



Sandstone Steam Railway Week Report 10 December 2015

Locomotive Report:

Little Miss Brakpan

This week we have shunted out our Little Miss Brakpan Steam Locomotive from the back of the wagon shed to The Steam Shed. We have build a 5m rail panel and lifted her gently to her new place where she can show our Little visitors ho pretty she is.

She now is standing right in the front of the Steam Shed office and were cleaned and all the brass polished.



Below:

Pictures taken from the moving of this little locomotive.





Below: Our Little Funkey not looking so small anymore!



First we had to move everything away. Wouter build us the panel and the panel was moved to the front of the Shed Office. We wanted to start upgrading the paint work on the shed floors and thought it would be great to Have Little Miss Brakpan on her new standing place before we commence with the painting.



Below: Gently she was lifted and moved to the panel.



Below: The tender being lifted and all the pipes and chains connected again.



Below: She was cleaned and polished and will take breaths away.



Little Miss Brakpan was not the Only Locomotive who received some Love and care this week.
We have cleaned all the locomotives in the Locomotives in the Steam and Wagon Shed.



SHUNTING

During the last week we did some shunting to free up space and also to be organized. All the Ratanga Passenger Wagons with their Guards Van was shunted together and parked on one line in the Wagon Shed, if we need a Train we can just couple up and go.

We also shunted the PE Coaches together with a Guard Van, also ready just to couple up and go and then The VIP Coaches are ready and accessible as well.

While we were shunting we also moved out the BSA and Wickham Rail cars, they are now standing in the front of the Steam Shed ready to go if someone would require a trolley trip.

Below: Pictures of all the Shunting done and the line of Ratanga wagons ready to roll.



Below: We have also shunted the DZ wagons from Port Elizabeth clear unto the new storage lines.



Below Left: We have loaded all the loose bogeys onto a DZ to enable us to shunt into these line.



Below: Shunting the new arrival of C wagons into Hoekfontein Sidings.



Below: We have used the Hunslet to push the wagons clear from the Mainline in Hoekfontein Station.



WAGON RESTORATIONS

Ratanga Wagons: This week the Ratanga wagons was shunted out and all these wagons were varnished and is completed.



Flat Wagon: This week we have shunted out a flat wagon of which the planks were rotten. Brian stripped out all The rotten planks and then cleaned the frame and upgraded the paint work of this exquisite flat wagon. Next week He will fit new planks and will varnish it. The wagon will then be shunted into the sheds for protection.

Below: The upgrade of the Flat wagon.

We first cleaned up after the rotten planks were removed and the prepared the wagon the be painted.



Below: The flat wagon being sprayed with Red Oxide.



Below Right: Completed. Now only to plain and fit the planks and then a good coat of varnish.



Brian then tackled the ST wagon below, sanded it down and painted it with red oxide.
This wagon will also be shunted under cover



Brian also painted the little red trolley with red oxide.



The AY below was shunted to the shed and only needs to be made roadworthy in next week to be complete.



NEW WAGONS FROM PORT ELIZABETH

This week another 2 x C wagons arrived on the Farm, ex Port Elizabeth. We offloaded the wagons and shunted Them into the Hoekfontein West Siding.

Below: The offloading of the 2 x C wagons at Sandstone Estates.

Below: The 2 new C wagons arrived on the Farm on Wednesday and was offloaded and shunted into the Hoekfontein East siding where they will await restoration.



Below: This O wagon was shunted out and only needs a cosmetic upgrade that will also be completed in next week



RAILCARS

We have moved the BSA and Wickham to the Steam Shed and both were cleaned and tested.



Both Rail cars were fueled and are ready to run when needed.



The BSA and Wickham were cleaned and we turned the BSA around on the tri-angle so that she is ready to drive Out to any section as needed. The mainline in Hoekfontein was cleared of wagons blocking the mainline as well.



HOEKFONTEIN STEAM SHED COSMETIC UPGRADING

Joseph restored 2 tea tables this week, sanded the wood and gave it a fresh coat of varnish. Both standing in The Office for Train crews when they visit.



All the paving's were painted white again.



The wooden bridge had some broken planks and were replaced with new ones. All the tar poles are being treated Now. Below left: Trying to create a Oasis in a very dry eastern Free State.



The Office floor was painted and sorted out, made neat again.



Below: The all new Shed Office and Tool room. Next week we will move shelves from the Groenspan and All tools will be marked and everyone using them will sign for it.



Below: Joseph busy treating the tar poles outside the shed.



Below left: Joseph. Below right: gardening



Below: The sprayers are running all day to keep ahead of the draught.



We have removed most of the thick paint on the shed floors and started to paint the floors again.



Below: Painting of the shed floors.



We have completed the painting of the gray areas and found a tin of green but need more green to finish.

We will also paint the yellow stripes back as soon as we have finished painting the green areas.



VINTAGE SHED

Today we have started cleaning all the vehicles in the Vintage shed so that everything looks spotless.



LINE CLEANUP AND TRACK INSPECTION

This week we did a line cleanup and track inspection together. The weeds situation is under control and I could see that it was maintained. Only Hoekfontein Station is overgrown with Kosmos but will have it removed in next week



The Railway line to Grootdraai looks good, just the spring clips of the points at Grootdraai is being stolen.



Below left: Missing spring Clips. Below middle: Picking up broken beer bottles



Below left: Tumbler in Steam Shed for safe keeping.



Below right: Neat Railway line!



Below right: Slight slack near old Mooihoek crossing.



Below: Hoekfontein South mainline points bended. Wouter removed it and made it straight again.



Section Hoekfontein to Grootdraai urgently needs screening.



Below right: 100m before Pandora crossing needs screening.



Below: Above Pandora house, severe kick out on the curve because of sever heat not known in the eastern Free State.
This is the worst problem on the line.



Screening needed on the straight line from Vailima to the first curve .All the fishplates on the section Vailima to
The sharp curve near the Vailima Village needs to be serviced.



Below right: Culvert collapsing on the section Vailima Hult to Pandora junction.



Below Left: Screening needed on curve just before Pandora Junction.



Below left: Screening needed at Pandora crossing.



Below right. Very sharp curve near points on East siding.



Below left: Cleaning weeds at Silo's



Below Right: No tumbler and points need lifting.



Below left: Same set of points at new wagon shed. The points are making a slack because of the Road crossing.



Below left: Shed storage line points - no tumbler.



Below right: Broken rail at shed points.



Below: Ash put at steam shed supports collapsing.



Below left: Seun doing a great job in Hoekfontein Station



Below right: We cleaned all the railway crossings today



Below: Cleaned crossing. We will keep the crossing clean of any stones and ground. Very frustrating to drive Over dirty crossings whith a rail car :-) also it is very dangerous.



OLD GOODS WAGONS

Mr.Mole, I went on a treasure hunt through the salvage yard and found these 2 exquisite old goods wagons. I am just wondering if we could not move them onto a rail panel near the shed, I can repair them as time allows As a sideline. I think they will make a beautiful display but need Mr.Mole's thoughts about it. The wood is Also beautiful and it just would look great. They are 5m long and not so heavy.



BUS

Ben came back to work and he will be finished with the Bus by next week Thursday. He then will move on to The 3'6" Dinning car in the new Wagon Shed.



Below: The Dinning care. I went with Ben and had a look at what needs to be done. The Bus wont take so long Anymore and I will help ben to keep focus and to get it done.



Below: The inside of the Dining car. He said that he fitted new ceiling boards and sanded all the tables.



Ben also is finished with all the roof windows and made a couple of large side window frames, just need to fit.



Below: 3'6" Wagons needs varnish. There is 5 wagons like this.



Below: We painted these 3 Railway trolley's this week and use them as display in front of the Vintage Shed. Every night we move them into the Vintage Shed for protection.



GARDENING



We have moved 2 cement sleepers to prevent cars driving on the grass.



Tomorrow we will plant these 2 trees closer to the Vintage shed.



Below: Lining up the sleepers. We are going to make a little garden here with flowers.



Steam Greetings

Gert Jubileus and the Steam Team!