het.

Simson die Baardige

PS onthou 'n man met 'n baard is nie skaam om 'n strooitjie saam met sy sop te bestel nie!



Hoop ek maak jou som-
mer baie trots en dankie
vir die raad

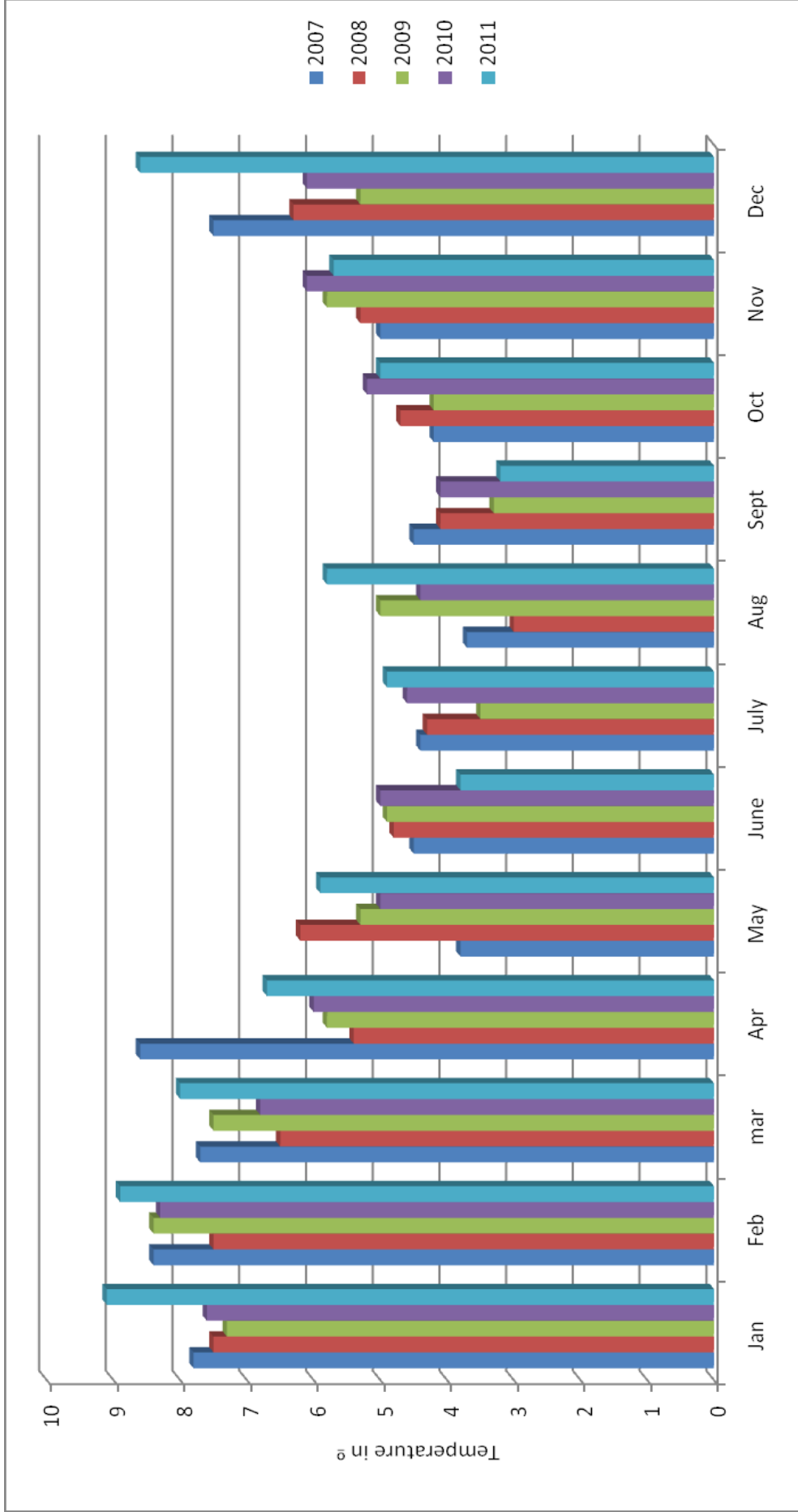
Chritiaan



Dankie Simson vir
jou advies dit het
ons meer gehelp as
wat jy dink en ek
brul nou al beter.

Johan

The table below shows the average temperature calculated from Marion Island for a 5 year period



Ave Max Pressure	1005.6
Ave Min Pressure	993.2
Ave Pressure	999.8
Max Pressure	1020.0
Min Pressure	972.2
Ave Max Temp	11.7
Ave Min Temp	5.0
Ave Temp	8.3
Max Temp	16.1
Min Temp	1.6
Ave Humidity	85
Max Humidity	100
Min Humidity	52
Max Wind Gust	39.1 m/s 76.0 knots 140.7 km/h
Total Rainfall	155.2
Highest in 24 Hours	19.0
Total days with rain	24
Total days > 1mm	19
Total Sunshine	141.5