

STEAMNET 2000 NPC

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"Preserving Northern Cape's Steam Trains"

Affiliated to Transnet Foundation and a member of the Heritage Railway Association of South Africa

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NEWS UPDATE FOR MEMBERS & INTERESTED PARTIES

"Loaned" Henschel Condensor moved to safety.

Prototype 1953 built South African Class 25 Condensing locomotive No 3451 was the only one of 90 constructed entirely by Henschel & Sohn of Kassel, Germany [construction number 28730]. By the mid 1970,s the remaining Condensors were split between De Aar and Beaconsfield [Kimberley] depots, until the final ones were converted in 1979. No 3451 was based at Beaconsfield untill selected for preservation by Mr Les Pivnic, then S A R Museum curator, and withdrawn from service in 9/1977 to be placed in the then "National collection" at De Aar. Two others were eventually also preserved, one of which, No 3540 was cut up at Beaufort West in the 1980,s. On 01 August 1985 No 3451 was relocated to Millsite, Krugersdorp with others to a supposedly secure "National collection" compound. Sadly the 50 or so historic steam locomotives gathered at Millsite have been severely vandalised and stripped of all copper, brasswork and many other parts to feed the insatiable S A scrap metal industry.

Transnet Foundation in conjunction with the SAHRA, have, over the last couple of years reviewed their asset preservation policy resulting in both surviving Class 25 Condensing locomotives being entrusted on "loan" to our Kimberley based organisation, being the only S A steam "club" to apply. This is a huge honour and responsibility for Steamnet2000NPC and we recognise and thank in particular Cynthia Mgijima, CEO of T.F. and Brian Murison and Kobus Volschenk of T.F.

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