



4th-12th May 2013

1) What new items can you expect to see?

Lots of new items basically. Perhaps the most significant of which is a very old Sentinel Steam tractor which has been in private ownership for some years and which is now going to adopt Sandstone Estates as its home.

Here's a photograph of it arriving on our low bed, together with a very nicely restored Oliver 77, again previously in private ownership and restored by a gentleman who has moved to Australia.



2) Geoff's Trains offers an all-inclusive package to the event.

Geoff's Trains has for many years run tours in southern Africa for railway enthusiasts wishing to ride behind and photograph steam locomotives. One of the first tours to include Sandstone was in 2005, when his narrow gauge tour to South Africa included both Sandstone and Sandstone's Avontuur Adventurer. Geoff has re-visited us regularly since then with a number of successful charters. He has put together an interesting modular tour to southern Africa for steam enthusiasts in May 2013 and Sandstone is once more a star attraction.

Geoff's group will arrive at Sandstone in Saturday, 04 May with an option to arrive two days later if you prefer to fly from Europe on Friday night. Transfers between Johannesburg Airport, your hotel and Sandstone are included, as is accommodation.

Geoff will leave Sandstone on Thursday for Natal where he will visit the narrow gauge Paton's Country Railway at Ixopo and the Cape gauge line from Creighton to Pietermaritzburg. There is also an alternative to stay at Sandstone until Saturday, when you will transfer to Johannesburg.

Sandstone and Geoff's Trains are planning a series of trains that will be part of the Festival programme, but will offer run-pasts for Geoff's clients. There will be three morning and three afternoon trains all using different locomotives that will include sunrise and sunset glint shots at proven run-past locations with authentic train consists. Runpasts will be offered for both stills and video and we will keep an eye on distracting lineside activity. These trains will only be available to participants who have booked through Geoff's Trains or their partners, but there will be a full programme of alternative events for other visitors.

Running more trains calls for more crew, and Geoff's Trains is also offering his package to footplate crew who have proven qualifications acceptable to Sandstone and the Rail Safety Regulator. Contact Geoff if you are interested in this option.

More information on the Geoff's Trains package can be found on their website at: www.geoffs-trains.com. You can also call Geoff on +44 (0)156 632000.

In Germany, contact Tanago GmbH at: www.tanago.de

3) Lounge car.

Our lounge car is coming along nicely. The upholstery is completed. This picture shows the open area (mainly for men), and in the background the fully upholstered area (mainly for ladies).





Our brass veranda railings are due to be fitted this week (see below).



4) Old DZ's.

Old rusted DZ's are being pulled in and restored at a rapid rate. There will be a slowdown as many of our staff go on leave for Christmas but we will crack on in the New Year.



5) Old machinery store converted into livestock area.

The machinery storage area which is adjacent to the railway line and across the road from the cattle area is being vacated and converted into a livestock area. This is a major logistical exercise but it will give us an opportunity to sort through the different machines which are kept in this building. It is important we keep our livestock under cover during the rainy season and during the very harsh winters.



6) Hunslet locomotive.

We discovered that the clutch plate on the Hunslet had fractured due to metal fatigue. A small engineering firm we work with did a magnificent job of copying the old one and machining a new one.

Assembly of the locomotive has now commenced.



7) GPS co-ordinates.

Our GPS co-ordinates are as follows:

28° 50' 41.12" S
28° 00' 15.94" E.



A scenic photograph taken earlier this year at Sandstone by Hendrik Coetzer.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best for the festive season and New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2013.

The Sandstone team

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