

Hello folks,

Well here we are on the Aurora Australis circling around offshore from Casey Station waiting for the wind to die down so the annual station resupply, which was interrupted when they were directed to come to our aid, can be completed.

We arrived at Casey 3 days ago and got 12 hours unloading done before the wind arrived. Now we spend our days going backward and forwards about 10 km offshore, sometimes around an iceberg or two just for a change. The vagaries of the Antarctic weather.

Meanwhile the ice trapping the Shokalskiy has broken up and they are on their way to Bluff eta about 15 January. Our eta in Hobart is 20-22 January. A bit ironic is it not. I am happy enough, I have no urgent need to get home and a few days in Hobart will be nice, but some others have pressing commitments.

Oh the differences between a private expedition where regulations are few and the ship is there to meet our desires and a government ship where regulations and SOPs rule supreme. While icebound on the Shokalskiy we would put the gangway down each day and go onto the ice or before while in open water launch the zodiacs and go iceberg cruising, activities banned from official government ships. The Russians don't share the same obsession with 'safety' that Australia and NZ now have, it was so refreshing to have the opportunity to just enjoy being here. Of course we were here to do science and with the freedom to go and get on with it we have achieved more that could be done using official channels. No time wasted form filling.

Best wishes to all

Kerry-Jayne