

# A STEAMING YEAR!!!



This year was a very good year for the Sandstone Steam Railway and many train tours were hosted however this is only a small part of what we really are doing down in the Eastern Free State. Also was it a black year for Steam and we lost so many locomotives to the cutters. Chamdor was a disaster and SANRASM as well, but we still are steaming on.



So we have many good memories to look back at!



## THE SANDSTONE STEAM RAILWAY NEWS

### POSTAL WAGON

During the last week the Steam Team with the help of the Farm moved the Postal wagon from town and offloaded it at the Waenhuis where it will remain for a while till we will restore this wagon into a Bar Car too be used on specila events.



The inside of the Postal wagon is still in good condition but the exterior will need attention and new plates around it will be needed.

**Below:** The Postal wagon standing safe at her new resting place near the Waenhuis. All the goods wagons on this line were moved back onto the Postal wagon and the temporary line was removed again.



## THE RED HUNSLET

The red Hunslet also was loaded and moved to the Farm.



Below: Images of the loaded Hunslet.



This was the last items in Town and all the Sandstone Rolling stock were moved now to safe locations.

Below: The Huslet just before it left to the Farm.



Below: The Huslet being offloaded near the ex Town Shed.



## THE RAILWAY LINE

This year we saw a lot happening on the Sandstone Railway lines, extensive track repairs were done by Flint Constructions as well as new lines and storage lines that were build.

This week we shunted the AY ballast wagons to the Coal stage and loaded the last ballast we had in stock to ballast the 2 new lines in front of the Steam Shed as well as to ballast the line 2 in the new Hoekfontein shunting yard.

Below: 2 fully loaded AY wagons ready to do some ballasting.



Below : The line 1 being ballasted on the new storage lines in front of Hoekfontein Steam Shed.





Below: Derrick controlling the ballast process.



The next was to lift pack and level the line.





Below: Petrus and Victor hard at work lift and pack the line. The ballast offloaded on line 1 is enough to ballast the second line as well.



We had lots of summer rain and the weeds were starting to take over the Railway line. In the previous week all the wagons were shunted out of the Station to clear the lines so we had the opportunity to do a proper weed attack in Hoekfontein Station.

Below left: The Funkey spraying weeds in Hoekfontein.

Below right: The first 100 meter in Hoekfontein yard line 2 was completed. This line was sprayed to control the weeds before it was ballasted.



Below: Line 2 in Hoekfontein. This line was ballasted as well and will be lifted and packed as soon as they are completed with line 1.





Below: Spraying weeds in Hoekfontein Station.



Below left: The effective weed sprayers.

Below right: Spraying weeds in Hoekfontein east Shunting line.



Below: The weed Trolley in action.





We then shunted back all the wagons that we temporary stored on the mainline north of Hoekfontein Station and then went out to spray the rest of the Mainlines. BUT,



The Clouds were building up, typical of the Eastern Free State where afternoon showers are just as assured as the setting of the Sun each day. We sprayed the line from Hoekfontein to Grootdraai and returned just in time.



Below left: A view from the Funkey's eye.

Below right: Thunder showers on the way and we only could do the rest of the line the following day.



## WAGON RESTORATIONS

Although not very high priority is the restoration of more NG wagons for the Railway. During the last week we completed another NG O wagon and she was shunted out to Hoekfontein Station. The rest were still down at the shed and 3 of them are in need of a overhauled vacuum cylinder to complete the restoration.







Wouter is currently overhauling new vacuum cylinders for this 3 NG O wagons and it will be fitted soon. When he is done we will have 5 more NGO wagons to add on the consists. These wagons will remain in the original exterior condition for now.

Below: Vacuum cylinders, stripped and being overhauled.



Below: 2 NGO wagons shunted outside the shed awaiting overhauled vacuum cylinders.



O'S



## THE LAWLEY

The Lawley suffered from a loose tyre on one of the tender wheels and it was send away to Denrus Engineering in Odendaalsrus. The wheels arrived back and Henk had to machine all the bearings to be standard size.





Below left: Henk doing the last work on the axle box keeps.

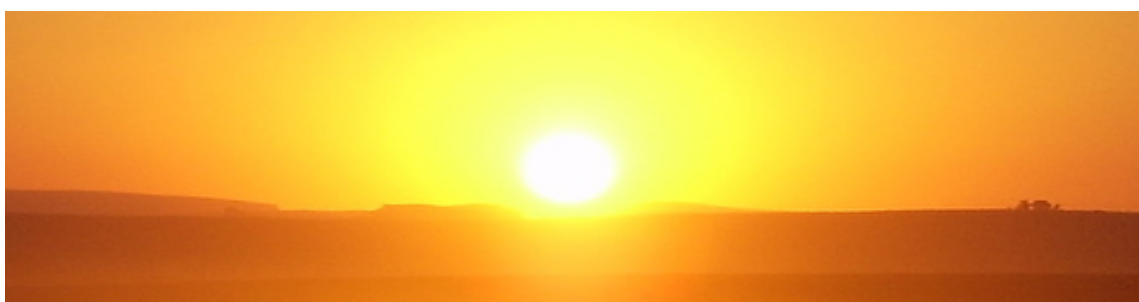
The Lawley tender was shunted out this morning and the wheels will now be fitted back and the loco and tender will be connected again.



Below: Henk busy to fit back the axle boxes before we can lift the tender back onto the wheels.



## FROM THE PAST



All photos in courtesy of Dave Richardson.

Below: Class 19D number 2698.





Below: Class 19D number 2742



Below: Class 15CA number 2850.



Below: Class 25NC number 3407.



Below: Class 25 number 3511.





Below: Class 24 number 3632.



**OUTLOOK FOR NEXT WEEK**



- To fit back Lawley tender wheels
- To connect Lawley tender to Locomotive
- To do the last work needed to get the steam brakes working on the Lawley.
  - To Lift and pack new line in front of Hoekfontein Shed.
  - To lift and pack new shunt yard in Hoekfontein.
  - Move Bessinger to Hoekfontein in front of 10CR
    - To finish restoration of the NGO's

Below: Class NG 15 waiting the line to clear as the Military train moves into Hoekfontein Station – Under African Skies.



**STEAM GALLERY 2010**





