Sandstone Estates Steam Railway News 30 August 2017



Highlights of the Month!



















Seb's Railway Line



During the last 3 weeks we have spent quite an amount of team effort on the construction of the Seb's Railway line. We now are finished with the lifting and levelling of the track and we now are attending to the alignment of the line.





Below left: Curve alignment on Seb's railway line.
Below right: Track alignment on the straight lines.





Seb's Railway line

Below left: The final climb towards the dam wall.
Below right: The Funkey was used on the ballast train. More ballast is needed at some places on the line.













Seb's Railway line

We decided to fit a better set of points at the Seb's balloon.









The points were fitted and we slewed the curve slightly to enable the line to run smoothly into the points.





Seb's Railway line

Below: The better set of points being fitted as well as curve alignment on the East side of the points.





Below left: Showing the slewing of the curve near the points.









Seb's Railway line





The points were fitted and the track tamped again.





Below: Our track gang levelling the last few meters of Seb's line.

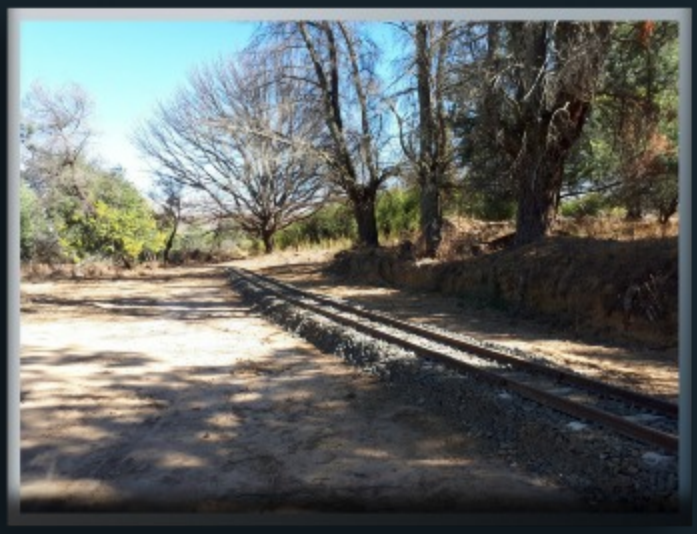




Seb's Railway line

Below: Images taken of the track work on Seb's line, all near the dam and the forest.









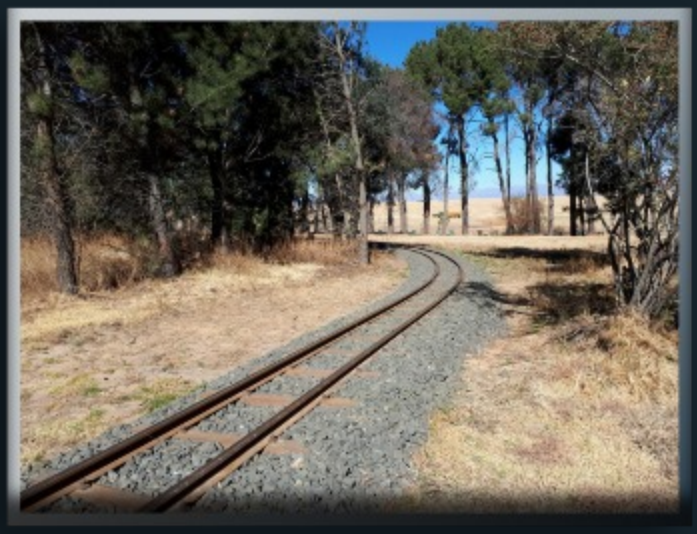




Seb's Railway line

Our track gang then moved back to the Seb's junction points, the last time we worked here it was very wet so we Could not level the track as we wanted it to be.





Our Track gang then also went back to the Seb's loop line and tamped the new points again. It was quite a rainy Season when we did this so we also had to go back and tamp it thoroughly.





Our track gang is currently replacing 3 old Mooihoek panels on Seb's line near the coal stage. These are being Replaced with 3 panels built with cement sleepers same as the rest of Seb's line.

Seb's Railway line commissioning.



The next phase in the construction of Seb's is the commissioning phase where we have to test each locomotive earmarked For the Seb's railway line. This is also a perfect opportunity to test the little locomotives and to repair them if needed.





Little Bess and the Decauville ran very well on the Seb's line and the third locomotive we tested was the Avonside Xanthe. Below are images taken on her trial run.





Seb's Railway line commissioning

Below left: Xanthe on her way from the forest heading towards the cutting.
Below right: Xanthe near the Seb's balloon junction.





The next locomotive to test was the largest of them all, the Kerr Stuart Tamara.





Below: Tamara leaving the Hoekfontein shed on her trial run on Seb's Railway line.





Seb's Railway line commissioning

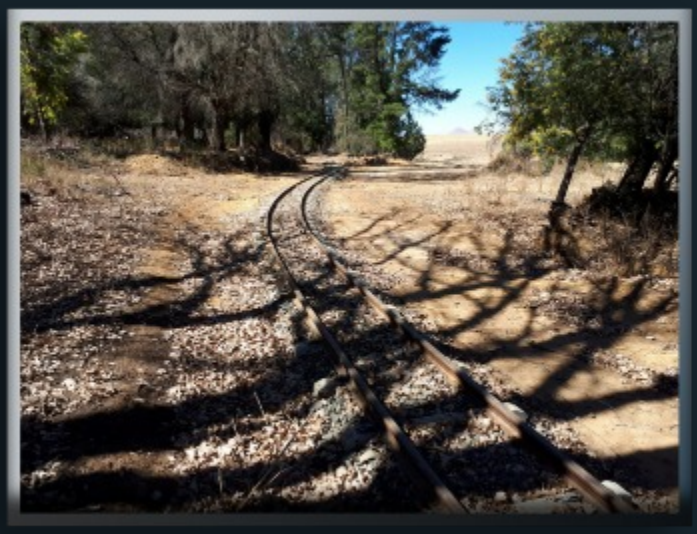
Below left: First she needed turning on the triangle.
Below right: Tamara just out on the line heading towards the balloon points.





Below left: Tamara on her way from the forest towards the cutting.
Below right: Seb's Halt.





We had the honour of a few visitors from the UK who were just in time to be with Xanthe on her second trip around Seb's Railway line.





We will continue to test the rest of the locomotives for Seb's over the next week or two.

Class 16 CR Cosmetic upgrade



Brian completed the paint work that was needed on the Class 16CR.









Lawley repair



Our Lawley suffered from a burst branch steam pipe in the smoke box, Thinus made up a new pipe and fitted It again. We soon will steam the Lawley and test her. We also repair the lubricator drain plug.





Below right: The Lawley seen here outside the Steam shed.





Miss Brakpan

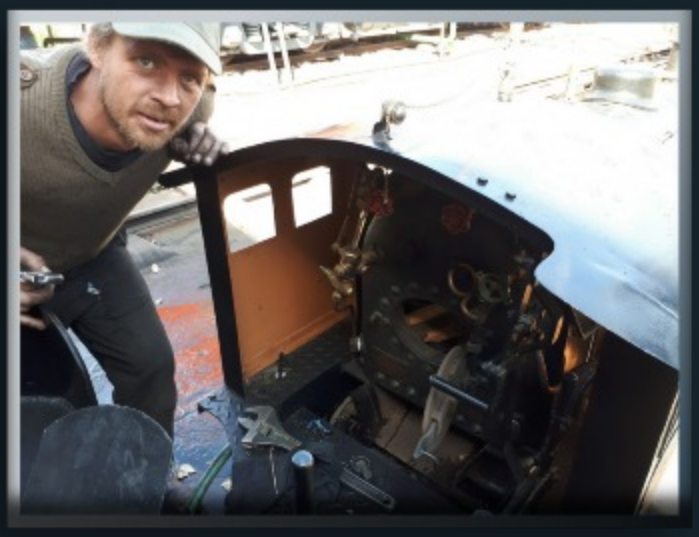


The next locomotive that we tested was Miss Brakpan. First of all we washed out the boiler and attended to minor Repairs before we steamed her up.

















Below left: The Safety valves were set and tested to go off at the correct pressure.





Miss Brakpan

We first did a few test trips in front of the Steam shed and then took her out to stretch her legs on the Seb's line.





This little locomotive has a remarkable sound and performed very well. We did have to fine tune the valve setting But she is now running very well.







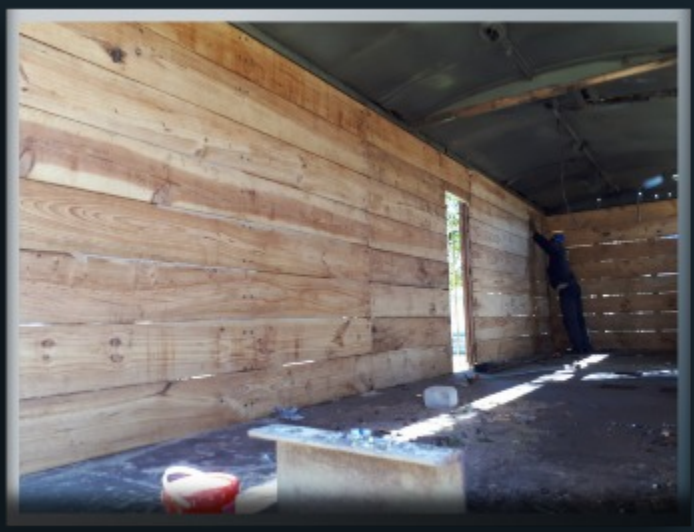


3’6” Goods wagon restoration



Below: The rebuilding of the 3’6” goods wagon coming together very well.









Various tasks



Below: Our Class 91 on shunting duties at Mooihoek siding as well as Hoekfontein Station where we had to Shunt the wagons which Wouter has completed the maintenance of.





Below left: The Class 91 shunting in Hoekfontein Station.
Below right: The Class 91 on shed duties.





Various tasks

Below Left: Coco pan display.
Below right: Wouter restored a old SAR trolley.













It would be very interesting to know what happened to all the old SAR Listers that the SAR used on the platforms To move these trolleys with?

Outlook for the next 2 weeks!



Tasks

1.) Seb's Railway Line
2.) Little Bess coach restorations
3.) Coco pan restoration
4.) Tamara repairs
5.) Lawley steam and test
6.) Seb's commissioning.



Hennenman Station

Class 15F number 3080 crossing with a class 23 number 3285 at Hennenman Station on the mainline between Bloemfontein and Kroonstad.

Courtesy Dave Richardson

