Sandstone Estates Steam Railway News 19 August 2016



Highlights of the week!


Boiler Washouts



Lawley 97


Ficksburg Primary School


NG Wagon Restorations


Water Columns


3'6" Dining coach restorations


Track News


Outlook For Next Week


Blast From The Past

Boiler Washouts



Avonside Sezela number 3

The last month we have spend quite a lot of time washing out our boilers. The past week or so we have washed 5 boilers and only need to washout number 4063 to complete the washout of all the locomotives in our fleet.
Below: Images of Sezela being washed out.





In next week we will wash out number 4063 and then will move on to wash the boilers of our steam traction and Stationary boilers. This is all part of preparations for the boiler inspections early in next year.





Boilers are washed out and tubes, smoke box and fire boxes are cleaned.

Steam News Page 2

Avonside Sezela number 3

Below: More images of Sezela in the washout bay.





All the boilers are left empty for drying purposes.







Boiler Washouts



O&K's Anna and Ermyntrude

The 2 newest locomotives to our collections was washed out as well even though they did not work that much. We Tackled these little 2 locomotives at once and made sure that the boilers and tubes are thoroughly clean for External inspections next year.





Below right: Showing the water spaces and inner fire box with stays.





O&K's Anna and Ermyntrude

Below: More images of the Anna and Ermyntrude being washed out.





Below: Washing out the smoke box and tubes.









O&K's Anna and Ermyntrude

These locomotives are now stabled with smoke box doors open to allow drying.





Boiler Washouts



Claudia

Arnold Jung Claudia was next in line and was shunted to the shed for washout.





We use straight and bend nozzles to ensure that the maximum area inside the boiler is washed and reached. Occasionally We also use a flexible hose to enter the more difficult parts inside the boilers, especially on small boilers.





Claudia

When the boilers are clean inside then we wash out the smoke box and fire box as well as the ash pans to ensure That no wet ash is left behind thus preventing serious corrosion this way.









Boiler Washouts



Xanthe

Our little Avonside Xanthe then came in next and the same procedure are followed to ensure a proper washout.









Below: More images of Xanthe being washed out.













Below: A wide open mouth!









Boiler Washouts



Feldbahn

The Feldbahn was the last locomotive for the week and was washed out the same way.









Boiler Washouts



Lawley 97

This week we took off the boiler of our Lawley number 97. The copper fire box will be replaced with a steel fire Box soon.





Wouter and Bryn stripped her bare to enable us to lift the boiler from the frame.









We then lifted of the cab to enable us to strip the rest.









Below: More images of the lifting of the boiler.

















No matter what, she still looks stunning even without a boiler.









The boiler then was loaded onto a DZ wagon and then painted with red oxide. The rest of the locomotives then was Cleaned by our cleaning ladies and she was shunted to the back of the Wagon Shed.

Train Trips



Ficksburg Primary School

Tuesday this week we had a visit from the Fiksburg Primary School and did a short trip to Grootdraai and back With the Hunslet Diesel Locomotive.





The children then had a picnic and went on a walking tour.





NG Wagon Restorations



DZ Wagons

We went on with the restoration of 6 DZ wagons. The bogeys were sand blasted and painted. The centers were Cleaned and braking gears greased.





Below: The last 8 bogeys in front of the shed.





DZ Wagons

All 6 DZ wagons then were lifted back onto their bogeys again.













DZ Wagons

The DZ wagons are now being painted a final coat of paint and will soon be shunted to the inspection pit for Under frame restoration.





Below right: Another 3 DZ wagons was shunted to Hoekfontein to clear up some space for the new ones to be Restoraed.





2 DZ wagons are standing on the inspection pit for under frame restoration while these 4 are being painted.





DZ Wagons

Below: The painting of the DZ wagons.





Another 3 DZ wagons were shunted to the shed. In this case below the doors are removed to make a DZ flat Wagon from this one. All 3 will be sand blasted in next week while we continue with the under frame restorations.





Water Columns



Hoekfontein Station

Johannes is busy painting the new water column in Hoekfontein Station. Wouter then made us 2 additional water Pipes for the smaller locomotives that needs to fill up in Hoekfontein Station.





We will now fit 2 hoses here and these pipes were fitted where the locomotives stand before departure, making It convenient and easier for the crews to fill up the tenders and tanks of smaller locomotives and large ones too.





3’6” Coach Restorations



Dining Saloon 288

Ernest did the last bits of work to the Dining Saloon,
fitted back the rest of the side panels. Both Saloons will now be painted in the original livery.





He also added final touches to the doors.





Track Maintenance



Section Hoekfontein - Mooihoek

Track maintenance is a very important task and we are under pressure to finish the track maintenance before Stars 2017. Joseph and his team is making good progress on the lines between Hoekfontein and Mooihoek and they are almost Half way down near the dam.





Below: Our ballast train offloading ballast on this section of line.





Section Hoekfontein - Mooihoek

Screening was done on the worst part of this section of line and additional ballast was needed here.













Below: More images of the ballast train in action.









Joseph and his team will take about another 2 weeks to complete this section. Once we are done here we want to Move on the the Pandora embankment all over to Vailima and beyond.





Joseph and his team also have spend 2 days on the Vailima section securing fishplates and replaced broken fishplate Bolts. They also service the fishplates and T bolts with oil as they proceed wherever they work. Joseph is one of a kind, He always takes with a weed eater and cut the line side where they work, everything must be neat and tidy around his Job.

Round and About



Below: Railway trolleys being varnished.



Below: 2 new restored wagons shunted to the 150M shed.



Below left: We did quite a lot of shunting and shunted out 2 old B wagons from the Wagon Shed to free up space/





Above right: New lights were fitted in the Wagon Shed by our Electrician contractors.

Outlook for next week!



Tasks

1.) DZ Restorations
2.) Track maintenance section Hoekfontein - Mooihoek
3.) 3’6” Dining coach paint
4.) 3’6” sleeper coach restoration.
5.) Washout 4063
6.) Track signboards.
7.) Washout Stationary & Traction Engines.



Blast from the past!



By Les Pivnic

On the 16th of January 1993, I photographed the Trans Karoo Express near Klington Halt in the Western Transvaal. A single 25NC no.3422 was working the train to Johannesburg. The second engine had failed and was taken off the train.

Note the various liveries of the coaches - immediately behind the tender, the orange and white that replaced the previous standard red and grey as seen in the next two coaches. The rest of the train is made up of passenger stock in the later blue and white livery. In it's heyday, this train was a top-link express only conveying 1st & 2nd class passengers but in later years, its prestige was dropped to a lower level that included 3rd class in the consist.

