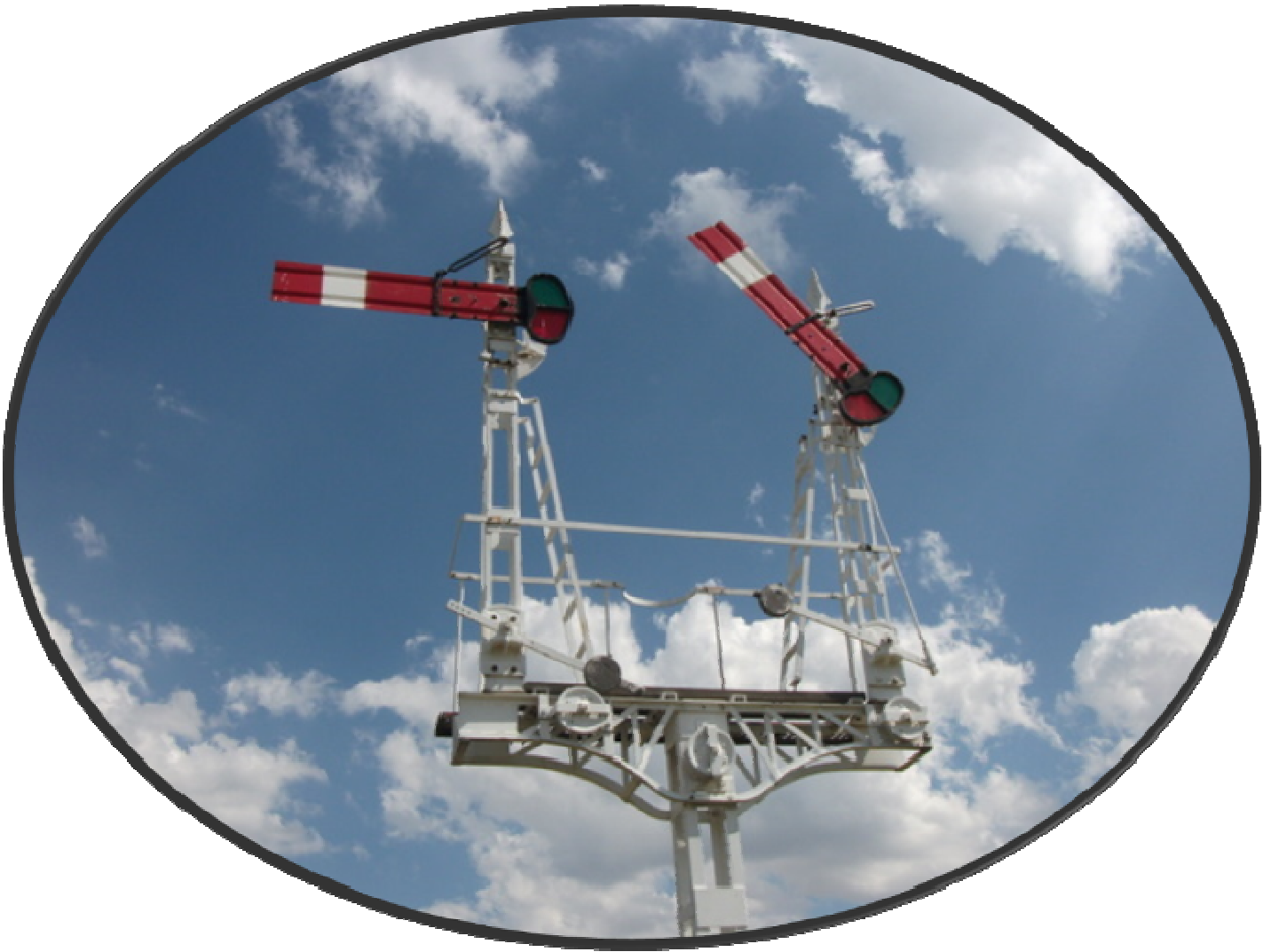


# CLOUDY SEASONS!!!



## **HOEKFONTEIN NEW SHUNTING YARD**

The Hoekfontein Shunting yard is very near completion and the last days we build another 60 meter of NG panels that was laid in Hoekfontein yard line 2. The first line is about 250 meter long and the second line is now 100 meters. The first 100 meters of line 2 will be ballasted in next week and will also be lifted and packed, the rest of the line will be laid near the end of January.

Below left: Line one and the first 40 meters of line 2.

Below right: Another 6 panels were build.



Below left: Our team busy to lift and pack line 1.

Below right: They first lift the left side and will use a level to lift the right side.



This time of the year it is the cloudy season in the Eastern Free State with lots of rain and very fast growing weeds around and between the railway lines. We tackled a major job to shunt the Hoekfontein yard completely clear for 2 reasons:

- One – to lift out slacks on the storage lines
- Two – to spray the weeds on the tracks in the yard.

This also was a good opportunity to sort out all the wagons, we shunted the mobile wagons out of the Station toward Mooihoek and all the mobile wagons from the Silo storage line, then we shunted all the wagons not roadworthy down to the silo siding.

Below left: A total of 60 roadworthy wagons standing on the Mainlines toward Mooihoek.



Below right: The Hunslet working it hart out to shunt all the roadworthy wagons from the silo siding to Mooihoek mainline.



Below left: The Hunslet about to reverse back with 14 roadworthy wagons from the silo siding to Mooihoek.

Below right: All the roadworthy wagons on the mainline.



Below left: The last un restored wagons being coupled and shunted down to the silo siding, only roadworthy wagons will now be stored in Hoekfontein.

Below right: A clean Station, ready for track repair and weed spraying. Once we are done the goods wagons on the mainline to Mooihoek will be shunted to the shed for general maintenance and wil then be shunted into Hoekfontein yard, the same time the wagons will be shunted sort by sort to make it neat.



Below: We took our casualties and quickly tackled the slacks in the Hoekfontein yard.



Below: Note the slacks.





Below right: Neat and straight again.



This was done and the next step was to spray the weeds but the rainy clouds gathered and we could not spray.

Below left: The Funkey with the weed trolley ready to go.

Below right: The stormy clouds postponing our weed spraying.



We inspected the NG O wagons on the Silo siding and the best 5 NG O wagons was shunted to the inspection pit for under frame restorations.

Below: NG O wagon shunted aside.



All The wagons were marked so that the shunter knew which ones to take down. We shunted down numbers 3991, 4044, 4056, 3924 and 4067.

This week we completely did a under frame restoration on 4 NG O wagons but still have to fit 2 overhauled vacuum cylinders to 2 of the NGO's.

Below left: The way to go before being used on the Sandstone Steam Railway.

Below right: All these wagons vacuum cylinder piston rods were replaced, note the pitting on the rod – due for retirement.





Below left: Wouter removing the old piston rod and replaced with a new one.

Below right: The rusted under frame. All the split pins were renewed.



Below: All these wagon bearings were fitted in and the boxes packed with new soaked axle box wool.

The brakes were adjusted and a vacuum brake test was done on 2 of the wagons, the other 2 still needs overhauled vacuum cylinders.



Below left: Loosening and oiling the hand brakes.

Below right: Number 4056 on the pit.



Below left: A new plastic release valve was fitted and all the brake gear pins were greased.

Below right: &^%%\$\$ the brake axle stuck– This is bad news.





The best and easiest way is to remove the V hangers and grease the axle again.

Below: Removing the V hangers.



Below: The loose V hanger, now we could take it off and grease it properly.



Below: Wouter loosening the pins to get the axle out.





Below left: The inner V hanger was also removed so we could grease it.

Below right: The vacuum cylinder removed from 4067.



Below left: The second 2 NG O wagons on the pit.

Below right: Soon these NG O wagons will be shunted with all the other box wagons on one line.



Our Passenger consist that was used on the Cherry trains were due for brake adjustment and 11 wagons were shunted to the pit for brake adjustments and under frame inspections.

Below left: A Ratanga wagon on the way to the pit.

Below right: Definitely needs brakes to be adjusted.





Below left: The Saloon and PE coaches on the way to the pit.

Below right: Derrick adjusting a PE coach brakes.



Below: Shunting!



Below left: Ratanga wagons on the way to the pit for brake adjustment.

Below right: 2 ratanga wagons on the pit for inspection and brake adjustments.



## LOOKING AFTER OUR STEAM LOCOMOTIVES





We had to disconnect our black water tank wagon used with the washout pump to make space for the Caboose from Uitenhage so we shunted the black tanker wagon to the stopblock and Derrick made a 20 meter pipe extension ( 4") to connect the washout pump again so we can washout the boilers for Boiler Inspections coming soon.



Below left: The 20 meter 4" pipe running underneath the caboose to connect water supply to the pump.

Below right: The huge washout pump.



Below: The black water supply.



# THE BARCLAY STEAMS AGAIN



Our little pretty Barclay was steamed again to haul a special passenger train to Grootdraai last week for a small touring group.

Below: The Barclay gaining steam in front of Hoekfontein Shed.

Below right: The Barclay taking water just before departure.





Below left: A pretty sexy Little loco.

Below: Wouter, our guard helping our passengers onboard of the Sandstone Express.



Below left: The Train departed just after 13H00 and is seen here passing the intermediate home signal on her way to Grootdraai.

Below right: A view from above.



Below left: A view back.

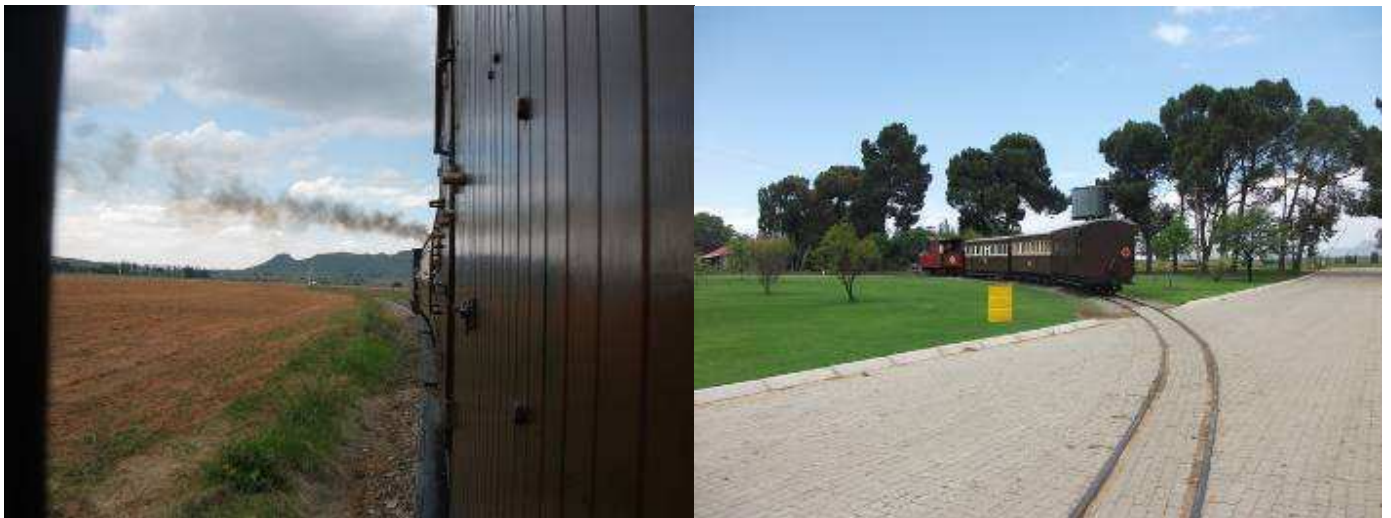
Below right: The Barclay tackling the gradient  $1/44$  out of Grootdraai with a short passenger consist.





Below left: The Barclay nearing the Intermediate home signal towards Hoekfontein Station on the return trip.

Below right: Sleeping time again and the Barclay shunt her consist down to the wagon shed.



**SANRASM**

Another two loads of items from SANRASM arrived on the Farm and was offloaded. The huge column was offloaded near the shed and it will be restored soon and will be erected at the steam Shed to replace the black water tank that supplies water to the washout pump.

Below right: A tender frame was offloaded on the 3'6" line near the Coal stage.



Below: Another Steam Roller arrived too!



**OUTLOOK FOR NEXT WEEK!!!**





- Lift and pack new Hoekfontein Yard
- Ballast line 2 in Hoekfontein yard.
- To finish restoration of NG O wagons.
  - To Spray weeds in Hoekfontein
  - To spray weeds on the main lines.
  - To fit back Lawley tender wheels
    - To assemble Lawley.
    - Move Hunslet from Town
  - Move Postal wagon from Town.
- Restoration of 2 NG hopper wagons.

STEAM GREETINGS

THE

STEAM TEAM!!!