

**SUMMARY:**

This report covers TWO work days, as the Depot was active on Friday, 16 June (Public Holiday) as well as the usual Saturday on 17 June. As we were running a train on Sunday, some of our members spent THREE days in a row working at Reefsteamers. Because of the Sunday run, Saturday was fire lighting day and the training opportunity was given to some of our young guys to bring the big 15F into steam.

**LOCOMOTIVES:**

- Class 15F 3046 'Vreni' was lit up and cleaned on Saturday.
- The cleaning was primarily done by our three regular young men – the Reefsteamers 'Dirty-Dudes.'
- 15yr. old Dylan van Zyl (aka 'The Dillo') was in charge of fire-lighting. (Supervised, of course.)
- The 15F's new compressed air blower connection wasn't as successful as we hoped. The apertures in the built-in blower ring on the blast cap are too large for the air flow available, and the resulting air flow dissipates in the firebox rather than driving a draft up the petticoat.
- Simon Bennett has volunteered to try and arrange a fan with a heat resistant motor and we will make a cowling for the chimney top in the manner that the American steam preservationists do.
- Come what may, we are phasing out the hook-and-ring blowers- they are awkward and dangerous to use – especially removing a hot unit from a warming locomotive.
- The blower issues delayed steam raising by about 2 hours, resulting in some of us working until 9pm. We had to use a hook-and-ring blower to get the final steam up.
- Using the 15F 3046 running on leftover coal and a lot of 'Slack' (Dust), 12R 1947 'Rusty Rosie' was shunted back under cover on the number eight road in the Carriage Shed.
- Still using 15F 3046 as shunter, ex-Millsite 19D 2540 was moved up to the Carriage Shed.
- 12AR 1535 was shunted out and turned around for access to a three-phase welding plug for her smokebox welding repair project to commence this week.
- David Shepherd's Class 15F 3052 'Avril' had been inspected for derailment damage (During the week) and a quote for repairs is being drawn-up for Sandstone Estates.
- The borrowed Vacuum Brake Ejector and Lubricator that had been swapped by Friends of the Rail to replace faulty units on 15F 3052 have been returned.

**SANDSTONE'S 'LOCOMOTION' COACH 25282:**

- The original bogie was inspected, oiled and serviced. (The donor bogie had been done before begin fitted.)
- The coach had bolster pivot shims refitted as it was riding too high at one end. Thus, both ends were lifted and lowered on the same day. The coupler heights were measured with an original purpose-made gauge made for the 230 size couplers.
- The brake pull rods and links were installed for the donor bogie – needing modification, mixing and refitting as parts were mismatched. The bent secondary pull rod was straightened as well.
- The axle bearings were pumped with CLS EP2 high pressure red grease.
- The vacuum brake pipe dummies were realigned to the brake pipes.
- The four corner safety chain brackets for the donor bogie had to be re-drilled before being refitted.
- The vestibule steps were refitted. (They had been removed to withdraw the bogie.)

**COACHES:**

- Sandstone's Sleeper Coach was moved into the 15M yard as the next in line for 'Coach Lifting' and service.
- Various of the Day Sitter Coaches have had their toilet flush pipework worked on.



**COAL HANDLING WAGON:**

- Due to a no-show by the Africa Academy lads, no progress was made on the refitting the hydraulic actuators on the Coal Handling Wagon. ('Coal Grab.')

**DEPOT FACILITIES:**

- The loose end bay wall of the Forge House was neatly cut away, and the remaining walls given a new heavy timber sill plate, wooden piles, a heavy window sill and diagonal bracing. It is now safe, rigid and ready for the coming summer season.
- Numerous rotted wooden sleepers have been removed in the locomotive staging yard and replaced with Concrete Sleepers fitted with Pandrol Clips.
- Coenie Gildenhuys has drawn an accurate scale track\building plan for the entire depot and surrounding tracks in Corel Draw and will be using that for visitors, and to indicate the location of Fire Fighting and First Aid Facilities.
- The CAD drawing will also be used to indicate the electrical and plumbing connections in terms of switches and valves.
- Signs are to be made as a designation to each set of point in the yard and to indicate which bay in the Carriage Shed the bundles of tracks.
- Plans are under way to clearly mark the bay numbers in the carriage shed. We have had confusion before as different people count the 1-8 bays from different ends.



P01 - Locomotion No. 25282 now is about ready to be moved to Bloemfontein – but was being awkward today.



P02 - An original coupler height gauge in use to get the ride heights standardised on the Locomotion Coach.



P03 - Some of the rotted wooden sleepers removed from the old staging yard and replaced with concrete sleepers.



P04 - Recently certified Hunslet Driver Dennis Edgar did a LOT of shunting over the double-day work weekend.



P05 - Awaiting some 15F-powered steam haulage ... two of the heavy shunts for the day, 12AR 1535 (Foreground) and 19D 2540. (The little Hunslet Taylor diesel can't get big steamers like these up the sloped track beyond.)



P06 - Some jacking, bracing and repair work taking place on the old forge building. One loose panel was completely removed so the building is now shorter. This isn't part of the original 1885 work, but those timbers are old enough!



P07 - Hannes Bester is seen cutting and shaping timber for equipment racks for the 15CA 2056 painting project. That is the second wooden workbench he had built on behalf of Reefsteamers.



P08 - The RS 'Dirty-Dudes' did themselves proud on Saturday in thoroughly cleaning the 15F 3046 for her Father's Day run. The Dillo (Trying to look dignified on the Driver's Seat) was the main fire lighter for the day.

**FACEBOOK LINKS:** Use these links to see the photo albums posted on Facebook over the last week.

Depot Work Day Overview (8 Pics) 3 June 2017.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154781628088737&amp;type=1">https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154781628088737&amp;type=1</a>
Scenes around the ol' Depot. (28 Pics) 3 June 2017	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154784950053737&amp;type=1">https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154784950053737&amp;type=1</a>
Locomotion Coach – Re-installing a Bar Framed 'Day Bogie.' (22 Pics) 3 June 2017.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154786723123737&amp;type=1">https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154786723123737&amp;type=1</a>
15F 3046 Boiler and Smokebox washout (19 Pics) 3 June 2017	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154789813558737&amp;type=1">https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154789813558737&amp;type=1</a>
Class 6A 473 Boiler Tubes withdrawn. (7 Pics) 3 June 2017.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154792914173737&amp;type=1">https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154792914173737&amp;type=1</a>
Fire cleaning on 15F 3046 (9 Older Pics) – 12 Oct. 2012.	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154783139323737&amp;type=1">www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154783139323737&amp;type=1</a>