

# YOUNG SCIENCE

## Communicators Competition

**AUDIO CATEGORY**

**WINNER**

### RAINBOW NATION ON A SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLAND

Marike Louw

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Marike's key message is that science can unite people, and a united people can accomplish phenomenal feats. This is not only through the continual gaining of knowledge of life systems and the conservation of these systems, but also bringing home and subsequently spreading the compassion, understanding and knowledge that comes from celebrating differences and exalting common humanity. *"I would like the listener to experience an inkling of pride for the South Africans flourishing together in trying conditions, to know of the existence of the Prince Edward Islands and the work that takes place there, and to know that Science can open doors to unimaginable physical places, personal growth and societal development."*

### About Marike



*Marike is passionate about the natural world and, for her, science has been an avenue with which to explore it. She is currently employed through the University of Pretoria and conducting research on Marion Island under the project banner of "Invasions in a changing Sub-Antarctic".*

*"I was motivated to enter this competition to bring awareness about the existence of an incredibly special part of science that is proudly South African: research and conservation taking place at a South African Special Nature Reserve ... a reserve in the form of an island that is almost halfway to Antarctica!"*

*She chose to share on the topic of Marion Island, which forms part of the Prince Edward Islands, for several reasons. The work conducted at this Special Nature Reserve brings together a community of South Africans under a common aim of upholding research and conservation. This happens in a way that few opportunities allow: 13 months of isolation with a group of South Africans of different ages, different home languages, different cultures, and different backgrounds. All of this in an environment vastly different from anything any of them ever knew (no shops, no roads, no air strip)! Secondly, the geology, flora and fauna are so incredibly different from their counterparts on the mainland, and it is fascinating simply to know about their existence. "I wanted to share this fascination with others!"*



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