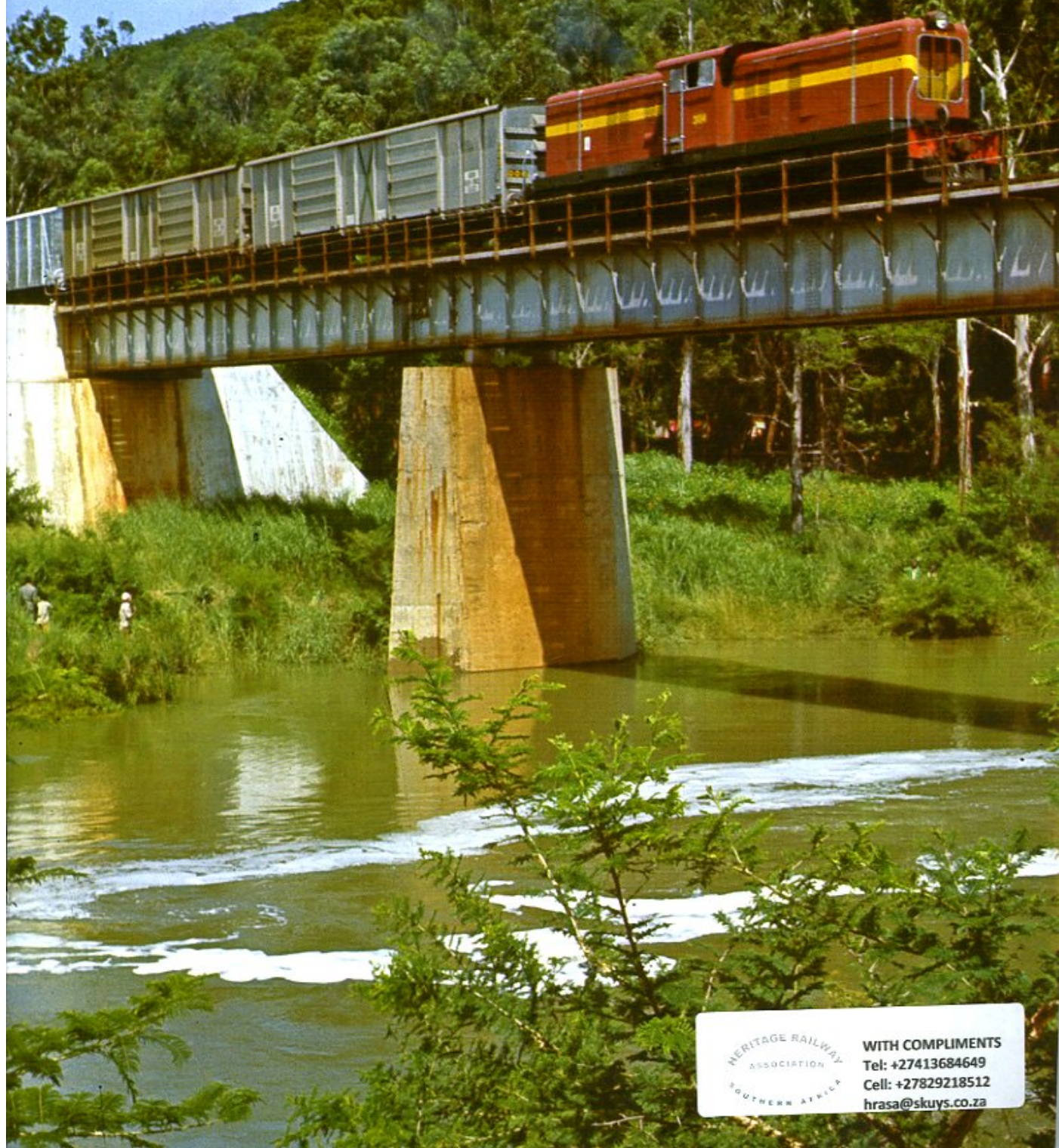


SA RAIL



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PRESERVED RAILWAYS REPORT /continued...



Above: The external restoration of A-18 type dining car No 161 'Phantom Pass' has been undertaken in latter months by SANRASM. Photograph: G Pethick

SANRASM, Krugersdorp

A quick repair and paint job to one side of the A-18 single diner 'Phantom Pass' has been undertaken. The roof was redone in recent months. This is not a full overhaul, but rotten wood around the windows has been replaced, followed by a quick sand down and repaint. There is a lot of work on the floor and interior, but further rot has been stopped – certainly for now.

Right: Magnificent bird's eye view of NGG16 No 153 snaking her way through the verdant Free State landscape, during the Sandstone Kalahari Sunrise event. Photograph: A McCarthy

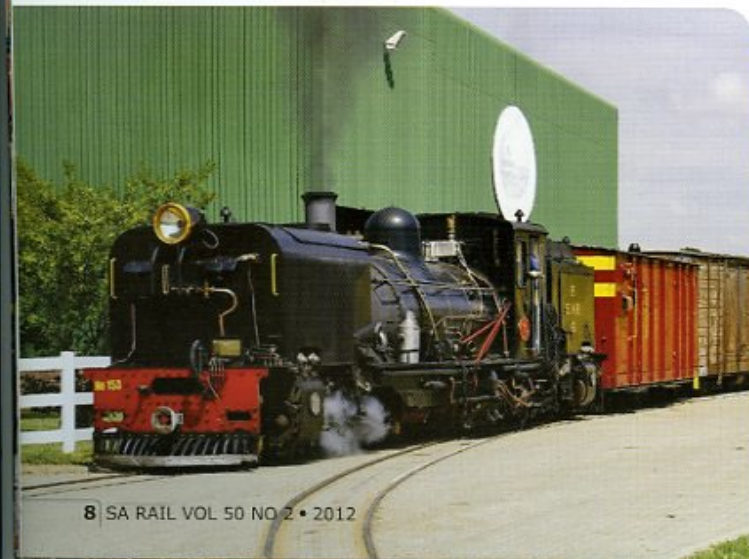
Sandstone Heritage Trust, Free State

Sandstone Estates successfully hosted its *Kalahari Sunrise* event from 28 March to 7 April, although disappointment was voiced at the lack of participation by South African drivers and firemen. The reason may be the R5,000 per person (excluding 14% VAT) tag for the event, which included meals but not accommodation. However, the estate did offer free camping facilities.

That said, Sandstone's 2012 *Kalahari Sunrise* event has been acclaimed as the most successful event of recent years. It would seem that SHT is developing for itself a sustainable business model. The 10-day event was targeted at narrow gauge enthusiasts and the demographics are interesting. A total of 350 attended – 65% being foreigners. The greater support came from Australia, Germany, Switzerland, France and the UK, with Americans welcomed to the event for the first time. Many stayed for the duration and many were professional railwaymen from around the world.

The wonderful old buildings, including an Engine House with a 1933 national engine, lie at the heart of the experience. The Wille family, from whom Sandstone purchased the property in 1995, had resided there over many generations since the late 1830's. This means the property has only been in the hands of two owners over a period of more than 180 years. The fact that many of the old sandstone buildings are still in daily use, including the main farmhouse which sits adjacent to the 1907 railway station building, provides an excellent backdrop to Model T Fords and other old vehicles, an outstanding variety of traction engines including a

Below: NGG16 No 153 on duty during Kalahari Sunrise. Photograph: H Paling



Fowler B5 Road locomotive, a McLaren engine, a Marshall Colonial, and others. Although the locomotives were rostered with different consists throughout the event it meant there were many surprises. A Bristol Bus dating back to the 1930's transported the photographers to key locations. The big B5 Road locomotive did sterling work hauling 13 trailers fully loaded with an overall length of 120 metres. This was a steam road train in the purest sense. The Sentinel Steam lorry was everywhere and bobbed up consciously or inadvertently in many photographic opportunities.

Because 22 locomotives had to be steamed – often more than once – over the course of the event, there was a substantial demand for qualified drivers and firemen. Because of Sandstone's inability to attract drivers from South Africa arrangements were made to certify foreign drivers and firemen for the event. This was not difficult because many of the narrow gauge steam drivers do so for fun, but in their normal professional lives are full-time drivers. A good example was the fact that two highly experienced drivers from Rio Tinto, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, attended. One might think that it is something of a comedown to go from pulling a 30 000 ton ore train down to piloting a narrow gauge tank engine with a 20-ton consist, but the smiles on their faces seemed to indicate that this was not a problem.

Next year's programme will be more ambitious and Sandstone hopes to cater for a larger audience, but it is hoped that local enthusiasts from Southern Africa can be attracted.

Below: Kalahari Sunrise action – No 4063 at Hoekfontein. Photograph: H Paling





Above: One of the two preserved ex-SAR class NG6 4-4-0 locomotives, No 97 Jimmie arriving at Hoekfontein. Photograph: H Paling

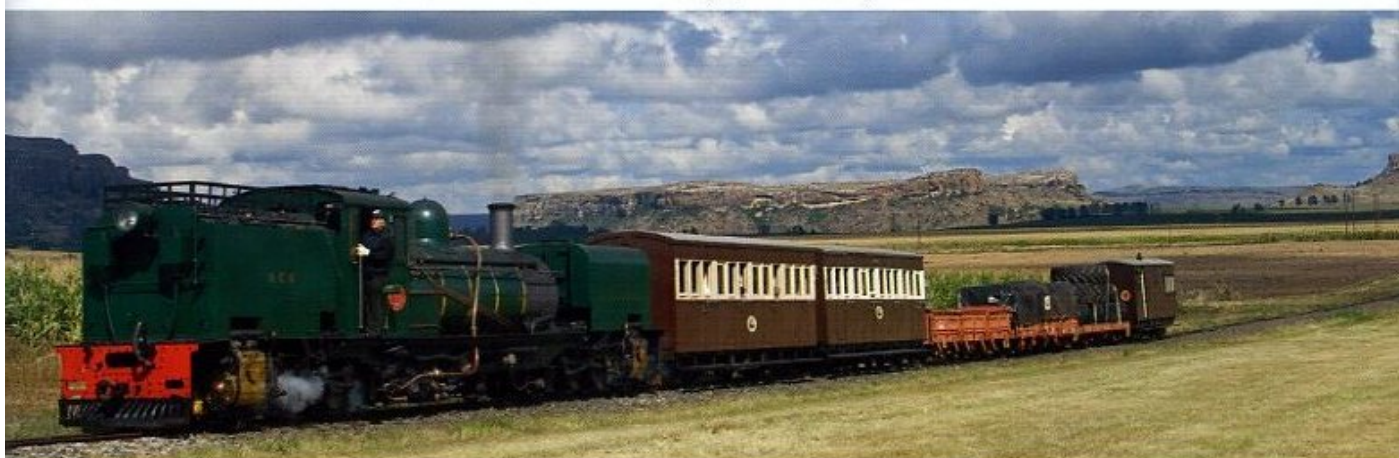


Above: Climb out of Grootdraai. Photograph: H Paling

Kalahari Sunrise photo gallery



Above: 1915 World War 1 Feldbahn No 13779 with a military consist. Photograph: A McCarthy



Above: NGG16 No 153 hauling a mixed freight through the maize lands at Vailima. Photograph: A McCarthy

Glorious sunrise at Sandstone. Photograph: A McCarthy

