



Highlights of the week!



Gauge Calibrations



NG Wagon Maintenance



NG Diesel locomotive servicing



Class NGG 11



Ratanga Coache Conversions



Various



NG Steam locomotive Maintenance



Track Maintenance



Blast From The Past

Gauge Calibrations



Pressure and Vacuum Gauges

We have removed all the vacuum gauges from our Locomotives and guards Vans and all of them were calibrated. The gauges were marked with a unique serial number to keep a good record on all our gauges.



All gauges were cleaned and polished before we fitted them back again.



Vacuum And Pressure Gauges

Below right: Brian busy polishing all the gauges.



Below left: The James Hall Lawley pressure gauge calibrated and ready to fit back when the boiler comes in next month.



NG Wagon Maintenance



We recently have serviced all our B wagons and we have now done the 2 new restored O wagons and started with all the DZ wagons.



All the axle boxes are packed and old wool replaced. The wagons then go to the inspection pit for final brake adjustment and vacuum spares are replaced where needed.



NG Wagon Maintenance

All bearings are inspected and some replaced where needed. New axle box wool soaked in oil is used only on axle boxes where the axle box wool is in bad condition.



Below: A B-wagon bearings being replaced with new ones.



All the vacuum hoses that are in bad condition are being replaced with new ones. New coupler washers are being fitted.



NG Wagon Maintenance

Below left: O wagon axle boxes being packed.
Below right: Wouter is doing all the brake adjustments and brake block renewals where needed.



Below right: New vacuum hose and couplers.



The final test is the leak off test and all wagons needs to pass this test and also must be able to create 64 Kpa vacuum to ensure higher vacuum readings at the rear of our trains.

Diesel Locomotive Servicing



Louis our new Diesel Fitter have attended to the servicing of all our Diesel Locomotives and railcars. The Funkey, Hunslet,BSA and Wickham railcars were serviced and we await the delivery of fuel filters and a 2 air filters to complete this task.



He has also removed the air brake cylinder of the Hunslet that were leaking through badly. The cylinder were cleaned and the leak was repaired and fitted back on the locomotive.



Diesel Locomotive Servicing

Below left: The Hunslet brakes being attended to and all leaks repaired.
Below right: One of the Toyota TC engine filters that we await delivery for as this one is different than the other TC engine.



Below left: Louis our new fitter removing the Hunslet alternator for repairs in town.



Above right and below: The Wickham and BSA Railcar being serviced. The BSA railcar injectors were replaced and the glow plugs were fixed.



Thinus also made two battery boxes for the Wickham and the BSA. The new batteries were fitted and are locked. He also made battery box for the Hunslet and the new batteries will be fitted once our order for new terminals are delivered.

Class NGG 11



Last week Thabiso went to collect the Class NGG 11 in Bloemfontein. He did three trips, one trip for the front unit, second trip for the boiler and the third for the rear unit.



The Class NGG 11 was offloaded in Hoekfontein Station and assembled by Lukas Nel who build her to perfection. What a beautiful locomotive indeed. Lukas Nel can feel very proud on this restoration. What a gentle Lady indeed!



Class NGG 11 Number 52

Below: The class NGG 11 steamed and tested in Hoekfontein Station.



The next day we shunted her down to the Steam Shed.



Ratanga Coach Conversions



Thiinus started with the modification of the first Ratanga coach. * Shock absorbers are being fitted to give the Ratanga coach a smooth ride on the rails. If this test is successful then we will convert all the Ratanga coaches.



Various



Ernest our Carpenter went on with the cosmetic restoration and upgrading of our 3'6" sleeper coaches. He only needs to build in one sleeping bank and finish a few small defects to have all the coaches completed.



Ernest will then tackle Madala Sleeper coach which will be quite a huge task to complete.



The tools requested by our Volunteers also have arrived, photo above right.

Various



Johannes finished the cleaning of all the motion on all our locomotives. All the motion are super shining and looks so much better now.



Thinus has made us a huge 50 L oil can with a long hose that will make oiling of the locomotives very easy.



Locomotive Maintenance



This week we also have removed the old piston and valve packing ropes on the Feldbahn and Barclay. The glands then were packed again with new packing ropes.



The green Lawley will be the last locomotive to do and we then will have all the piston and valve glands on all the locomotives packed with new rope.



Track Maintenance



This week Joseph and his team lifted out the entire line going up pass the silos. The line was levelled and packed again.





Tasks

- 1.) Ng wagon coupler change.
- 3.) DZ wagon servicing.
- 5.) Washout NGG 16 number 88, 153
- 6.) Washout NG 6
- 7.) Washout Fowler Steam locomotive
- 9.) To finish and test Ratanga coach conversion.

Next Steam Report Date: 1 February 2017!



Blast from the past!



By Dave Richardson

Dennis Mitchell took this pic of NGG16's 110 & 156 taking water at Izingolweni on the Port Shepstone to Harding line on 30th May 1977. No: 110 is now in the Sandstone collection.