

Sandstone Estates Steam Railway News 6 February 2017



Highlights of the week!



Class 91-010



Our Class 91 has received quite a lot of attention the past two weeks, first of all the Spoornet and loco number stickers were pasted back and then the Diesel fitters from Genrail arrived on site to get her up and running again.



A total of 32 new batteries were bought and fitted, then she was shunted to the fuel tank while Pieter and Dean inspected the locomotive to ensure everything is safe to start her after standing for many years.



Class 91-010

After a few hours she was ready and started within 2 seconds, running like a charm.



Below left: Pieter, from Genrail



Below left: Dean from Genrail.



Class 91-010

All the brake pipes were fitted and brake tests were done to ensure everything is working. There was a small problem with the notches but Pieter and Dean quickly sorted it out.



Below left: The Class 91 taking her first steps on the Sandstone Estates Steam Railway.



Below: Air filters being changed.



Class 91-010

Thinus had to modify the air vent pipes to the traction motors and he is making the last 3 pipes today. We now will be able to test her with a load to Grootdraai soon.



Below: The Class 91 on light shed duties last Friday morning.



Below left: Thinus cleaning the radiator from above.
Below right: The air vent pipe fitted to one of the traction motors.



In the coming week we will fit 4 new marker lights and sort out the headlights on the Class 91.

NG Wagon Maintenance



During the last two weeks we attended to the servicing of our NG goods wagons. Defective vacuum and chamber pipes were replaced, new release valves were fitted where needed and new vacuum hose couplers and dummies were fitted.



The wheels were inspected and brakes adjusted. The handbrakes were tested and finally a vacuum leak off test was done to ensure the wagons are in good condition and ready for Stars 2017.



NG Wagon Maintenance

We now have completed the maintenance on 35 goods wagons and still have 53 to do.



Below left: A wheel with very sharp flanges. The wagon was shunted aside and the bogeys will be renewed.



Below left: 2 DZ wagons on the Inspection pit.
Below right: Vacuum hose due for retirement.



The wheels are ring tested and brake blocks are renewed where needed.

NG Wagon Maintenance

Below left: New dummies ready to be fitted.
Below right: New dummy fitted and gooseneck prepared to fit new vacuum hoses.



Stuck handbrakes are removed, cleaned, greased and fitted back.



Below: Number 2806 on the Inspection pit for servicing.



NG Diesel Locomotive Repairs



Our little Funky ran into some trouble with leaking oil seals on her torque converter. Louis stripped the Funky And fitted new oil seals to the torque converter.



Louis fitted the torque converter back and she is good to go again.



NG Diesel Locomotive Repairs



He also changed the oil on the Hunslet and fitted a new oil filter. Thus made a new battery box for the BSA and the new battery is now locked inside.



The Hunslet alternator was sent to town to fix and Louis fitted it back into the Hunslet. He also changed the oil filter on the Wickham railcar.



We now will test the Hunslet alternator before we fit the new batteries that were bought recently.

Ratanga Coach Conversion



Thus finished the conversion of the first Ratanga coach last week and we will ask our Stars 2017 passengers reviews On the modification before we will convert the rest of the Ratanga coaches.



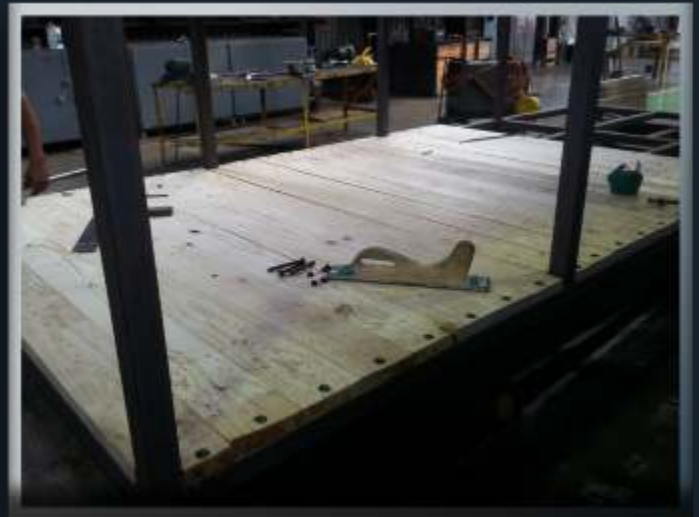
Below: A short test run with the shock absorbers fitted



Little Bess Coach



Thinus started with the restoration of one of the two Little Bess coaches this week. He is currently fitting a new Wooden floor and will finish the metal sheeting in the coming week.



The Little Bess coaches will be a essential part of the new Seb's Railway line and must be completed in time for Stars 2017.

Water Columns



Johannes painted the water column at the coal stage and then moved on the column in the Tri Angle.



The two small column pipes in Hoekfontein were connected last week and are working very well. Thinus then made another column pipe for the Wagon shed and we will make a series of small column pipes in this area. The water pipes are also extended to supply water on the new Seb's Railway line.



100 M of lay flat hose was delivered and will be used on these small column pipes.

Seb's Railway Line



The construction of the new Seb's Railway line has finally begun and first of all we had to move the points down To ease the radius of the curve at the junction points.



Seb's Railway Line



The line to the 150M shed was disconnected for a while to allow us to lay the curve and then we connected the 150M Shed storage line again.



Seb's Railway Line



Seb's Railway Line

Below left: The 150M shed points being fitted and the line extended to have a straight line to the 150M Shed and not a curve anymore.



Below left: Extending the straight to the 150M shed.

Below right: The first tracks on the new Seb's Railway line being laid heading towards the coal stage area.



Below: The connection from the Seb's junction points to the 150M shed.



Seb's Railway Line

Below: Time for the ballast train on the curve and 150 M Shed line.



Below: The straight line that was laid to connect the 150M Shed line again.



Seb's Railway Line

We then had to lift and pack the points and curve before we could continue.
Below right: Seb's line as it goes down to the little forest near the Coal stage.



Below: Making a road through the little forest.



Below: The line being build through the little forest.



Seb's Railway Line

Below: The left curve near t the coal stage being connected.
Below right: A load of cement sleepers being offloaded near the coal stage.



Below left: The cab view from the grader grading the road below the Steam Shed.
Below right: Earthmoving being done outside the complex.



Seb's Railway Line

Below: The grader and Damskrop hard at work preparing the way for the new Seb's Railway line.



Seb's Railway Line



Seb's Railway Line

Below left: The grader was used to grade the balloon junction down to the forest and dam.



Below: The ballast train on the 150M shed line.



Below left: Our track team busy tamping the straight line and points on the Seb's Railway line.
Below right: Thus made a new speed post for the Seb's Railway line.



Seb's Railway Line



Seb's Railway Line

Below right: Seb's junction.



Below: Earthmoving work done on the curve just before the game camp.



Seb's Railway Line

Below: More earthmoving done on the Seb's Railway line. Some places are filled up and cuttings are made at other places to ensure the gradients are in specifications.



Below right: Filling up the curve just before entering the forest near the dam.



Seb's Railway Line

Below: The construction of Seb's railway line!



Seb's Railway Line



Below left: The straight to the 150M shed ballasted.



Below right: The curve near the coal stage.



Below right: Filling up the ditch near the main culvert on the east side of the dam.



Seb's Railway Line

Below: Earthmoving work being done near the dam on the west side of the Railway line.



Below left: The construction of the culvert near the dam.



Seb's Railway Line

Below: The construction of the Seb's railway line. Below the Steam Shed



Below right: The curve into the forest.



Seb's Railway Line



Seb's Railway Line

Below: The points being offloaded at the Seb's balloon.



Seb's Railway Line



Below left: Easing the radius at the curve.



Seb's Railway Line



This week we will connect the points and lay the tracks straight down to the culvert about 800 m further. We also will fit wood sleepers under the points and will continue with the earthmoving work needed.

A total of 760 M of track was laid so far.

Outlook for next week!



Tasks

- 1.) Make 3 new steel vent pipes for Class 91
- 2.) Fit 3 new vent pipes to traction motors Class 91
- 3.) Change Class 91 oil and filters
- 4.) NG wagon maintenance
- 5.) Paint shed floors
- 6.) Construction of Seb's Railway line
- 7.) Fit new air brake and reverser valves on Hunslet
- 8.) Hunslet alternator repair and fit new batteries.
- 9.) Bagnall servicing and fit new batteries.
- 10.) Little Bess coach restoration.

Next Steam Report Date: 20 February 2017!



Blast from the past!



By Dave Richardson

The restoration of Sandstone's ex NRZ DE2 diesel electric No: 1207 is expected to commence later in 2017. John Battwell sent us this pic of two of her sisters leaving Mutare in 1982 with a full freight load bound for Beira in Mozambique. The locos were changed for CFM traction at the Forbes Border Post some 8 kms down the line.

