



Gough Gazette

Edition 47 Volume 1



Team Members

A new team in Gough House

After a somewhat lengthy journey, the members of Gough 47 arrived on the island on 13 September. We were warmly welcomed by a friendly group of Gough 46 team members. The team was quite happy to be back on Terra Firma again, only now it felt as if it was the earth rolling under them, rather than the ship!

Take over was very busy, with helicopter operations, and cargo slinging taking up the first couple of days. The team then had time to get to know the base a bit better, with skivvies (clean up sessions) happening twice a week. It's amazing to see how much garbage about 30 people in a small base like this can generate! But we survived, and are happy in the knowledge that until next year we won't have such a lot of rubbish around.

This month, we decided to use the newsletter to introduce the six team members to our readers. We hope to hear from all of you through the year. E-mails are always welcome, and remind us that we are not alone on this planet. (gough@sanap.org.za)

Lehlohonolo Kheza Radio Technician



Lehlohonolo is 24 years old, and is originally from Koppies.

After his Matric, Lehlohonolo completed N 4 Electronics, and also has a National Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Light Current). His home language is Southern Sotho, and he likes reading, listening to music, and building electronic circuits.

A message from Lehlohonolo to all those at home:

Batswadi ba ka Leeto la ka ho fihla ha kana le ne le se thata haholo. Re dutse 8 days ka mo sekepeng. Mme 7 days ke ne ke kula. Ke ne ke hlatsa empa ke ntho e normal e tshwarang mang le mang ha a palama sekepe. Ngaka e teng ka hare ho sekepe. Ke ile ho yona mme ya ntlhaba se peiti ya ba ya mpha dipidisi. Tsona di thusa ka nakonyana eno mme o boele o kule hape. Gough Island ke sebaka setsotchang haholo. Re potapotiwe ke metsi fella. Re bona dikepe tse pedi fella mona tsa batho ba tshwasang ditlhapi. Ke ile ka nka leeto ho ya thabeng e bitswa tafel kopie. Ha re ntse re tsamaya ke ha hona pula ka

dipampiri. Fella re ne re nkile diaparo tsa pula. Pula ya mona e naa kgafetsa. Dijo dingata hompa ho hana monono fella. Ke kopa hore le dumedise Nthabeleng hape le ntjhwunele yena lerame. Aupa ke tshepa hore o ntse o etsa tse lokileng. Remember good things I had to find. You can't win if you don't begin. Timothy hopala dibuka tsa hao. Ke lerata kaofela.

Nombulelo ke rata ho o leboha hape ka ho dumellana le nna ka qeto ena ya ho nka leeto le na. Ke ya tseba ene e se qeto e bonolo feela tlasa mabaka one o tlameha ho dumela. Modimo ke mohlodi wa dintho tsohle tse lefatsheng. Ha a hlolwe ke letho. Ha o kopa bohobe ake ke a hofa lejwe. Jwale se o se batlang o tla hofa sona empa taba kgolo ke hore wena kamora mona o etsa eng ka seo o mokupileng sona. Hopola kena le wena menahanong ya ka kamehla. Dumedisa haholo ka tlung. Ke lerata kaofela.

TRANSLATION:

Lehlohonolo thanks his family and friends for allowing him to go on this important journey in his life.

***Matshidiso Moremi
Meteorological Technician***



Dumela Afrika Borwa

O ntse o tsogile jang fela! Ke tshepa go le mogote tota, mongwe le mongwe a tshabela ka fa moriting wa setlhare o yang teng.

Dumela Ledig le botlhe koo gae, ba losika le ditsala. Motswana o ne a bua nnete fa a re gaabo motho go thebe phatswa. Ke lo gopotse, fela ngwaga legonyane. Ke tla fela ke lo tselo dikgang ka setlhakatlhake sa Gough le ditiragalo tsa teng mo lokwalo-dikgannyeng la rona la kgwedi ngwe le ngwe. Nnang lo letile.

Loeto lona go tswa Cape Town ka sekepe se segolo sa mv. SA Agulhas e nnile lo loleele tota. Nako ya go tloga e ne e le ura ya bobedi motshegare mme ka ntata ya lewatile le ne le galefile, makhubu a le kwa godimo, re ne ra tloga ka ura ya lesome le bongwe bosigo jona jo. Re tsamaile mo lewatleng matsatsi a le robedi go fitlha mo Gough. Re ne re na le ditsala tsa ko Tristan Da Cunha ba ba neng ba etetse Afrika Borwa mme ba fologa mo setlhakatlhakeng sa bona. Maitemogelo a ke a magolo tota, le fa ke ne ka lwala matsatsi a mabedi a ntlha. Bolwetse e le bona ba seasick. Ke sa je sepe, ke opelwa ke tlhogo e bokete, sekepe sona se le tseleng se ntse se ya ka matlhakore. Ntsetle jaanong mogaetsho ke ralolole loleme go lo go nnye. Ke raya sona seja-tlhapi.

TRANSLATION:

Tshidi tells of the journey down to the island from Cape Town, via Tristan de Cunha. Luckily the only sickness encountered was seasickness!

I'm Tshidi Moremi, and was born in Ledig next to Sun City in Rustenburg. I passed my standard 10 in 1994, enrolled at Technikon Northern Gauteng and studied a three year National Diploma in Human Resources Management and also completed my Baccalaures Technologiae in Post School education in 1999.

After completing my experiential training at Sun City, I worked in their Public Relations Department where I had to resign when I was given this opportunity to be an Islander on one of the sub-antarctic Islands. I am currently a meteorological technician, observing weather on this tiny piece of land surrounded by water and sending the data to Pretoria.

What I enjoy most is that I don't miss rain anymore! It rained 22 days in September to the total amount of 366.6 mm. When I start my shift at 5h30 I have to take the thermometer readings in the Stevenson screen I'm the earliest bird, catching the fattest worm getting to see what is happening outside, at the same time breathing very nice fresh air free of pollutants.

What a welcome I had to upper air work here on the island! One night I was about to release the balloon on the north- eastern side of the base a prion flew into it, bursting the balloon! I got a big fright, and screamed. It could have been dangerous with the static electricity and hydrogen, but don't worry, nothing happened to the prion or me.

After a day or so on the island I was very worried, but my team though I was joking. I was so scared for the first few days after takeover searching for the main door's keys because there are ships that pass nearby the Island and I felt unsecured and worried that something strange might happen to us. The team laughed at me, but our leader & medic Chris said that there are no keys, and that the place is safe and the cliffs are very high to climb, someone needs to use a crane or helicopter to get ashore.

A tip for the year!

Thanks to everybody!

Tshidi

Thabo Rabotho
Diesel Mechanic



Hi, my name is Thabo Rabotho. I came to Gough Island as a Diesel Mechanic. Journeying nearly 2500km from one's country and then spending 14 months in a hostile environment seems a little excessive to some, but this is what a diesel mech, a medic, radio tech, and three meteorologists are doing on the island. This island is one of the most incomparable places I've encountered. It is without a native population and entirely lacking in manufacturing or mining industries. Its temporary inhabitants are principally concerned with weather-, biological- and scientific research. The island is the habitat for many creatures. Lately I have been watching the Skua a lot. It is the most common bird around the base. They inhabit all the sub-Antarctic islands, and are the main predators, and scavengers on Gough Island. Other times I just look around and I might see two rainbows at a time, and that reminds me of the rings around the sun, the sun dogs, which I saw in Antarctica.

I've still got so much more to experience and look at here, but am still trying to get myself organised. I am looking forward to writing again.

Thabo

Titus Mosweu
Senior Meteorologist



Birds of a feather flock together, or so they say. Whether that is the case here on Gough remains to be seen.

In short, I am Titus Mosweu from Mafikeng in Northwest Province. I was stationed in Ermelo as a weather observer. I am currently working as the senior meteorologist on Gough Island.

I would like to thank the South African Weather Services, Department of Environmental affairs and Tourism, NDPW and SAAF for their efforts to make this expedition a great success. This is really an experience. The island is full of new experiences, like during takeover when we went to Seal beach. The place could be dangerous because you have to go down a very steep slope using a rope but at least we managed, and survived!

If you need to enjoy yourself think about coming to Gough.

Till next time!

Titus

Shadrack Podile
Met Technician & Deputy team Leader



Firstly we G 47 would like to thank the G46 team for the warm welcome they gave us.

Hello it's me Shadrack. This time I'm writing from the South Atlantic. I was born and raised in a place called Mmakau (Hoekfontein). I attended my school there until I finished my matric. I started working for the weather bureau (now SA Weather services) in 1997. I spent a year on Marion Island and came back in May this year. After a short break I decided to come down to Gough. I will be based here for the next fourteen months. I am a meteorologist on the island. I will also be doing some work on the birds, mainly the albatrosses.

Lastly we as Gough 47 would like to thank the DEA&T, Captain of the Agulhas and his crew, the NDPWD team, S.A.A.F and all those who accompanied us to this beautiful place for the good work they did during their short stay.

We thank you

Till we meet again
Shadrack

Chris de Beer
Medic & Team Leader



I am 29 years old, and was born in Krugersdorp. I grew up in Richards Bay, but went to high school in Potchefstroom. I am an advanced life support paramedic, and after a year on Marion Island (1996/7), I traveled a lot, and have worked in the USA, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania and Ghana. My hobbies include photography, scuba diving, amateur radio and flying. I have my private pilot's license, and hope to finish my commercial license when I return from the island.

I would also like to thank everyone that made this trip possible. We really appreciate it. I hope that this newsletter will provide a little taste for those on the mainland of island life. Now that you know the team, it will be easier to understand the rest of the year's articles.

God bless till next month,

Chris

Monthly Weather Statistics
September 2001

Ave. pressure : 1011.3
Max pressure: 1032.7
Min pressure: 1000.7
Ave. temp : 8.4°C
Max temp : 15.2°C
Min temp : 6.0°C
Max wind gust : 108 km/h

Total rainfall - 366.6mm
Highest in 24 hours - 56.0mm
Days with rain - 22

Total sunshine - 85.8 hours

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I would like to thank all these companies and individuals, who through their donations, have contributed greatly to our comfort and enjoyment during our stay. We ask wherever possible our supporters support them as well.

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