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Dear Fedrail SA member,

FEDRAIL NEWSBRIEF No: 5

Welcome to our fifth News Update of 2016, in these frequent bulletins we shall be updating our members and friends on matters relating to rail preservation and tourism in Southern Africa. We invite all our readers to submit any comments or information that could be beneficial to the growth of rail preservation and tourism for future issues.

Further developments re Transnet's disposal of heritage locomotives and rolling stock.

The disposal of locomotives and coaches by Transnet is still on hold and all previous sales have been suspended and cutting halted. At Voorbaai the cutting of the ex RR Garratts 508 & 615 was halted as the rear bunkers were being removed.



Our thanks to Clive Holliday for the pictures.

FEDRAIL SA was not involved in the process of the retention or disposal of the assets. What has transpired, from what we have been told, is that despite consultation having taken place over a long period certain parties are now questioning the process.

However, some of the reasoning presented by some parties, that there was not enough time to consider all the facts, makes no sense at all. This process has been going on for years. Following the stoppage, a 30 day period of grace was offered by Transnet to all interested parties and organisations and their members, who raised objections, for them to apply for Loan agreements or make offers to purchase the assets. FEDRAIL acknowledges that Transnet took steps to allow all parties another opportunity to express their views.

This time frame has now expired and the outcome is eagerly awaited on who applied for a Loan Agreement, if any.

FEDRAIL SA will continue to monitor the process as new information becomes available and we will keep our members updated.

Members News

Friends of The Rail on the move.

Faced with a complete exit from their long time base at Capital Park as lease holders Rovos Rail expand their operations, the move of the remaining assets has begun in earnest. Rovos Rail has been most helpful with assistance in laying additional track at Hermanstad and supplying motive power with one of their ex Australian diesels to move locomotives and coaches. The first locomotive to move was 15F 3117, damaged some six years in a derailment at Cullinan. Still to be moved are the two ex SANRASM locos (19D & 24) and 15CA 2850 and 19D 2650 plus coaches and stores.

Plans are also well under way for the construction of the required inspection pit at Hermanstad.



15F 3117 still shows its battle scars from the derailment as it leaves Capital Park. Picture by Nathan Berelowitz.

Reefsteamers

Reefsteamers will also be introducing a new style event to the Heritage Rail arena, Planes, Trains & Automobiles, on June 4th when their Magaliesburg Train will be accompanied by vintage cars and aircraft on the Krugersdorp to Magaliesburg section. After a trial run in 2015 with the Tiger Moth club this looks to be an interesting day and adds a new dimension to daily steam excursions and some lateral thinking on the part of Reefsteamers in the current economic climate.

OLD LADIES STEPPING OUT — SEE 'EM ALL
PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES



Sat 4 June 2016 • JHB to Magaliesburg
 For a seat aboard Reefsteamers' Steam Train, book today:
bookings@reefsteamers.com • 062 743 9200
 The Planes and Automobiles will join the Train at Krugersdorp for the trip to Magaliesburg

Locomotive Restoration

The Germiston based operator is making great progress on their 15CA with the re tube and wheel turning well under way as well as new drive axle bearings. Progress is also reaching finality on David Shepherd's 15F with a steam test expected within the next week. The locomotive has been fitted with its "Brakpan" name plates and after many years, 3052 number plates, as the originals were "lost" some years ago after the handover to David Shepherd in Kimberley.



3052 being washed out prior to being re tubed. Picture by FEDRAIL SA

SAR Steam Tours

Exciting news on the rail tour front is that SAR Steam Tours in conjunction with Reefsteamers has announced a 13 day tour in March/April 2017 coinciding with The Stars of Sandstone 2017 event.

The tour will leave Johannesburg on March 29th 2017 and travel via electric haulage to Bloemfontein where steam traction will be used for the run to Ficksburg. Tour participants will have ample opportunities for visiting the Stars of

2017 event as well as local tourist attractions. A number of photographic day trips will be offered for tour travellers as well as visitors to the Sandstone event.



Sandstone's 19D 2654 is expected to make its first main line appearance in 2017. Picture by Lukas Nel.

Locomotives expected are from the Sandstone collection with 19D 2654, GMAM 4079 and 15F 3052 being in action. The tour will return to Johannesburg from Bethlehem on the 13th April.

Full details can be found on the SAR Steam Tours website, www.sarsteamtours.com or you may e mail tours@sarsteamtours.com.

After many years of rail tour drought and long negotiations between Reefsteamers, FEDRAIL SA and Transnet, this promises to be an exciting experience.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow and we welcome the following new members since our last Newsbrief:

Anthony Bass, Brian Nixon, Lukas Nel, Dennis Moore, Peter Burton, George Shields (UK), Errol Welch, SAR Steam Tours and Phillip Maurer (Switzerland) and Al Harper from the Durango and Silverton Railway in Colorado, USA.

We would like to include further details of our members in our membership list and those that are interested might also like to provide a profile of their Heritage activities to feature on our website and in our Newsbriefs. If you belong to a private railway club or operator you might like to use the opportunity to promote your club. In other words, we would like members to know what other members do so we can provide an opportunity for dialogue and cooperation. We would really like to hear from you.

Readers are invited to share this newsletter and non-members are invited to join FEDRAIL. Full details can be found on our website, www.fedrail.co.za under membership applications.