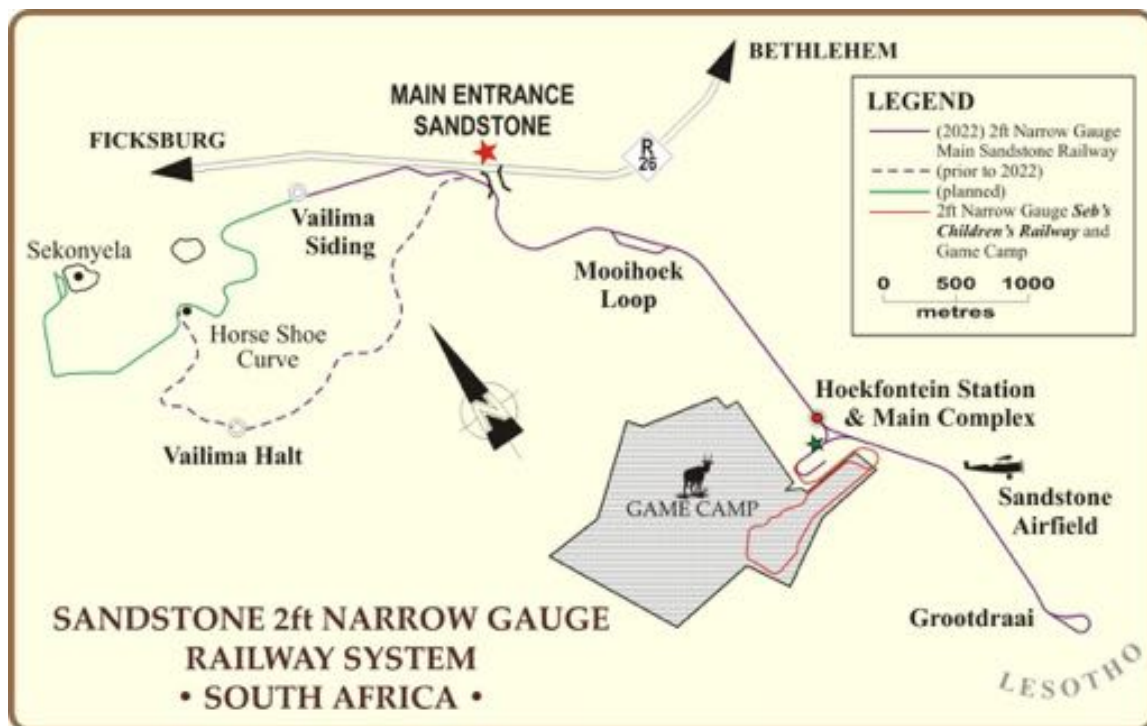




Seb's Children's Railway and Game Camp.

Sandstone has a second railway system which was conceived and built to allow the smaller locomotives in the Sandstone collection a separate running line. Most of these locos are from industry and generally much smaller than our ex South African Railways locomotives. Our main line running has been with the larger locomotives and the smaller ones have generally not seen a lot of use. As we have a very interesting selection of smaller engines, from all parts of southern Africa, we created a new running line separate from the "main line" system in 2018.



It was originally named Seb's Railway after the grandson of one of the Directors of Sandstone. Now renamed as Seb's Children's Railway, it has its own stable of 12 locomotives that are generally too small and unsuitable for the main Sandstone system. Sandstone's two railcars, the 1914 BSA and the ex-Portland Cement Wickham are also available for the line. A photo gallery of the locomotives can be found at the end of the article.

Seb's Children's Railway runs as a circular loop on the southern side of the main Sandstone Steam Railway locomotive depot and heads away from the start point next to the main silos at Sandstone in a generally south westerly direction to the Hippo Dam where the line starts to reverse direction to its start point and traverses the dam wall itself

The line was opened for the Stars of Sandstone event in 2019 and proved to be an instant success. Sadly since then it has seen little use, primarily owing to the Covid pandemic and the lack of events at Sandstone between 2020 and 2021. The weather also had its part to play during that period with massive rains and flooding. The line does run across the Hippo Dam wall at its furthest point and this dam wall took major damage from excessive water runoff leaving the track in a precarious position and unusable for safety reasons. These same extreme weather conditions also caused issues with Sandstone's famous mountain section which has now been abandoned and the track lifted. As Seb's Children's Railway was a major attraction for Sandstone, it was decided to put in place major repairs to fix the damage and to add a new dimension to the railway.



This new dimension has now been added to Seb's Children's Railway as a large area, through which the line runs, has been developed as a Game Camp. It has been constructed in partnership with the neighbouring Barratt's Farm. At present the Game Camp will be stocked with animals currently wild at Sandstone which will offer protection to them as well after several illegal hunting incidents. These will be selected from: Eland, Blesbok, Springbok, Red Hartebeest, Black Wildebeest, Impala, Duiker and Steenbok. New species, not currently at Sandstone, will also be introduced, Zebra and Ostrich.

Just imagine Game Viewing while riding slowly and quietly on a steam train! This will be a unique experience, certainly in Southern Africa! In the future our restored 1931 Dodge Hunting Van will also be available for game viewing. (See our recent website post on this fascinating vehicle, <https://www.sandstone-estates.com/index.php/classic-cars-64/3679-a-special-find-in-bulawayo-zimbabwe>)

This opens up exciting and varied new aspects for photography at Sandstone.

The line was reopened for the 2023 Easter Steam and Cosmos Festival from the 7th to 10th April 2023.



Kerr Stuart 0-4-0 "Little Bess" runs along the perimeter of the new Game Camp. Picture by Carl Gootzen

Seb's Railway Locomotives



Funkey Diesel Locomotive an ex underground diesel South Africa



BSA Railcar constructed at Sandstone from a 1913 BSA car body South Africa



Wickham Railcar 1962 ex Pretoria Portland Cement



O&K 0-6-0WT 12140/1930 "Anna" Tentativa Sugar Estates No. 5 Angola



O&K 0-6-0WT 1112/1925 "Ermyntrude" Tentativa Sugar Estates No. 6 Angola



Kerr Stuart 0-4-0ST 4031/1919 "Little Bess" Sundays River Irrigation Board
Eastern Cape South Africa



Decauville 0-4-OT 302/1899 "Bathala" Dombe Grande Sugar Estates Angola



Avonside 0-4-OT 1924/1936 Sezela No. 3 Sezela Sugar Estates Kwa Zulu Natal South Africa



Arnold Jung 0-4-2T 847/1905 "Josefina" Bom Jesus Sugar Estates Angola



Avonside 0-4-0T 1624/1913 "Xanthe" Hulett's Sugar Kwa Zulu Natal South Africa



O&K 0-4-0WT 4102/1910 West Rand Consolidated Mines Gauteng South Africa



O&K 0-4-0WT 2510/1907 Hulett's Sugar Kwa Zulu Natal South Africa



O&K 0-4-OT 10311/1922 "Jessica" Tentativa Sugar Estates No. 4 Angola



Kerr Stuart 0-4-2PT 4063/1924 "Tamara" Illovo Sugar Estates No. 3 Kwa Zulu Natal South Africa