



Highlights of the week!



Mooihoek Loop Line



Mooihoek

During the last 2 weeks we completed the construction of the the new loop line at Mooihoek. The new loop was Ballasted and slacks were lifted out . We are currently lifting out slacks on the mainline part of the loop And will be finished with this by the end of the week.



Below: Images of the ballasting on the new loop line at Mooihoek siding.



Mooihoek Loop Line

We have used the existing ballast of the old Mooihoek siding and loaded it into our AY wagons with the help of The Farms TLB.



Finally the ballasting was done and our crew started lifting out slacks and boxed the ballast on the new line.



Mooihoek Loop Line

Two speed post signboards were fitted 30M from each side of the siding indicating the maximum speed through the siding, the top one for the mainline and the speed post below showing the speed for taking the loop line.



Below left: The new line neatly boxed.



Below right: The speed post from the west side



Below: Images of the west side of the new loop line through Mooihoek.



Mooihoek Loop Line

The 2 sets of points were painted again and 2 clearance marks were cut and fitted.



Below left: Our team started to lift out slacks and boxed the ballast on the old part of the new Mooihoek loop.

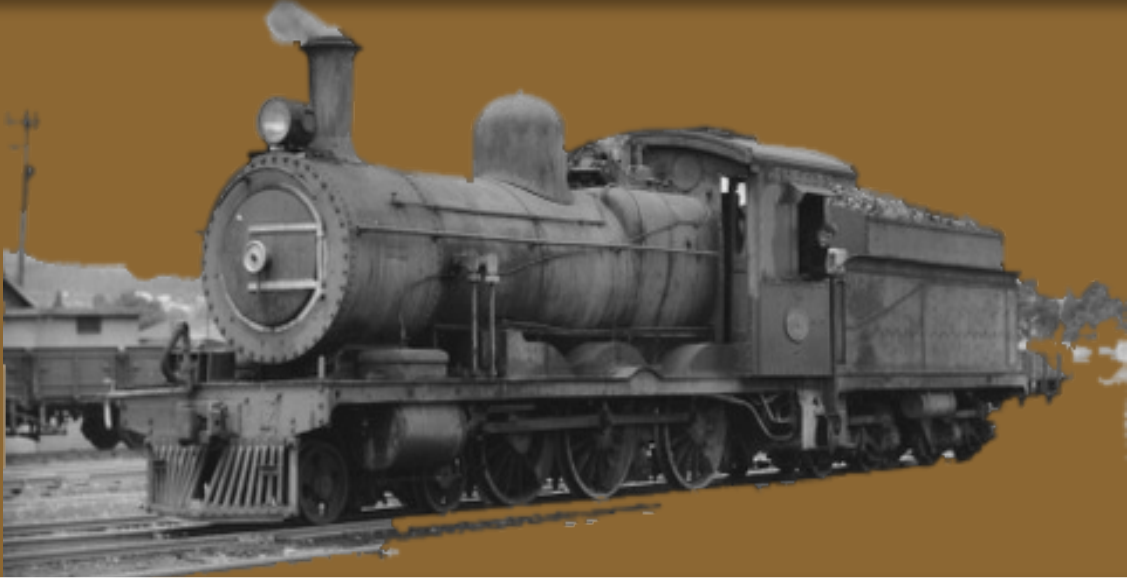


Below: The 2 freshly painted points at Mooihoek siding.



Our next step will be to put up a small water column for top up purposes.

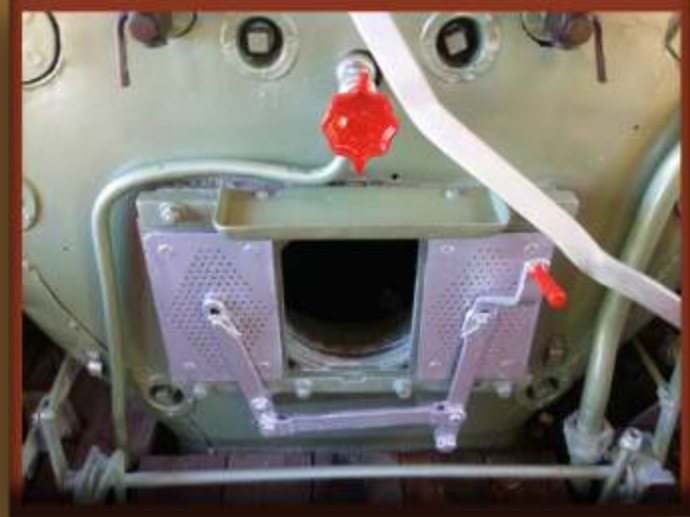
Class 6 C Restoration.



Class 6 C Number 544 picture by Les Pivnic

Brian finished the last paint work that was needed in the cab of the Class 6C last week.

See Images below:



Ceres Rail Train Ride



Ceres Rail Train Ride Around The Mountains

Last week we had the honor to have Ceres Railway group with us at Sandstone Estates and we have steamed up our Class NGG 16 number 153 for a train ride over the Mountains.



Below: Our Class NGG 16 number 153 with a special mix train and 2 VIP coaches.



Ceres Rail Train Ride

Our Train departed at 15H00 towards Grootdraai and then back to Hoekfontein for a brief water stop before Tackling the severe climb over towards Valima and Vailima halt.



On the return trip we stopped at the new Mooihoek siding as it was also time to pickup our rail workers.

Below left: Number 153 in Hoekfontein siding



We departed Mooihoek just before 17H00



Wagon Restorations



NG - V

This week we shunted out one of the Guards Vans and started with the restoration. Brian painted the Van and We then shunted it to the 150M shed where Ernest will finish the inside restoration needed. Once this is complete We will shunt it to the shed for the final roadworthy work needed to complete the restoration.



Below right: We also have completed the cosmetic restoration that was needed on the 3 x 3'6" goods wagons behind The Class 6C. The wood was varnished, steel sides and the roofs were painted again.



Wagon Restorations



DZ Wagons

5 DZ wagons loaded with coal was shunted out from the 150 M Shed and was offloaded at the Coal Stage. These Wagons then were shunted to the Steam Shed where all were washed and will receive a new coat of paint. The first DZ is completed and all will then be serviced, axle boxes packed and brakes adjusted.



Brian also painted the first DZ from Port Elizabeth which also will be shunted to the shed for mechanical restoration Needed.



Another 2 DZ wagons will be shunted to the shed in the next week and will be sandblasted and painted with a full Mechanical overhaul.

Wagon Restorations



Sugarcane Wagon

Ernest also upgraded the wood work on one of our Sugarcane wagons this week. The planks were sanded down And varnished again. New wood was fitted on the frame tops.



DZ wagons coal



Offloading coal

5 DZ wagons loaded with coal was offloaded at the Coal Stage and Menasse helped us with the TLB to move The coal into the Coal Stage.



Funkey Diesel Locomotive



Maintenance

Last week we did maintenance on our little Funkey locomotive. All grease nipples were cleaned and greased again. We also found loose bolts that were secured and repaired the brake problem on the locomotive.



Below: Wouter busy fitting back the panels after our work was completed.



Shunting



Shunting Hoekfontein - 150M Shed

We did quite a lot of shunting during the past week, first we shunted Hoekfontein Station to sort all wagons and Then we shunted out all the goods wagons from 2 lines in the 150M shed. All these wagons will be shunted To the shed, 8 a week for general maintenance and then will be shunted back again.



We no have to move the far right line a little bit more to the shed side to have more clearance between the wagons. We also will attend to the track work in front of the shed very soon.



Outlook for next week!



Tasks



- 1.) To finish with Mooihoek loop line.
- 2.) Tamping machine alterations.
- 3.) 5 x DZ wagons maintenance and cosmetic upgrading
- 4.) O wagon Restoration.
- 5.) GV restoration.
- 6.) Otavi Wagon Restoration.
- 7.) 3'6" Goods Wagons cosmetic upgrading.
- 8.) Wagon Maintenance.
- 9.) Weekend event preparations.

Blast from the past!



By Les Pivnic

Witbank Loco and Yard photographed back in May 1961. The 15CA no.2076 in the foreground is going on duty to work a train to Waterval Boven. In those days, 15CAs worked most trains from Pretoria to Witbank and then on from Witbank to Waterval Boven. From Boven, loads were worked forward to Komatipoort by class GMAM Garratts but before the Garratts arrived on the scene in 1954, class 15A/15AR ruled the roost on that section of the Eastern Transvaal Main Line.

