

Steam News From The Eastern Free State



Sandstone Estates Steam Railway News 8 April 2016



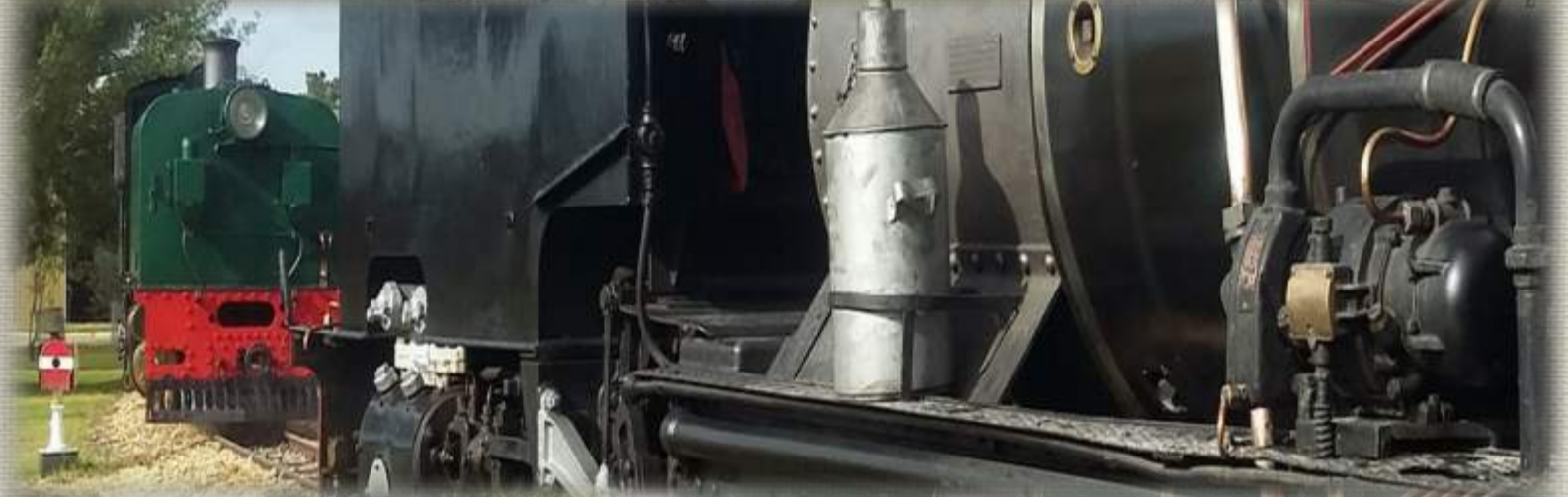
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- 1.) Young Investors Train.
- 2.) Goue Jare and Haasbeekies Train.
- 3.) Class NGG 15 & NG 4 Bushes
- 4.) Class 10CR cosmetic Restoration.
- 5.) C wagon Restoration.
- 6.) Passenger Coaches maintenance.
- 7.) Preparations
- 8.) Funkey Bus

















1.) THE YOUNG INVESTORS TRAIN



The last week our Steam Railway really came alive with 3 trains that operated on Thursday and Friday. We had a very special visit from the Young Investors organized by Mr.Mole's Daughter Hayley who also made the Exquisite Artwork for the locomotive headboard. Thursday we had a sundown train to the Lesotho border and on Friday afternoon we had a trip over the mountains With a double header and Driver Les labuschagne on the leading Locomotive.



Early on Friday morning we shunted out our two Class NGG 16's number 153 and 88. Our first train was For the Goue Jare and Haasbakkies group with one Garret to Grootdraai and later we had our VIP train over the Mountain



Above left: No locomotive ever leave the Steam shed without water treatment.
Below right: The gauge column protection glasses are removed when we fire up a locomotive.



Cleaning, Clean and super clean is the key and everyone helped to give the locomotives a last shine before
They left the Shed for the days work ahead.



Even the fireman's need to shine!



Our 2 VIP coaches was coupled together, the new and the old. Both were shunted to the Inspection pit Where we did a roadworthy and brake adjustment while our Cleaning Ladies did rest of the shining work!



Below: The luxurious inside of the new VIP Coach!



Below right: 153 just before departing with the the Goue Jare and Haasbekkies group with number 88 Shimmering in the tri angle as she awaits the afternoons excitement.



Below right: Number 88 pulling into Hoekfontein Station for a changing of crews moments before the Departure of the Double Header train over the Mountains.



Below left: Thinus in the cab of 88, keeping an eye on this beautiful beast.



The stage was set and we were waiting for our last passengers to board the train at Hoekfontein Station moments before we departed to Grootdraai and then tackled the severe climb over the Vailima Mountains.



The green flag was waved and slowly our train came to motion tailing through the most beautiful landscape covered by sunflowers and cosmos everywhere towards the foothills of the Majestic Maluti Mountains.



Below left: Driver Les labuschagne keeping a good eye on his train behind as we climbed the last bank before Grootdraai.



Below right: Mark posing for a photo on the Driver seat of Class NGG 16 number 88.



Below left: Running down towards Hoekfontein Station with the all stop passenger train.
Below right: A brief stop at Hoekfontein Station before we departed for Vailima siding.



Below left: Taking water in Hoekfontein South yard.
Below right: Taking a last breath before tackling the severe climb out Pandora embankment.



Below left: Running down from Pandora Junction towards Vailima Siding.
Below right: A brief stop at Vailima Siding, perfect photo opportunities.



Below: The section between Vailima and old Vailima Halt.



Wish you were here?



Below left: The S curve just before the severe climb pass the Farm School on the way towards Vailima Halt.



Below: Snaking around the sharp curves on the section Vailima Halt towards Pandora Junction.



Below: The last curve just near the points of Pandora Junction.



Just before sundown and number 153 and 88 left a smoking trail as they run down pass Mooihoek towards Hoekfontein.



A perfect day, perfect landscape with a perfect sundown as the day draw to a end, the fires were dropped
But the memories will last forever!



2.) GOUE JARE & HAASBEKKIES TRAIN



At 10H00 on Friday morning we had the Goue Jare and Haasbakkie group on our train to Grootdraai. Our Class NGG 16 number 153 was used for this very special train where we had the young and the older on. A unforgettable train ride through sunflowers towards the majestic Maluti Mountains.
Below: Isak making fire box coffee just before we departed from the shed!



Below: Number 153 in Hoekfontein Station just before departure.



Below: Number 153 crawling her way through the sunflowers.



Below right: A brief stop at Grootdraai.



Below right: A future Steam Enthusiast? Priceless faces!

We slowly returned to Hoekfontein pass the ox and ox wagon at the Sandstone Estates airport.



3.) CLASS NG 15 & NG 4 BUSHES



Last wee we received the new bushes for the side rods of our NG 15 and NG 4 locomotives and Isak fitted them Back again. The locomotives are now assembled again and ready to be taken out on the line.

Below: Not a easy task at all as the NG 15 and NG 4 is quite difficult to work on.



Below right: Isak looked quite lost between all the spares that needed to be fitted back. The NG locomotives
Are difficult to work on because of limited space,.



Below: Isak fitted back all the side rods to the Class NG 4.



We now will do valve setting on the NG 4 just to get her tuned in perfectly especially after the new bushes
Were fitted.

4.) CLASS 10CR COSMETIC RESTORATION



The restoration of our Class 10CR went on this week and Brian painted the running boards. In next week we will attend to the cosmetic upgrading of the cab interior.



5.) C WAGON RESTORATION



The C wagon was sandblasted this week and we will spray paint the C and DZ wagon in next week. These 2 wagons will then be shunted to the Inspection pit for a complete under frame restoration and then Will be shunted to the 150M shed in Hoekfontein East yard.



6.) PASSENGER COACH MAINTENANCE

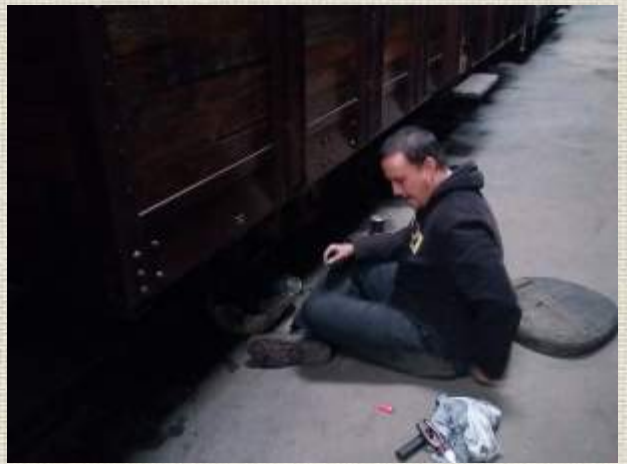


12 Coaches including 2 Guards vans were shunted to the shed this week for bearing inspections. A total of 24 bearings were replaced and all 96 axle boxes were packed with new axle box wool soaked in oil. In next week we will inspect the bearings of the 2 VIP coaches as well.



Below left: The old axle box wool showing signs of age and needed replacement.

Below right: Wouter taking out bearings and fitted new ones where needed.



Below right: A new bearing in place. Many old bearings have worn away in the sides resulting the wheels to Touch the bogie frames.



Below: Thinus packing axle boxes with new soaked oil. We will also top up each axle box with 500 ml Of axle box oil before our next event on the 30th of April this year.



7.) PREPARATIONS



This week we had the honor to have Mr.Mole and his daughter Tamara with us and it was so nice to have them All here with us.

Preparing for this special event!





8.) FUNKEY BUS



Sandstone Estates have acquired this very special rail bus and it was offloaded in the back of the wagon shed last week.

Lukas Nel now will look into the possibilities of re gauging the bus from 3'6" to 2" gauge. The Bus is in total 3 cm Smaller in width than our big Bagnall Diesel Locomotive so it just might be possible to see it running on the Sandstone Steam Railway!



Outlook For Next Week!



- 1.) Class 10 CR Cab restoration
- 2.) Otavi Wagon Bogey restoration
- 3.) Otavi Wagon Restoration
- 4.) Tamping Machine
- 5.) Washout NGG 16 number 153
- 6.) Washout Lawley 97
- 7.) Lift out slack Mooihoek old crossing
- 8.) DZ wagon restoration.
- 9.) C wagon Restoration
- 10.) 2 x VIP coach maintenance.



Steam Greetings The Steam Team!

