



4th-12th May 2013

1) Highlights.

The Sandstone staff are focussing on preparing for the Stars event this year. Some highlights include the servicing and painting of our AY Ballast trucks the same colour, namely grey. We have commissioned an additional tanker and there is a very good chance we will have another one in use by the event. This means our tanker fleet will number 8 in total.

Two DZ's are being restored, and we are currently looking for ideas of what to put in them to make the consists more interesting.

For the drivers, firemen, and maintenance crews we are pleased to advise that there is a very good chance that a new pedestal water tank will be installed immediately adjacent to the Running Shed so that locos that are being serviced ready to depart can also be watered. In other words, the locos do not have to move to another location to receive their first water of the day.

Our well known and popular Fowler Tank engine, No. 14316, "Sandy", which has been out of operation for a number of years, has been retubed and is on its way back from Bloemfontein.

Finally, the Arn Jung is complete and in all its glory and ready to be unveiled.

2) Hunslet Diesel.

Our Hunslet Diesel loco will play a prominent role in our event. It has just had a new engine fitted and been resprayed.



3) Update on Lounge Car.

Please see below updated photos of our lounge car. You will see that the brass railings etc. are currently being fitted and things are starting to take shape.



4) Aircraft.

We are expecting an interesting cross-section of aircraft to join us this year. We have often had aircraft in the past but this year we have decided that they will make a valuable contribution to our activities. This means that a lot of work has been put into the runway.

Many pilots enjoy landing on traditional grass strips like this. Ours is 800 metres long and has the following coordinates:

28° 50' 41.12" S
28° 00' 15.94" E.



5) Narrow Gauge World coverage.

In the latest edition (January/February 2013) of Narrow Gauge World an article appeared on our event. See the following link: http://www.sandstone-estates.com/images/stories/sandstone/General/20130116/Narrow_Gauge_World_-_Jan-Feb_2013_-_Centenary_in_the_sun_Stars_of_Sandstone.pdf.

6) Sandstone Images.

As advised earlier Geoff's Trains will be bringing a tour group to the event from the UK. Geoff Cooke is no stranger to Sandstone as he has visited numerous times before with tour groups. Geoff has loaded a number of Sandstone images to his Flickr site which we thought you might find of interest. Please see: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/geoff-cooke/sets/72157632299057472/>.

7) Sunflowers.

Tessa Joughin recently visited the farm to take some photos of our magnificent sunflowers. We thought you might enjoy the photos below.



8) Where will Stars of Sandstone be held?

Obviously on site at Sandstone. For those who have not been to the site here is an aerial photograph of the complex clearly showing the railway installation, the railway lines, as well as the agricultural infrastructure. An additional 50,000 tons of grain storage is currently being added on the construction site which is clearly apparent at the top of the picture. A gallery of Sandstone aerial photographs appears below.



So, if you have never been to Sandstone now is your chance to explore the many treasures hidden in these buildings. If you have been before you need to look again! Please contact us to participate.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to fellow club members or friends and enthusiasts. It is important that people wishing to come tell us exactly what their interests are and whether they are direct participants. Our visitors extend from highly qualified locomotive drivers from around the world, firemen, guards, and technical specialists on steam, agricultural machinery, old vehicles etc. Sandstone is never able to showcase more than about 5% of the items on site and the extent to which we can bring these items out to add interest and to provide photographic opportunities is directly linked to the amount of expertise that we have available. To plan effectively we need to understand what our visitors' aspirations are.

The Sandstone team

Babita Hira, E: babitan@sandstone.co.za, Tel: +27 (0)11 805 4692
Joanne West, E: joannewest@btinternet.com, Tel: +44 (0)1189 819600