



# Stars of Sandstone

NEWSLETTER NO: XIV

LESS THAN 60 DAYS TO GO

Our *Stars of Sandstone 2017* event is not far off and we urge those who are planning to join us to register as soon as possible. We have a policy of maintaining a quality experience and if there is any prospect of our facilities being overwhelmed, we will limit the number of bookings that we can handle.

We have reached the stage where our seating accommodation in our dining cars and in our restaurants are at capacity, so if you book from now on please book the non-catering option.

We have however kept some catering slots open for foreign registrations pending.

We will of course have a food village supported by private vendors from the local community, so you certainly will not go away hungry. Our cafeteria is also open throughout the day.

For all our guests that have registered, you would have by now received a quotation from our Administration Department. If you have as yet not responded, we would ask that you do so as soon as possible for planning purposes. We are reaching full capacity quite quickly and we don't want you to miss out. If you have responded and have already received an invoice, but have as yet not paid we ask that you let us have your payment by no later than 7 February 2017.

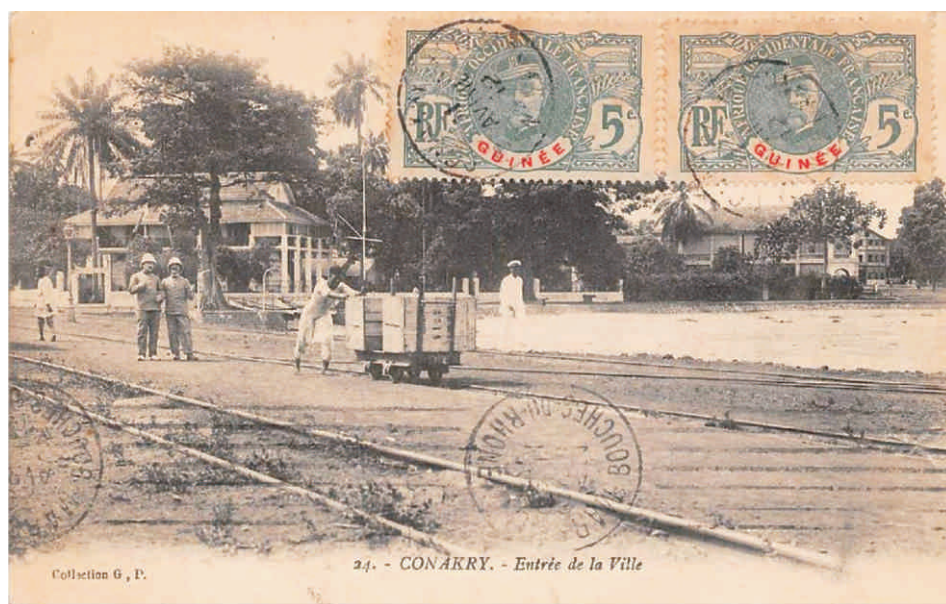
May we also take this opportunity to ask you to remind us of any special needs you may have, as well as letting us know if any of the ladies would like to assist part time as a childminder on the trains.

If anyone has specialist knowledge of equipment and wishes to get more involved — eg Military, Steam, Agriculture, Stationary Engines or Earthmoving Equipment — do let us know

To those who have already paid, thank you, we are now working on the Entry Permits which you will receive soon, together with Indemnity Forms which you will need to complete. The Indemnity Forms can be scanned and sent back to us (email Babita at babitan@sandstone.co.za) or they can be handed in at the main entrance gate on arrival. Please note that completion of the Indemnities and return of these are a prerequisite to gain entry to the event.

Excitement is building rapidly and the fact that we have had 3" of rain recently has relieved what was a very stressful period for us. We are starting to plant Cosmos along the railway line and attending to a thousand other details. If nature is kind to us, we should enjoy an excellent Autumn at the great *Stars of Sandstone 2017*.

For those of you who have never before attended, we strongly recommend you view this link on a big TV screen: <http://tinyurl.com/hpm2loo>. A very professional German TV team covered the Stars 2015 event with great skill. This documentary is the best we have seen in terms of trying to describe both the scope and the ambience of the event.



*How far back can one go? Heritage is about memories, about nostalgia, about preservation and restoration. It is also about images, pictures, paintings & photography. This old picture postcard was taken over 100-years ago in Conakry in Guinea.*

*Our thanks go to Jeff Lanham for forwarding this image to us.*



SAVE THE DATES

## 30 MARCH to 9 APRIL 2017

*We look forward to welcoming you*

We have now published our preliminary programme which you may find of interest:

Click here to view: <http://www.sandstone-estates.com/index.php/general-news/3220-stars-of-sandstone-2017-programme>

Newsletter XIV is our penultimate issue! We will produce only one more newsletter before the event. We hope that you have enjoyed these 14 editions of the *Stars of Sandstone 2017* newsletter.



*An iconic David Shepherd image of his beloved elephants.*

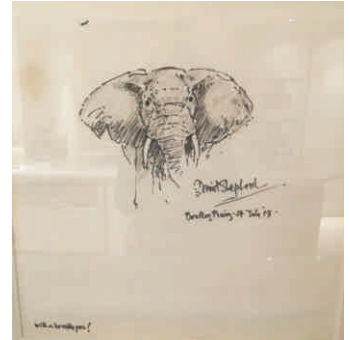
## A TRIBUTE TO DAVID SHEPHERD

David Shepherd has been a great friend of South Africa. He is well known for his classic wildlife paintings, particularly of elephants. His foundation (<https://davidsshepherd.org/>) continues to do good work for wildlife around the world.

Finally, David has always been a dedicated steam enthusiast and has been the proud owner of 15F, No. 3052 since 1991. David is elderly now and although he would like to come out to South Africa, it is probably not practical. The Sandstone Heritage Trust therefore prepared a tribute to David Shepherd, which is available to watch on YouTube. Something well worth watching, here is the link:

[https://youtu.be/b-hA\\_LfZdNs](https://youtu.be/b-hA_LfZdNs)

*A drawing by David Shepherd done on a table napkin at a Bentley Priory dinner on 24 July 2003. The Sandstone Heritage Trust has the original.*



## THE BIGGER PICTURE

Looking at the South African Steam Heritage scene overall, one can detect a significant uptake in planning and activity. This is good news because it means more people will have the opportunity to enjoy railway travel behind steam locomotives.

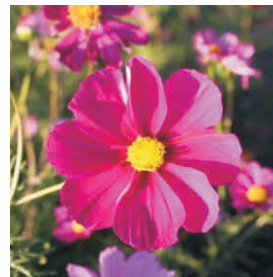
A good example was the inaugural trip run by Ceres Rail on the Overberg line in December 2016. The 3-day journey from Cape Town to Klipdale and back was very well received by a happy contingent of enthusiasts.

No formal service has been announced yet but the planning and preparation for that to happen is well underway. For further details of trips operated by Ceres Rail see: [www.ceresrail.co.za](http://www.ceresrail.co.za)

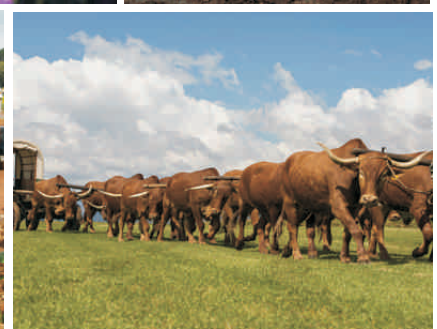
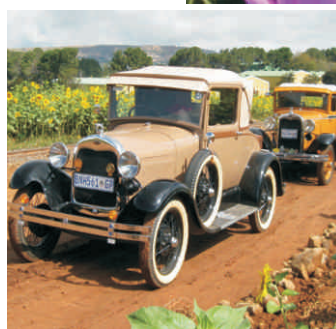
*Picture by Richard Middelmann*



*Picture by Les Smith*



*Some scenes from past Stars of Sandstone events to tantalise you...*

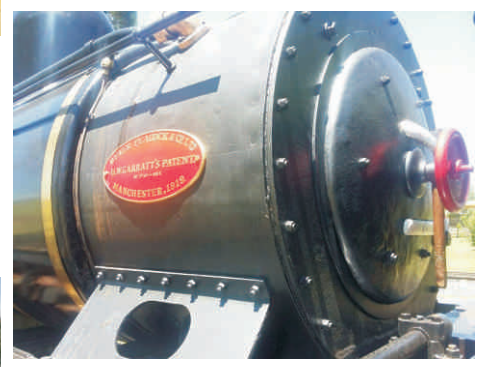




*Sandstone's GMAM 4079 pulls three water tankers out of Magaliesburg, primarily due to the lack of watering facilities for steam locomotion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*



*No 52's tanker, X2197*



*No 52 as found at SANRASM Randfontein 5 years ago!*

## A TANKER ON THE TAIL

Although the Garratt locomotive was one of the most successful designs of the steam era, it had one drawback which was the diminishing adhesion factor as water was used up in the front and rear tanks. This reduction in weight over the driving axles led to a lowered adhesion of the driving wheels. When in operation for shunting, this was not a major issue as there was always a water column nearby. On longer runs, this could be problematic, especially on steeply graded sections. As Garratt locomotives generally had a smaller water capacity than a conventional engine, most locomotives often trailed an auxiliary water tank behind the loco. This had the effect of increasing the water capacity and keeping the water in the front and rear tanks constantly replenished as water was required. On main line locomotives, such as the GMA/M, it also allowed adjustments to coal and water capacity to vary the axle load of the engine for use on lighter-laid rail.

Sandstone's new NGG11 No 52 will be seen in operation with water tanker X2197, which has been specially refurbished by Lukas Nel and his Bloemfontein team to be semi permanently attached to No 52. This will enable the loco to operate longer distances without watering and ensure better adhesion on Sandstone's steeply graded system.

Being a small loco, No 52 has quite a small water capacity, with 4410 litres in the front tank and 1730 litres in the rear, together with 2 tons of coal. Tanker X2197 will add 14460 litres to the capacity. In contrast, an NGG16 has up to 6200 litres in the front tank and up to 2450 litres in the rear tank, a significant difference in adhesive weight.

The tanker has now been moved to Sandstone from Bloemfontein, along with NGG11 No 52, which was steam tested in the last few days and put through its commissioning trials as our pictures show.

So when you see No 52, watch out for the tanker on the tail!



*No 52 as she stands proudly once again, safe and sound at Sandstone Estate*



Trimming the firebox backhead after flanging, making new rivets, new Girder Stays



The Backhead and Tube Plate welded together after being set and proved in the Boiler.



Putting on the outer Wrapper

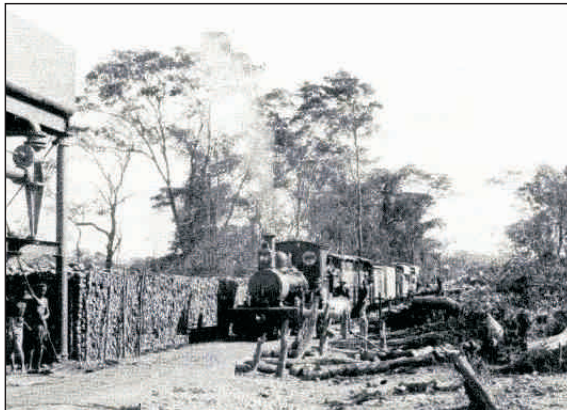
## A NEW HEART FOR LAWLEY NG97

Following on from our last Newsletter, work on the boiler of Lawley NG97 is progressing with a target date of mid-February for its return to Sandstone.

Keith Stevens has now begun work on the new inner firebox and sent us this picture gallery of the work in progress.

"We are now assembling the new firebox after much fitting and bending and getting everything correct. We are hoping to get the firebox riveted up at the weekend and then we will fit it to the boiler and drill and tap the stay holes, of which there are 166", he reports.

We look forward to seeing NG97 back in steam for **Stars of Sandstone 2017**.



Left, an archive picture of a Lawley at work on the Beira Railway before 1900, when the line was regauged to 3'6" throughout.

In the world of Steam Preservation nothing is more picturesque or classy than an 1895 Lawley manufactured by Falcon Engineering Works in Loughborough, UK.

There is only one thing that can better a Lawley and that is two Lawleys working together!

See below



Photo credit: Hannes Paling.

## OUR PEOPLE... WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

Building a railway, maintaining a railway and operating a railway is hard, physical work. Give a thought to our Track Maintenance Crews who, in this case, are building a section of a brand-new railway.

Apart from the never-ending task of maintaining nearly 30km of Narrow Gauge railway, they must also build the new Children's Railway, itself another 3km long.

We have just recently received permission from the South African Rail Safety Regulator to build the new rail infrastructure, so we have our work cut out for us to meet the **Stars of Sandstone 2017** deadline.



From left, meet Tshidiso Khabele, Patric Nchakga, Charles Khoabane and Humphrey Phalali.

## 91 010 – THE USA CONNECTION

One of the amazing facts about the railway preservation community is the worldwide connections that are made, and the assistance and advice that is forthcoming from all parts of the world. While the locomotives differ greatly all over the globe, the spirit of cooperation is unrivalled. As the years progress, diesel locomotives are an increasing part of preservation and Sandstone has the only two large diesels in preservation in South Africa, being 2ft Gauge No 91 010 and Cape Gauge NRZ DE2 No 1207, although a number of operators have small shunting diesel locos.



The recent acquisition of 91 010 has brought a new perspective to our loco workshop, and although we have competent staff, with the technology, the approach is very different. In fact, a friend of Sandstone in the UK has warned that diesels can be much more “fun” than steam locos!

Help is at hand though, and we have had help from two local operators in South Africa, but also from Robert Carter in the USA.

Robert is a career railwayman, originally from the UK, on the electrical and engineering side.

Robert began his career working for British Railways including 8 years at the Railway Technical centre in Derby. Since then he has spent the last 30 years in the USA working on railway projects including overseas assignments in Taiwan, Korea and France. He has a South African connection by being involved in the design and implementation of computer controlled air brake and vacuum brake systems for Transnet Freight Rail's class 37 and 39 locomotives.

He has also volunteered on the Ffestiniog Railway in Wales, restored a 1944 Sunbeam Trolleybus and now maintains a fleet of 6 tractors at his farm.

With his strong connections to General Electric in the USA, the builders of 91-010, Robert has been able to source important literature for 91-010 which will assist in its refurbishment as well as important information for the CAT diesel engine.

Robert has been actively promoting our Stars event in the USA and we hope to see him at Stars of Sandstone 2017. Thank you Robert from all at Sandstone for your kind help and assistance.

*No 91 010 has undergone a cosmetic makeover prior to mechanical repairs being undertaken*

## MILITARY MATTERS

### MILITARY STARS

The South African Armour Museum has released initial information on some of the exciting military machines that will be present at the **Stars of Sandstone 2017** event. These are the Mk1A and Mk1B Olifant Tanks, the Rooikat AFV and a Russian T72 tank.

Although the Mk1A Olifant has been seen at Sandstone before, this is the first time the Mk1B will be featured. These will be joined by Sandstone's Sherman tank and other vehicles. The military display, “The Sound of Thunder” is going to be more exciting than ever!



*The Russian T72 Tank  
The Rooikat AFV*



### STARS OF SANDSTONE 2017: LECTURES

It is customary to take the opportunity to ask specialists in the various categories of equipment in operation at Sandstone to explain a lot more about what they do and the background to their speciality.

The Armour Museum in Bloemfontein is particularly good at this, and Major Jean-Pierre Scherman (School of Armour) will once again be talking about Military matters. He has sent us the following update:

It is my intention to present during this year's Stars of Sandstone event, two lectures making use of two separate 10x10m terrain relief models (sand model). This will allow significantly more interaction between me as the presenter and my audience. The two topics that I have identified as being historically significant are:

- 1). The Battle between the United Nations Force Intervention Brigade [UN FIB] (which included a South African Infantry Battalion, Paratrooper Company, Special Forces soldiers and later Rooivalk Combat Support Helicopters) and the M-23 Rebel Group, over the period 23 August to 04 November 2013 in and around the city of Goma, North Kivu Province, DRC.
- 2). The Battle between the SANDF Protection Team (comprising Paratrooper Company, Special Forces Detachments and other attached elements) and the Seleka Rebel Group over the period 22 to 24 March 2013, in and around the Capital City of the Central African Republic, Bangui.

Furthermore, in the evenings (as time and programme allows) lectures on any of the following topics:

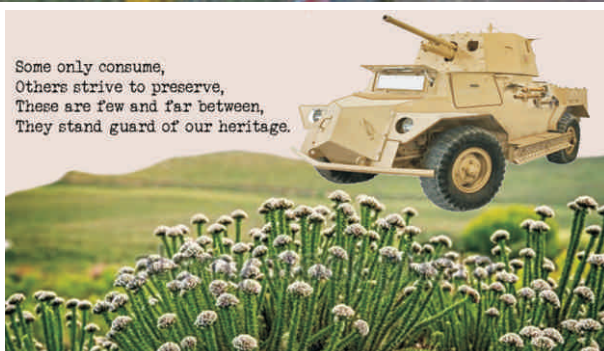
- The SANDF in the DRC.
- The SANDF in Darfur, Sudan.
- The SANDF and Operation Boleas (Lesotho).
- The SANDF in the Ivory Coast.
- The War in Syria.
- The War in the Ukraine.

Major Jean-Pierre Scherman will present these informative lectures on the following **Stars of Sandstone 2017** dates: **Tuesday 4 and Saturday 8 April 2017.**



*We received this little tribute from Nick Wagenaar, which is simple, but true. Andy Selfe lives in Grabouw in the Cape Province, so please note the inclusion of local flora - Fynbos - in the illustration.*

Some only consume,  
Others strive to preserve,  
These are few and far between,  
They stand guard of our heritage.



GEORGE DEHLEN



## LAUNCH OF THE MARMON-HERRINGTON

After nearly two years of restoration by Andy Selfe, the Marmon-Herrington Mk4 Armoured Car will be launched to the public at Stars of Sandstone 2017 at 10h00 on Monday, 3 April 2017 at the military display area behind Hoekfontein Station. The Marmon-Herrington will then make its first run with the military convoy at 10h30.

Many people have been following Andy Selfe's blog on the restoration of not one, but two, Marmon-Herrington Armoured Cars from WW2. You can read his blog at: <http://armouredcarmk4.blogspot.co.za/>

Andy recently updated his blog to show one of the Marmon-Herringtons on the road and operational. If these machines could talk, how would it feel having been resurrected and put back on the road over 70 years since the Second World War?

Here are three short YouTube clips showing the runner in motion for the first time, on 2 January 2017:

- Pulling away from the yard, past the house:  
[https://youtu.be/Nf0FH\\_g4P5c](https://youtu.be/Nf0FH_g4P5c)
- From the driving position, along the same route, pulling up at the end next to the static car:  
[https://youtu.be/D\\_evBtgEn4c](https://youtu.be/D_evBtgEn4c)
- And out on the open road, at a fair turn of speed!  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uujATF4\\_yUI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uujATF4_yUI)

The Military Vehicle Displays, Demonstrations, and Convoys organised by the Armour Museum in Bloemfontein in association with the Sandstone Heritage Trust at the Stars events are becoming ever more popular. We are also receiving calls from people who used to drive these sorts of vehicles during the Angolan Military engagement etc. Sadly, WW2 Veterans who experienced Marmon-Herringtons, Sherman Tanks, CMP trucks and other famous Military items from that era have now passed on, but the image of these machines remains strong in the minds of many people. If you have never seen a Sherman tank in operation, you need to attend this show. Our Sherman will be joined by a number of very exciting Military machines from the Armour Museum, and of course will be complemented by our own vehicles, which include a Ratel, Casspir, Samil, Buffel, Moffel and many others.

The focus of the Military Vehicle collection at Sandstone is of particular vehicles in which South African soldiers fought and sometimes died. During our period of isolation brought on by international sanctions, South Africa built up a formidable Military Vehicle and Weapons industry, which still thrives today. All the vehicles mentioned in the last sentence of the paragraph above were developed and built in this country and the Casspir, which went into production 37 years ago, is still looked on as the leader in its field.

### STOP PRESS

The Armour Museum has arranged to add a number of vehicles to our cooperative agreement. One of these is a rare experimental Ratel Log (for Logistic) 8-wheel transport vehicle, of which only two were ever made. Naturally, much work will be required to bring them up to scratch! More on this and other special vehicles in the next newsletter.



## WATER IS LIFE

The rains have come and our dams are mostly full. This is a welcome relief, not only from an agricultural standpoint but because ideal operating conditions for our Narrow Gauge in Autumn require the grass to be green to reduce the fire hazard and of course the landscape looks better in all respects.

*Left Top: Good rains have begun to fill the dams at Sandstone*

*Left Bottom: The Cosmos has been planted and we hope that it decides to flower when we would like it to.*

*Below: Mielies under the Maluti Mountains - South Africa's maize crop is looking very good and we are more than happy with ours as well.*



## SANDSTONE CATTLE

A new development is the creation of an Afrikaner cattle family unit. A mixed group of bulls, cows, oxen (young and old), heifers and calves has been established.

In a modern beef farming unit the cattle are separated and bulls are only introduced at specific times of the year. Going back 100-years or more farmers didn't do that. The cattle existed as a family unit where everybody was housed together.

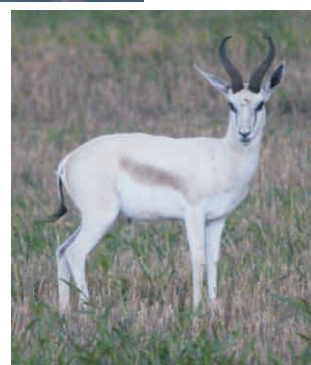
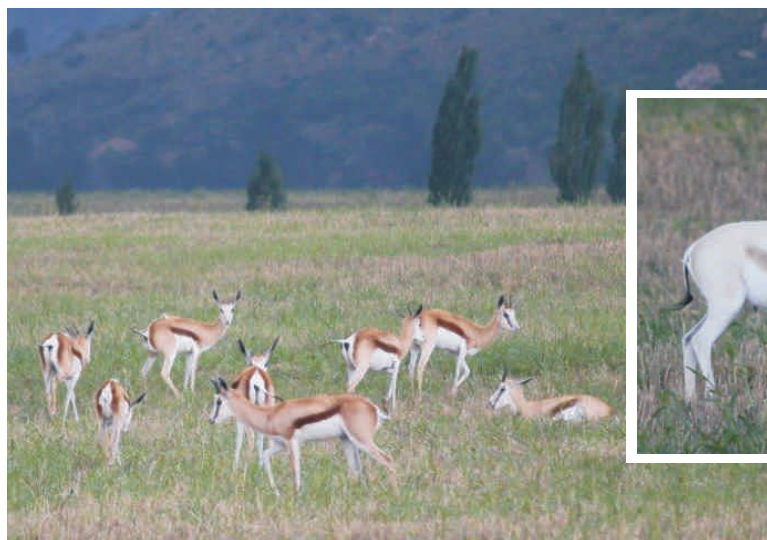
The bulls never left the cows and the heifers were served when nature felt it was time for that to happen. The full Afrikaner unit comprising more than 80 cattle will be in and around the complex throughout *Stars of Sandstone 2017*.

## WILDLIFE MATTERS

We have a policy at Sandstone Estates of allowing game to roam free. Unfortunately, the drawback is that our neighbours see this as an opportunity to hunt. As a result, the wild Springbok have migrated much closer to our complex. These animals **found us**, none were purchased and none have ever been fenced in. They choose to be with us of their own free will.

Last year we spotted a white Springbok and now we have four of them, which is quite remarkable; there are obviously some rare genetics in our herd. They are a glorious sight to observe from the train, but naturally they appear whenever they feel like it.

One has to remember that everything we do is factitious and is subject to nature's influences. At Sandstone Estates we tend to work in harmony with nature, never to confront it, because if and when we do we are likely to receive a sharp reminder of our irrelevance.



## AVIATION AT SANDSTONE



Gavin Brown, our *Stars of Sandstone* Aviation Coordinator (gavin@watex.co.za), has recently undertaken a rather ambitious project to restore an Auster AOP Mk 6, "SAAF 5408". This aircraft was built in 1953 and was in active service until 1965.

As you can see, work is progressing well and we are hopeful this aircraft will make an appearance at *Stars of Sandstone* 2017. We'll keep you posted on this restoration.



"SAAF 5408" while in SAAF service in the mid-50s.

SAAF "5408"	
<b>AUSTER AOP MK 6</b>	
<b>ZS- ECW</b>	
POWER PLANT	: GIPSY MAJOR 7 SERIES 10 MK 3 145 Brake Horse Power
MAXIMUM SPEED	: 124 Mph @ 1000 Feet
CRUISING SPEED	: 108 Mph
LANDING SPEED	: 32 Mph (with full flap)
RATE OF CLIMB	: 810 Feet per minute
SERVICE CEILING	: 14 000 Feet
WEIGHT	: 1 413 Lbs (empty)
MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT	: 2 160 Lbs
WINGSPAN	: 36 Feet
LENGTH	: 23 Feet 9 Inches
HEIGHT	: 8 Feet 9 1/2 Inches
SAAF SERIAL NUMBER	: # 5408
SAAF SERVICE	: 42 Squadron, Potchefstroom
TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE	: 1965
BUILT	: 1953

*Jacques Ritchie (Engineer)  
seeing to the fine detail*



## CLASSIC CARS & VEHICLES



We have recently written to all our participants who have shown an interest in Classic Cars and Vehicles, but due to a computer problem, we may have lost some information on prospective Classic Car owners who wish to attend. Please re-engage with us if you are interested in these vehicles, either as a driver or if you are bringing a Classic Vehicle of your own.

Please contact our Classic Car Coordinator, Dave Richardson, on e-mail, [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za) or mobile +27 (0)82 447 9167 so that we may make the necessary arrangements for yourself and your vehicle at the event.

Sandstone is unique in the way in which it can blend machines of different types from different or similar eras. Both the John Deere 730 Diesel and the MGA in the picture (left) date back to the 1950s. Both are absolute classics of their era.



Sandstone's 1934 Sentinel S4 Steam lorry which was restored by Keith Stevens in 2005, has seen limited use at our events, as experienced drivers of these machines are hard to come by in South Africa. For the forthcoming Stars event, we only have one driver on hand who cannot be on duty all the time, so if there is anyone who has experience of these machines, we would like to hear from you. Contact Dave Richardson: e-mail [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)

Also look out for our Willys Jeep, resplendent in RAF colours which will be used to escort guests to and from the nearby airfield during *Stars of Sandstone* 2017.

## ADOPT A MACHINE

We have got some very unique and exciting machines at Sandstone. A good example is our Allen Trencher, which was in good running order 10 years ago. It has a Dorman Diesel engine and it is mechanically sound.

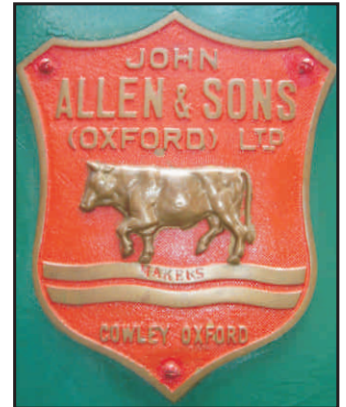
It is a complicated old beast to operate, but we would love to have it running and to demonstrate it as part of our Earth Moving display. It is the type of machine that needs somebody who is comfortable with this old technology from the '50s.

It is of unique interest to Sandstone, because this belonged to the father of one of the directors, who was a pioneer in the Plant Hire industry in the 1950s.

Please contact Chris Wilson if you can assist, on e-mail :  
[katbr@worldonline.co.za](mailto:katbr@worldonline.co.za)



*Shortly to be assessed and hopefully soon to be running again is the Allen Trencher. It has not been running for some time. The Allen, originally built in the UK, has a 4 cylinder Dorman engine – which has to be cranked by hand to start.  
 Picture by Chris Wilson*



## LOOK OUT FOR THE BIG BEASTS!

Henry Dearlove and his dedicated team from Pretoria are going to apply their magic to the massive Prairie tractors which go back pre-1920.

On the left, is a picture of the mighty Rumely Oil Pull which was lovingly restored by Charles Viljoen (seen here behind the wheel of the Rumely) and Frank, his brother, who can be seen behind the wheel of the Field Marshall.

Below is a picture of an even rarer tractor — the Emerson Brantingham Big 4-30 seen working here at an event some years ago.



We are working on having quite a broad display of Crawler Tractors for *Stars of Sandstone 2017* as well.

Crawler tractors are not things that a lot of people understand, even people familiar with wheeled tractors. We would very much appreciate someone stepping forward and saying they would like to adopt one or two Crawlers which they can drive and demonstrate during the event.

Contact Chris Wilson on e-mail if you can assist: email  
[katbr@worldonline.co.za](mailto:katbr@worldonline.co.za)

*An IH crawler tractor.  
 Picture by Chris Wilson.*

Chris Wilson has been busy at Sandstone revitalising much of our Vintage Tractor collection over the last twelve months. Here is a gallery of what has been happening recently.

Sandstone welcomes Johan Nel to the tractor Heritage division. Johan will be permanently on the job, bringing new life to Vintage farm equipment.

All pictures by Chris Wilson.



The Tractor Heritage team, **Lucky Lehloololo** and **Johan Nel** replacing the bonnet on a **Fordson** after replacing the rear main oil seal and water pump. Both men are permanently assigned to the Vintage Tractor Workshop at Sandstone Estates, under the direction of Chris Wilson.



**Lucky** curing a fuel leak on a **Porsche Allgaier**. Designed by Ferdinand Porsche himself the 3 cylinder is of course air cooled; and the transmission features a torque convertor drive as well as a conventional clutch and gearbox. The tractor dates from the early '60s.



A Ferguson TED, more commonly known as a "Vaaljapie" in South Africa, has just received a new water pump and is now being prepared to run again – in particular, a fuel leak is receiving attention

## TRACTORS PROVISIONALLY AVAILABLE FOR DEMONSTRATION

Sandstone's large collection of Classic and Vintage Tractors requires constant maintenance. Even tractors that might have been working reliably a year or two back become obstinate and do not want to function. Essentially, everything has to be checked, but there is also a limit as to how many we can operate during *Stars of Sandstone 2017*.



Chris Wilson has provided this list which may contain items of specific interest to our visitors. Of course everything is on display, but the logistics of having them out and about and actually working takes a major effort. We will be assisted greatly this year by members of the Vintage Tractor & Engine Club to whom we express our gratitude for their support.

<b>Make/Model</b>	<b>Wheels</b>	<b>Starting</b>	<b>Battery Reqd</b>	<b>Fuel Type</b>
JD A	Steel	Hand	Nil	Petrol/Para
JD H	Rubber	Hand	Nil	Petrol/Para
JD 70	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Petrol/Para
JD B	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Petrol/Para
JD 720D	Rubber	Donkey	6v	Diesel
JD R	Rubber	Donkey	6v	Diesel
JD620	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Petrol/Para
JD 2010	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
Waterloo Boy	Steel	Hand	Nil	Petrol/Para
MM UB	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
MH 745	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
Fordson Tug	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Diesel
MF 95Super	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
MF 65	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Diesel
MF35X	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Diesel
MF FE35	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Petrol/Para
Marshall MP6	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
Field Marshall	Rubber	Hand	Nil	Diesel
Lanz 60	Rubber	Hand	Nil	Diesel
Allis Chalmers U	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
Oliver 77	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
Fordson S Major	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Diesel
Fordson S Major	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Diesel
IH 1530	Steel	Hand	Nil	Petrol/Para
IH 1020	Steel	Hand	Nil	Petrol/Para
IH 1020 Industrial	Steel	Hand	Nil	Petrol/Para
Farmall A	Rubber	Hand	Nil	Petrol/Para
Hanomag 545S	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
JD 620 Orchard	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Petrol/Para
Nuffield 6	Rubber	Electric	12v 674	Diesel
Porsche Allgaier	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Diesel
Deutz single	Rubber	Electric	12v 628	Diesel
JD 730 D	Rubber	Electric	2 x 12v 628	Diesel

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

We are pleased with the response from volunteers and we now have an increasing number of competent people who will be assisting us during the **Stars of Sandstone 2017** event. This includes a strong contingent from the South African Vintage Tractor & Engine Club (SAVTEC), together with a number of independent volunteers.

We have also got a strong commitment from visitors from the UK and Australia in particular to assist us. The problem is that they cannot be expected to bring their tools with them. We obviously can purchase tools but it means that these tools become surplus to our requirements after the event. We would therefore ask all South African volunteers to please try and bring their own tools with them. There will be secure facilities to lock them up in during the event.

As far as foreign volunteers are concerned, we have a small budget to purchase some tools which will be made available to them but on the basis that they are issued with the tools when they start and they will be recovered when they leave. In other words, it will not be a free-for-all.

Any comments or thoughts that people might have on this would be appreciated. One should remember that Sandstone's events are very much a community project, in the sense that a lot of the people who come as visitors actually become participants, which enables us to expand the scope of what we are able to present to the public. This is a win-win situation because the people who are doing it enjoy it and the people who see it enjoy it.

If you have a particular area of interest, or operating skills on a particular machine, and would like to offer your time to be part of the overall interactive experience of **Stars of Sandstone 2017**, please contact the relevant coordinator tasked with arrangements:

Aviation: Gavin Brown / [gavin@watex.co.za](mailto:gavin@watex.co.za)

Tractors, Plant & Equipment, Agricultural Implements: Chris Wilson / [katbr@worldonline.co.za](mailto:katbr@worldonline.co.za)

Stationary Engines: Danie Pretorius / [danie.pretorius@telkomsa.net](mailto:danie.pretorius@telkomsa.net)

2ft Narrow Gauge Locomotives, Military Vehicles, Classic Cars and Trucks: Dave Richardson / [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)

Oxen, Ox Wagons, Horses, Mules, Donkeys and other livestock: Wilfred Mole / [joannewest@btinternet.com](mailto:joannewest@btinternet.com)

Photographic Opportunities: Rod Hering / [rodhering@gmail.com](mailto:rodhering@gmail.com)

Please direct all other enquiries to Leigh Sanders, who will be able to assist, or know with whom you should speak. e-mail her on [leigh@sandstone.co.za](mailto:leigh@sandstone.co.za)

## CATERPILLAR FRIENDS

We recently received an e mail from Neil Clydsdale in Australia from the 'Antique Caterpillar Machinery Owners Club' (ACMOC) highlighting the 100 years of Caterpillar in 2025 and cooperation between this Club and Sandstone leading up to that event. As we are proud owners of a number of Caterpillar machines, we think this is a great suggestion and Chris Wilson will be in touch with Neil directly.

Neil's mail is below but has been edited for space reasons.

As a Director of the 'Antique Caterpillar Machinery Owners Club' (ACMOC), I have been receiving your Stars of Sandstone newsletter via Lake Goldsmith Steam Club Australia. I note you have a number of antique Caterpillars and would like to discuss the mutual benefits that maybe derived from both of our clubs associating with each other. ACMOC head office is based in Peoria in the USA, however has members all over the world, there is nearly 200 members here in Australia and two of the nine Directors of the Board of Nine, there are a total of 3,000 members worldwide. We produce six magazines a year that we distribute by mail to all members.

Caterpillar will be 100 years old 2025 and I note the sequence of your rallies will coincide with this, would be a great theme and opportunity to promote Caterpillar at that rally of yours.

We very much would like to expand membership in South Africa and encourage and support the collection and restoration of Caterpillar machines and memorabilia.

My local Chapter 19 (branch) has over sixty members, maybe we could try for something like that in SA so that they could also enhance your rallies by taking vintage Caterpillar's to display, as well as the collection you already have.

With kindest regards, Neil Clydsdale (Director ACMOC & Leader Chapter 19, Chairman Membership Committee)

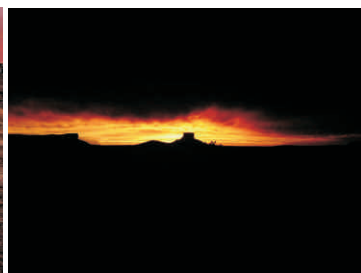
Sandstone is currently working hard to show off our big Earth Moving machines. However, finding experienced operators and mechanics is a problem, so please write in to us if you can assist. Please contact Dave Richardson on e-mail: [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)



*The man behind the lens - David Benn. Photo credit: Alex Reichle*



*Winter Sunset by Mark van Vuuren, Sandstone Estates 2016*



*Photo credit: Rico Viljoen*

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

David Benn, a doyen of Railway Photography in South Africa, assisted by Aidan McCarthy and Rod Hering (who is organising this year's photographic programme), have come up with the following suggestion:

1. They would like to announce to all the photographers that each day they will select the best photograph of the day (and, perhaps more than one). We could have a few categories, e.g. Trains, farm equipment, vintage vehicles, and people.
2. The chosen pictures will be printed on photographic paper for display in the old station.
3. The exhibition will thus change daily.
4. At the end of the event, we will decide which pictures we would like to remain for the next year.

Master photographer Rod Hering will be coordinating photographic activities at the Stars of Sandstone event in 2017 and all photographers attending are urged to make contact with Rod to learn and be kept in touch about the special events planned. Rod can be contacted by e mail for all enquiries on this matter on [rodhering@gmail.com](mailto:rodhering@gmail.com)

*As the sun goes down on another day we are reminded that the mountains surrounding us at Sandstone Estates have been there for 250 million years. This is our famous outcrop called Soutkop at the farm Sekonyela which can be seen clearly from the railway as it climbs up Vailima Mountain.*

## ACCOMMODATION

Sandstone Estates is in a relatively remote part of South Africa and although there is a selection of Bed & Breakfast accommodation etc, there are no major hotels near us. Fouriesburg, which is a pretty little town not far away, is fully booked out. The town of Ficksburg does not offer a great selection of quality accommodation. Another alternative is Clarens, which is very much a tourist town, and has extensive facilities. The problem is that it is about an hour's drive away, albeit with views of the beautiful Golden Gate National Park en route. For those visitors wishing to bring family members who may not wish to attend our event every single day, Clarens does offer a wide variety of interesting options.

We have also just been introduced to Earthrise Lodge which is half an hour's drive away, in one of the most beautiful of locations in the Eastern Free State, nestled amongst the mountains. They have a wide variety of interesting accommodation from luxurious to self-catering, and if you are thinking of taking a break in the Eastern Free State and obviously coming to see us at Stars as well please do contact them. Please advise them that you are part of the Sandstone programme because we will be working to coordinate quite a number of logistical issues with them. See full details below.

All our period Sleeping Coaches are fully booked, and the only alternative as far as on-site accommodation is concerned, is our excellent

Sandstone Camping Ground. We have just fitted a substantial number of additional power points and our Ablution Block is up to the challenge as well. One very viable option is to hire a Camper Van, which would be both transport and a comfortable residence for the duration of your stay. For Camper Van hire, please contact Babita Hira on E: [babitan@sandstone.co.za](mailto:babitan@sandstone.co.za)

Happily, all those who have registered seem to have made suitable arrangements to stay over. The buzz word is flexibility and we hope that people will relax and just enjoy the old world experience.



## NEW LUXURY LODGE NEAR SANDSTONE

We mentioned in our lead story, accommodation pressures for the forthcoming Stars event, but help is at hand with a new venue close to Sandstone: Earthrise Mountain Lodge is situated in Rustlers Valley, north of the R26 road from Sandstone to Fouriesburg. With a large capacity of rooms, Earthrise Mountain Lodge is ideally situated for visitors to the event.

You can contact Nnono Makenethe on +27 (0)51 933 2828 for bookings or see website: <http://www.earthrisemountainlodge.co.za/>



## AIRPORT COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT COORDINATION

We have some guests who are going to hire cars and they are indicating that they have spare capacity. John Lyas from Australia is arriving in Johannesburg on 28 March and is planning to travel to Sandstone the following day (29th). He has space for two people, if necessary.

Dennis Mitchell and Paul Mitchell are looking for lifts from Johannesburg on the 30th, returning on the 9th April. Another person is looking for a lift from Johannesburg round about lunchtime on Sunday, 2 April.

Nonetheless, if you are looking for a lift or you can offer a lift before, after or during the **Stars of Sandstone 2017** event, please do let us know so that we can try and coordinate efficient transport arrangements — otherwise quite a large number of rental cars are going to travel with only one or two people in them.

To coordinate transport arrangements, please contact Dave Richardson on e-mail: [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)



*Ladies can also volunteer for a variety of tasks, which include assisting the elderly, keeping an eye on children on board trains, etc. Here, Volunteer Rail Marshal Sally Turton keeps a watchful eye as the NG4 exits Hoekfontein Station*



*Our Fordson airport tug tractor will see a lot of work during Stars 2017 with its volunteer crew.*



## RUNNING SHED/STEAM REPORTS

In addition to this regular Stars of Sandstone Newsletter, our Running Shed on the farm produces an outstanding technical bulletin every fortnight or so, covering the work that they do. It is for serious-minded railway enthusiasts, mechanical engineers and people who are interested in machinery. Since our last newsletter we have had a number of these Steam Reports published, click on the links below if you missed them during the holiday break:

[http://sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/Steam\\_Report22Dec2016.pdf](http://sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/Steam_Report22Dec2016.pdf)

<http://www.sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/9January2017.pdf>

[http://sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/Steam\\_Report\\_23\\_Jan\\_2017.pdf](http://sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/Steam_Report_23_Jan_2017.pdf)

If you would like to be put on the mailing list to receive it regularly by e-mail, please e-mail Louise Norton at E: [tourism@sandstone.co.za](mailto:tourism@sandstone.co.za)

## OTHER MEDIA LINKS

<http://sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/201701CHC.pdf>

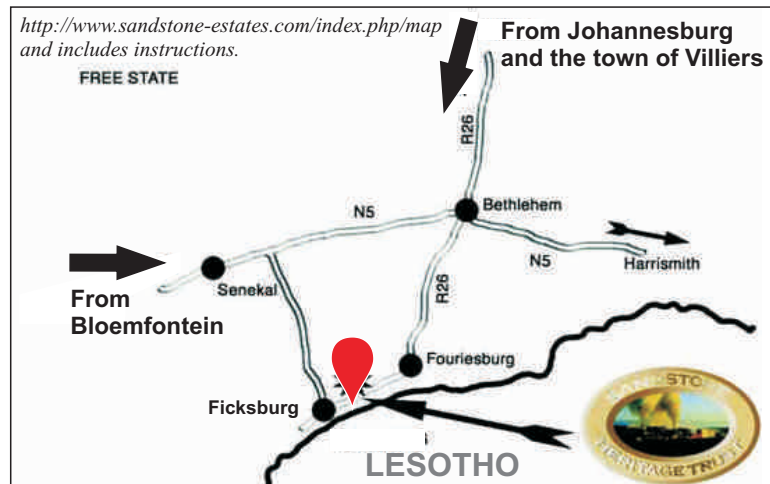
<http://www.pilotspost.co.za/arn0001129>

[http://sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/CSME\\_newsletter\\_Jan2017.pdf](http://sandstone-estates.com/images/pdf/CSME_newsletter_Jan2017.pdf)

## WHERE TO FIND US



<http://www.sandstone-estates.com/index.php/map> and includes instructions.



### FINDING SANDSTONE ESTATES on GPS

**BY ROAD:** Our GPS co-ordinates are S28° 50' 41.12" E28° 00' 15.94" We are situated on the R26, just north-east of the town of Ficksburg in the Eastern Free State, South Africa.

### FOR LIGHT AIRCRAFT:

Fly in to our 1000m grassed airstrip at S28° 50' 36" E28° 00' 18"

### BY AIR:

The nearest International Airport is Johannesburg Oliver Tambo.

The nearest Regional Airport is Bloemfontein.

For Chartered aircraft, Ficksburg.

The coordinates for Ficksburg Airport are S28° 49' 30" E27° 54' 30"

### Car Rental at Bloemfontein Airport:

NAME	TEL NO	FAX NO	WEBSITE
Avis	051-4332331	051-4332637	<a href="http://www.avis.co.za">www.avis.co.za</a>
Imperial	051-4333511	051-4332480	<a href="http://www.imperialcarrental.co.za">www.imperialcarrental.co.za</a>
Europcar	051-4333511	051-4332480	<a href="http://www.europcar.co.za">www.europcar.co.za</a>
Budget	051-4332381		<a href="http://www.budget.co.za">www.budget.co.za</a>
Hertz	051-4002100	051-4002110	<a href="http://www.hertz.co.za">www.hertz.co.za</a>
Tempest Sixt	051-4332146	051-4332167	<a href="http://www.tempestcarhire.co.za">www.tempestcarhire.co.za</a>

*From all of us at Sandstone — THAT'S ALL FOR THIS PENULTIMATE ISSUE!*

### THE SANDSTONE TEAM

**Curator, Sandstone Heritage Trust:** Gert Jubileus  
gertj@sandstone.co.za

**Farm Affairs:** Leigh Sanders  
leighs@sandstone.co.za

**International Enquiries:** Louise Norton  
tourism@sandstone.co.za

**South African Enquiries:** Leigh Sanders  
leighs@sandstone.co.za



**Event Matters & Dave Richardson**  
Newsletter Editor: [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)

**Newsletter Production:** Claire at Eschie Graffix



Please click on the logo to visit the Sandstone Heritage Trust website