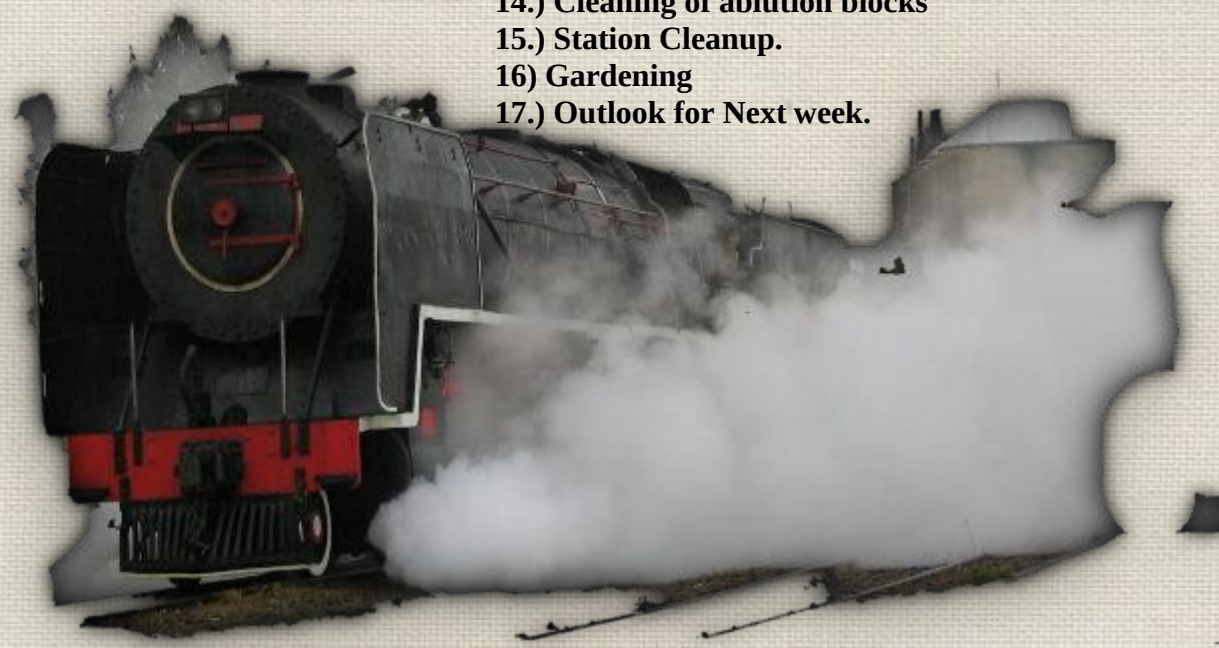


Steam News From The Eastern Free State



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- 1.) Washout NG4
- 2.) Servicing of boiler joints NG4, NG15
- 2.) Sugarcane Wagons Restoration
- 3.) Little Bess Coache Restoration
- 4.) Tz Cooler Wagon
- 5.) Dining Car 3'6"
- 6.) Coal stage Cleanup
- 7.) Vintage Shed cleanup
- 8.) Cleaning of Station Building
- 9.) Cleaning of Locomotives
- 10.) Cleaning of Waenhuis
- 11.) Cleaning of Tractor Hospice
- 12.) Cleaning of Bar
- 13.) Cleaning of Shop
- 14.) Cleaning of ablution blocks
- 15.) Station Cleanup.
- 16.) Gardening
- 17.) Outlook for Next week.



1.) Washout of NG4

This week we shunted out our NG4 for washout.



Below left: The smoke box washout plugs were removed as well as washout plugs around the fire box



Her gauge columns were removed the previous week and Brian is cleaning them after we removed All the old asbestos packing. Her tubes were cleaned and the fire box were washed as well. This Help a lot because not all the ash is removed when a fire is dropped and fine ashes clog in spaces Around the fire bar frame. With this the ash pans are also washed.

The lead plugs of the 3 locomotives will also be done soon.

Below: The washout of the NG 4



Brian is of huge help to me and really is learning very fast, he like to ask questions and this shows His interest in his work.



Below: Washout from the smoke box side.



We are going to change the way we washout the locomotives. They will first go to the ash put
So that we can clean the tubes, fire box and smoke box so that all the soot and ash can be
Removed easily, doing it in front of the shed is a mess. The locomotive then will be shunted
For washout of the boiler at the usual place.

Below: Cleaning the smoke box. We place a bag into the blast pipe to prevent dirt and water to Enter to the steam chest.



Below: First washed from the smoke box side toward the inner fire box, then we wash the inner fire Box. This ensure that the barrel is clean and all the mud and scale removed.



Finally the firebox is cleaned. Now we can go in and wire brush the sides as well as remove
The lead plugs to be re leaded.



The NG 4 was left outside the shed for a while to drip dry :-> then she was allowed back into
The shed.



2.)Servicing of Boiler Joints

In between all the tasks we find time to attend to the servicing of gauge columns and test corks. This week we cleaned out all the old asbestos from the gauge columns of the NG 4 while



Brian went on cleaning the gauge columns of the Lawley and the NG 4.

Below: The Gauge columns of the NG 4 being serviced.



Below left: Brian cleaning the last gauge columns and now will start with the NG 4.



Below left: The NG 4's gauge columns and test corks.



Below: The NG 15 gauge columns being packed with new graphite asbestos fibre.



Below: The Steam cork of the NG 15 being packed again.



Below: The second steam cork being packed.



Below: On the left of the table - Lawley gauge columns/ Middle is the NG4's gauge columns soaked And cleaned with Diesel and on the right side of the table are the gauge columns of the NG 15 Being packed again.



3.) Sugar Cane Wagons

This week Wouter pressed in the new bearing on the the sugar can wagon axles and fitted Back the axle boxes. The wheels then were fitted back to 5 of the 6 wagons and he will do The last one on Monday morning. We then will lift them onto the tracks for we now have space In the wagon shed for them.



Below: The new bearings being presses in onto the wheel axles.



Below left: Two sets of wheels fitted with new bearings



Below left: Axle boxes fitted back and wheels are ready to be fitted under the wagons.



Below: Joseph helped Wouter to lift the wagons quickly and to secure the axle boxes on The wagons. On Monday we will test them on the tracks to see if all is well.



Below: Wouter and Joseph spending the last minutes on Friday to complete this task.



Only one more wagon to go and then all will be ready to roll.



4.) Little Bess Coaches

Last week we shunted the first Little Bess coach into the shed and Wouter started to Cut out the rotten steel beams and fitted new channel in.



The sparks were flying and soon the main support beams were replaced and Wouter then could Cut out the old seat framework.



Below: The progress



Soon there were nothing left of the old rusted channels and Wouter removed all the steel of the Old floor framework and then welded in a decent frame for the floors. At this stage Joseph started To cut planks for this wagon in the Woodwork shop where Ben works.





Below left: Final grinding of edges before the wagon was shunted to the new Wagon Shed
For the woodwork to commence.



Below: The orange box wagon was also moved from the wagon shed to the new Wagon shed
To free up space.



Below: Joseph cutting new planks for the Little Bess coach.



Below: The wood for the floors and Joseph started to mount it to the steel frame.



Below: Inside the woodwork shop and new planks was planed for the little Bess coach.





Joseph is the one who build the Ratanga Guards van and I cant wait to see his artwork on this wagon. What make the Ratanga wagons so special is the fact that they all are different shapes, different makes Different builders and different art but at the end they all look smart.

Below: The Ratanga guard van Joseph build.



5.) TX Cooler Wagon

This week Petrus started with the restoration of the TZ wagon. I have spend a few moments Inside this wagon to figure out how to disassemble it before Petrus could start..



Below: Petrus and his TZ wagon. Pictures tells more than words ever can.



First he cut off all the bolts and removed the flat bars and then the panels came out by hitting it from the inside of the wagon.





Every now and then Brian assisted with the removing of the panels.



One hits them from the inside and the other had to catch it so they don't fall.





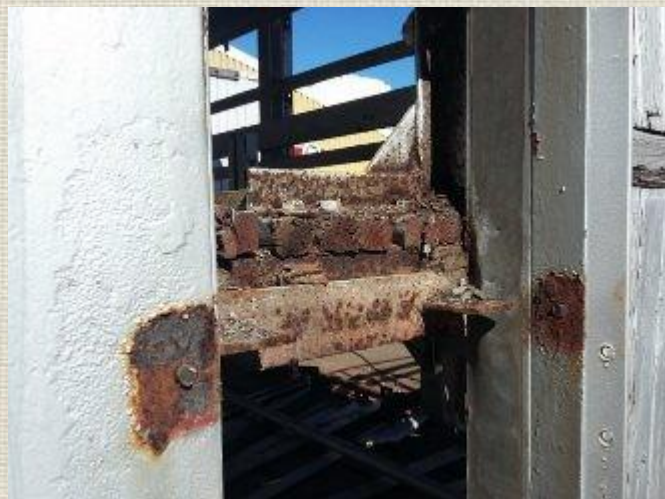


The wooden sides were removed as well, totally rotten and new planks will be made.





Below right: More planks that needs replacement.



Below: All the badly corroded steel parts were removed, dummies, handrails as well as steps.



Below: Petrus busy removing the last rotten steel parts before the wagon was shunted to the Sandblaster.



Below right: Rotten steel parts removed. New ones will be fitted.



Below right: Finally, the sandblaster will take care of the rest.



Below: The setup preparations before sandblasting was started.



Finally rust and old paint being removed by our large sandblaster.





Johannes helped Petrus and I think it was very hot inside the suite in this heat.





Petrus will now clean the wagon, sand and varnish the floors and will fit new wood and spares. The Wagon then will be painted silver again.



1.) Dinning Car 3'6"

This week ben made a new door for the 3'6" Dinning car in the New Wagon Shed.
Glass was cut in town for the top part of it.



Below: Ben in his workshop cutting the planks for the wooden door.



He preferred the door to be in the sun when clamping it and the door really came out very nice.



Ben is now on leave and the restoration of the Dinning car will commence when he is back again.

6.) Coal Stage Cleanup

This week Menasse and Pieter cleaned up the Coal stage for us. They really did a great job.



7.) Vintage Shed Cleanup

Lefu and his team continued with the rearranging of tractors and vintage vehicles in the Vintage Shed. We now have some more open spaces for more tractors. We now only need To move the big traction engines and turn them around so that they can all stand smoke box first All the tractors are now sorted by models and we started to sweep the floors on Friday afternoon.

Once this is done we
Can start cleaning all the vehicles in this shed.



Below: The Team hard at work.







All the very old tractors were moved together, ones with the steel wheels. So much character



On the end we only had odd different tractors left but they all look nice together.





All the canvas banner were taken off and placed on the grass. Agnus and Mavis washed them And folded them up. They will all be fitted back once the shed is clean.



8.) Cleaning of Station Building

This week we cleaned the Hoekfontein Station. Would be nice to be a Station Master here
Especially with a Bar and Restaurant so close :-)



Very romantic old Station Building inside.

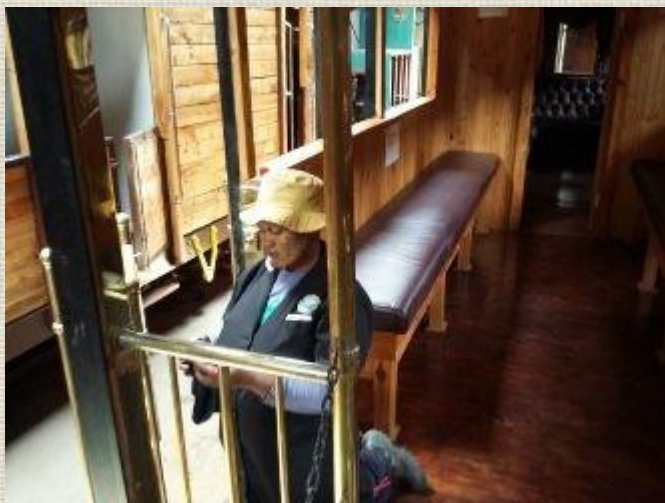


8.) Cleaning of Locomotives/Wagons

The cleaning of Locomotives and wagons are a constant exercise but it is easier to keep them Clean than to let it slip.



Below: Our new VIP coach being properly cleaned, all the brass and furniture were cleaned with Mr .min Furniture polish..



All the passenger coaches were cleaned thereafter.



9.) Cleaning of Waenhuis



10.) Cleaning of Tractor Hospice

This week we swept the Tractor Hospice. In next week we will clean the tractors again.



Below: Cleaning the Tractor Hospice!



11.) Cleaning of Bar

This week we also cleaned the bar.



13.) Cleaning of Shop

The shop at Hoekfontein Station was also cleaned.



14.) Cleaning of Ablution Block

Ablution Blocks were also cleaned.



15.) Station Cleanup

On Friday we quickly teamed up and moved all the wooden tables from the Waenhuis to The Commodity store.



We will move them to another store as soon as we have space somewhere. At least these tables will Be safe from elements of nature for the meantime. We left the 4 plastic tables at the Waenhuis for They will be safe.



gardening

Cosmos being planted at the Steam shed as well as at the Main office.
Brian also planted sunflowers around the dam at the camping ground and
Also at the Office. He planted cosmos at the Office as well.





OUTLOOK FOR NEXT WEEK!



- 1.) Restoration of Little Bess Coach 1 and 2
- 2.) Fit wheels back on last Sugarcane wagon and lift all onto tracks
- 4.) Clean all Level Crossings
- 5.) Restoration of Railway Trolley
- 7.) Washout NG 15
- 8.) TZ wagon Restoration
- 9.) C wagon sandblast & Restoration
- 10.) Vintage Shed cleaning
- 11.) Clean vintage shed tractors
- 12.) Clean Tractor Hospice tractors
- 13.) Cleanup 6 Class at Station
- 14.) Single quarters cleanup
- 15.) Roadworthy of all Ratanga wagon
- 16.) Cleaning of Locomotives
- 17.) Service and cleaning of Locomotive Boiler joints

Steam Greetings The Steam Team!

