

YOUNG SCIENCE

Communicators Competition

VIDEO CATEGORY

RUNNER UP

DENIZENS OF MARION ISLAND

Marike Louw

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Marike's key message in her video is to reveal the exciting avenues that a pursuit in science can result in - such as working together with fellow South Africans in a remarkable place (like Marion Island) for a common goal (research and conservation).

"I hope that the viewers feel pride in our nation and excited about scientific work."

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!"

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)! 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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