

**SUMMARY:**

This was a very busy Saturday with two private photography sessions, a music video session, a special Apprenticeship Training Session and our first Restoration and Engineering Day (RED) guided tour all happening at once! It wasn't only the car park that took strain. However, it turned out to be a successful day in the end and we all left in a good mood.

CLASS 15F 3046 'VRENI':

- The new trackside compressed air coupling and valve were removed from the left smokebox side and relocated to just under the running board so as to be about head-height to a normal-sized 6ft tall human. Compressed air for the blower can now be connected from trackside.
- A new threaded water coupler was fabricated and attached to the boiler steam transfer/vent valve at the top of the boiler. This will allow the boiler to be topped up without interfering with the washout plugs. The blower valve at the turret and the new trackside valve will be left open as air vents.
- Cousin Rob did the fire-lighting AND overnight loco minding (Thanks, man!) while Simon Bennett was on duty on the loco from 7am and on through the whole day.

CLASS 15CA 2056 'INGE':

- Last week's batch of freshly annealed boiler super-heater flues were descaled and deburred while being cleaned up for installation.
- A second start had been made on cutting and planing the wood for component painting racks for the 15CA project. The first lot of wood was mistakenly used for fire lighting kindling for the recent training session! (Oops!) Hannes Bester was NOT pleased!

CLASS 15F 3052 'AVRIL' AND GMA/M 4079 'LYNDIE LOU':

- David Shepherd's Class 15F 3052 (Care of Sandstone Estates) has been moved from the old Running Shed and has swapped places with GMA/M 4079 into the 15M Workshops.
- The GMA/M locomotive has been moved up for staged storage to the old Running Shed until the protracted negotiations and arrangements concerning the delivery of replacement axles, correcting their profiles, fitting them and the payment for the work to be done is concluded.

COAL HANDLING WAGON:

- The Africa Academy apprentices were assigned the task of removing and stripping the two hydraulic rams for the DZ-wagon 'Coal Grab's boom. This was done under the supervision of Shaun Ackerman as a specific engineering training exercise. They will also be doing the overhaul and reinstallation.

LOCOMOTION COACH:

- Upon the Donor Bogie, the bolster pivot and the shoulder pads were cleaned up, including their wear plates and washers.
- Upon an attempt to fill the pivot boss with oil; the presence of a crack was revealed as the oil leaked through. So, it needs to be stripped and degreased for inspection, and either re-welded or replaced.

VISITORS FOR THE DAY:

- We had two private couples-themed photo shoots for the day.
- A band of musicians (I cannot reveal who they were due to copyright reasons) were performing in the 15M Machine Shop as an industrial backdrop for a music video. They even used a smoke generator behind the C&W Lathe.
- Our first Restoration and Engineering (RED) Tour took place from 1pm until sunset. The tour started with a light lunch, and then a walk around the yard and then the workshops with the 15F 3046 in steam over the ash pits.



- The tour was more orientated towards Member recruitment and was thus more of a technical and expository nature as to what we actually do at the Depot. Our guests were treated to the unusual sight of a 15F shunting another 15F and a GMA/M – both together at one stage.
- Claire, Coenie and Colleen fed us well on Currie and Rice and well-sauced Boerie Rolls.



P01 - Our first RED tour group are being shown what a late 19th century tender frame looks like.



P02 - The GMA/M being moved to storage pending further arrangements concerning the wheel profiling work. 15F 3052 would be moved into the just-vacated bay for repairs.



P03 - Engineering Apprentices being guided on removing the hydraulic rams from the Coal Grab. In the foreground is the Locomotion Bogie after bolster hardware cleaning.



P04 - With Class 6A 473 'Charlotte' in the background, Danie Gouws de-scales the front end of one of 15CA 2056's new boiler flues with a strip of emery cloth.

FACEBOOK LINKS: Use these links to see the photo albums posted on Facebook over the last 2 weeks.

Fire Lighting Training Day - Part 1
13 May. (29 Pics)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154723824268737&type=1>

Fire Lighting Training Day - Part 2
13 May. (29 Pics)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154726698508737&type=1>

Fire Lighting Training Day - Part 3
13 May. (40 Pics)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154729413888737&type=1>

Fire Lighting Training Day - Part 4
13 May. (28 Pics)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154743332238737&type=1>

Depot Work Day Overview
20 May. (22 Pics)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154746222268737&type=1>

Scenes around the Depot
20 May (26 Pics)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10154752054388737&type=1>