



**Making history:** Giovanni Lodetti (middle) hands over the coach, on behalf of NPC Cimpor, to Andrew King of Reefsteamers. Behind are the Reefsteamers team (from left) Simon Bennett, Andre van Dyk and Alan Lawton with Pierre Bezuidenhout from Transnet, John Eales, Jan Hulcoop and Sheila Lawton.

# Conserving history

A classic old coach was donated to help preserve South Africa's rail heritage.

SHONA AYLWARD

A SMALL ceremony was held to mark the handing over of a 1971 vintage sitter coach by NPC to Reefsteamers last Saturday.

The handover took place at the Port Shepstone station and was an incredible gift for the Reefsteamer team.

Reefsteamers is a non-profit steam train operator, affiliated to the Transnet Heritage Foundation.

When Transnet discontinued its daily steam operations in 1991, Reefsteamers was established at the old loco

shed in Germiston. Its main objective is to preserve and rebuild old steam locomotives, a project which is funded by special day and weekend trips, both

for private individuals and companies, to various destinations. "This will be the first coach we own," said Andrew King from Reefsteamers.

"Our other day sitters can only handle 60 passengers, while this coach seats an additional 40 passengers," Giovanni Lodetti, plant manager of NPC's Simuma plant,

explained that the train was bought in 1994 to mark NPC's 10th year in operation.

"It was an absolute sin for the train to stand and not be used," said Mr Lodetti.

He added the donation was made largely thanks to John Eales and Jan Hulcoop's enthusiasm for improving tourism on the South Coast.

"NPC is happy to donate the coach to Reefsteamers, as they are experts in restoring and preserving locomotives," said Mr Lodetti.

A plaque, recording the date of the event and the official new name of the coach - 'The NPC Cimpor Coach' - will be proudly displayed inside the coach.

## Take note

DUE to the festive season holidays, the advertising and editorial deadlines for the South Coast Herald have changed.

For the issue dated December 30, the deadline for display advertising is noon today, Thursday, December 22. Classified adverts need to be in by 2pm this Tuesday, December 27.

The editorial deadline for submitted copy is 9am this Tuesday, December 27.

For the January 6 edition of the paper, the deadline for display advertising is next Thursday, December 29 at noon and the classified deadline is Tuesday, January 3 at 2pm.

The newspaper office will be closed on December 26 and January 2.

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