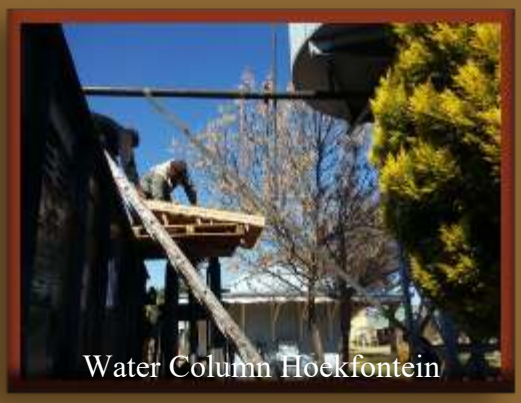
Sandstone Estates Steam Railway News 25 July 2016



Highlights of the week!


Seb's Railway Line


Track Maintenance


Water Column Hoekfontein


DZ Restoration


Flat Wagon Restoration



Outlook For Next Week


Blast From The Past

Seb's Railway Line



Earthmoving

During the last week Des and his team made great progress with the earthmoving work needed before we Can start with the laying of the tracks. Seun and his crew tackled the removing of dead trees from the forest. The widening of the dam wall is almost complete and work on the steel bridge have started.





The gradients through the forest is not steep at all but are some places where we had to make deep cuttings To lower the gradients over the sections. Below: The TLB had at work making a deep cutting to lower the gradient Down to the forest.





The ideal is to get the line on gradients not steeper than 1/33.

Seb's Railway Line

The gradient from the dam wall towards the Tennis court is still a problem, running 1/12 on a very short Distance making it not possible to dig a cutting. The solution here will be to lift the dam wall about 1M.
Below: The cutting before the forest.





Below right: Cleaning up inside the forest.





Below: The widening of the dam wall almost completed.





TRACK MAINTENANCE



Mooihoek Crossing towards Pandora Dam

Joseph and his team finished the lifting out of slacks between Mooihoek crossing and Pandora dam this week.

They will now move on to the Section Hoekfontein towards Mooihoek siding.





Below: Neatly boxed section of the line.
The next critical section to tackle will be from the S curve pass Vailima Farm School.





HOEKFONTEIN STATION



Equator Water Column Hoekfontein Station

During the week we also have fitted the new column pipes to the new water column in Hoekfontein Station and Nick named it the Equator water column. This was not easy to fit, uncomfortable working up in the skies with Limited support especially because of the length of the pipes feeding both lines.





Extra support was needed to keep the strain from the main T piece under the column.





As soon as the rain stop we will continue and fit the last water valve and lay the water feed pipes to the column.

WAGON RESTORATIONS



DZ Wagons

The restoration of DZ wagons is going n and we have shunted out 7 more good DZ wagons bringing us to a total Of 12 DZ's under restoration plus the 12 we have that is roadworthy, 24 in total. The DZ wagons are very Special and very good looking as well, take the doors of and it is flat wagons, then doors back and it is DZ's again.





Another 3 DZ wagons was sandblasted and painted. A total of 5 was lifted from the bogeys and the bogeys Are now restored separately and will be fitted back soon.





Above: 7 more DZ's shunted from Hoekfontein North yard to the shed for restoration.

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DZ Wagons

Below left: Bogey restoration.
Below right: 2 DZ's in line to be lifted from the bogeys.





Below right: Another DZ being sandblasted and was shunted to the shed and is being painted.





Below right: The third DZ being taken from the bogeys.





Wagon Restorations



Flat Wagon

Ernest went on with the restoration of the flat wagon and completed the new wooden floor. The wood will soon be Varnished. This wagon also need a replacement bogey as one of the axles are very rough on bearings.







Outlook for next week!



Tasks

1.) DZ Restorations
2.) To finish Flat wagon Restoration bogeys
3.) To finish Water column Hoekfontein
4.) Track Maintenance - Hoekfontein to Mooihoek
5.) Seb's Railway line construction
6.) Collect another AY in Port Elizabeth
7.) 3'6" Dinning coach restoration.
8.) Train trip Saturday with the Lawley



Blast from the past!



By Les Pivnic

Two famous Watsons - the class 16E no. 858 named "Allan G Watson" after the Chief Mechanical Engineer , SAR, who designed the six engines of this class for use on the Union Limited & Union Express fast passenger trains that were the forerunners of the world famous Blue Train.

The second famous Watson is the man in the cab - Alec Gordon Watson - who was Locomotive Foreman at the De Aar Loco Depot in the 1970s. This gentleman was a steam enthusiast as well as a professional railwayman. When we decided to store the engines for the National Collection at De Aar, Alec took it upon himself to cosmetically restore many of our engines while they were in his care. He also restored the 16E no.858 and the Museum's 15E 2878 to working order for the haulage of the special commemorative run of the Union Limited to Cape Town in 1977 to bid farewell to the Union Castle/Safmarine mailships - the end of an era!

