



# INTERNATIONAL *Stars of Sandstone News*

EVENT DATES:  
4 — 14 APRIL 2019  
[www.starsofsandstone.com](http://www.starsofsandstone.com)



Dateline March 2019  
No.13

*Stars of Sandstone 2019* is drawing close and this will be one of the last Newsletters before the event. We will publish a final edition two weeks before the opening of the show to provide administrative details. It will be geared more towards people who will be attending, than those that have not made bookings.

In this edition, we summarise our request for volunteers required in certain categories of our Heritage programme. It is not onerous work at all, it is mostly driving machines, but

the applicants do need to have experience. We have more Military Vehicles and Agricultural Heritage items on display than we have people to operate them, so people with experience are always welcome to assist.

We enjoy many of nature's gifts in the Eastern Free State in South Africa. Not the least of which is the superb light which the photographers take advantage of so successfully. Our front page image features a tranquil autumnal picture taken from our main complex in mid-February 2019.



Stars 2019 event information & The Blue Train | The Sandstone 2ft Narrow Gauge Railway | Experience all that Sandstone has to Offer  
Aviation | Land Rovers | Earth Moving | Farm Workshops | Modern Farming | Stars 2019 Entrance Procedure





## DAY VISITORS

Visitors may book for a day or more to attend *Stars of Sandstone*, and Day Tickets will be available throughout the event, not only for the last weekend.

To clarify: the Public Days on the weekend of 13 and 14 April are priced at a lower rate to allow the local community to come and enjoy themselves. The attendance on that weekend has always been greater than in the preceding week, but all the attractions will be available for visitors to enjoy.

The *Stars of Sandstone* is therefore designed to suit everyone's pocket and budget. We are also geared to assist special needs visitors but they do need to notify us in advance, please.

Gates will be open daily from 05h30 for the photographers participating in the exclusive early morning photo sessions, and from 08h30 for other visitors.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We are sensitive to the fact that pensioners have budgetary constraints, and in fact we have had quite a number of appeals from pensioners to provide them with a special tariff to enable them to attend.

We realise that the generation of locomotives, vehicles, tractors, military vehicles, and of course our teams of oxen dates back so far that one's Great Grandfather would be comfortable at *Stars 2019*. However, many elderly people have very clear recollections of the days when these items were in daily use and we feel strongly that they should be given every opportunity to attend and to enjoy the spectacle.

As part of our ongoing Social Responsibility Programme, we therefore invite organisations and individuals who have special needs or budgetary constraints to contact us to discuss how we may accommodate them at *Stars of Sandstone 2019*.

## SOUTH AFRICAN RESIDENTS

All bookings are done via the *Stars of Sandstone* website:  
[www.starsofsandstone.com](http://www.starsofsandstone.com)

Full information will then be sent to you to confirm your booking. Full payment is required on receipt of invoice.

Visitors to *Stars 2019* are welcome to bring a genuine classic or vintage vehicle which will allow them to follow the trains on the farm roads. For any enquiries, please contact Dave Richardson directly on [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)

## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Our international booking agent, Geoff Cooke of Geoff's Trains in the UK has been very active in promoting *Stars of Sandstone 2019* all over the world.

Geoff's Trains' latest Newsletter featuring *Stars 2019* is now online:  
<https://bit.ly/2LXYUIU>

Prospective international visitors should book now as Geoff has many packages and options for guests who may be visiting us or even Africa for the first time, take a look, you won't be disappointed!

## ACCOMMODATION

This is always at a premium during *Stars* in the area and you are advised to secure your place to stay as soon as possible. Camping is available on site, but for those of you who prefer a guest house, please use the following link which features over 270 guest houses in the surrounding area: <https://bit.ly/2JgQyUZ>

*Experience the Best of both Worlds...*  
Travel on The Blue Train to Stars of Sandstone 2019



Book now for this exclusive 3-night excursion aboard the luxurious Blue Train, destined for South Africa's premier Heritage Festival at Sandstone Estates



Passengers on the Blue Train, travelling to and attending *Stars of Sandstone 2019* will have the company of two experienced Stars representatives during the whole journey and the event itself.

Martyn and Melanie Hurst, both British, but well-travelled throughout Southern Africa, will be on the train to assist and make sure the whole experience for all Blue Train guests is smooth and seamless.

The Hursts will make a point of introducing themselves to everyone on embarkation at Pretoria Station, and will do all they can to make the event enjoyable for everyone. They will also accompany the passengers on the return journey.

Time is running out, please book via the website asap.





*Thinus Dennis reflects on a day of replacing the elements on NGG13 No 49*



*Wouter Jubileus prepares to solve today's brake block puzzle*



*We still have a few more kilometres of track maintenance to do en route to Vailima*



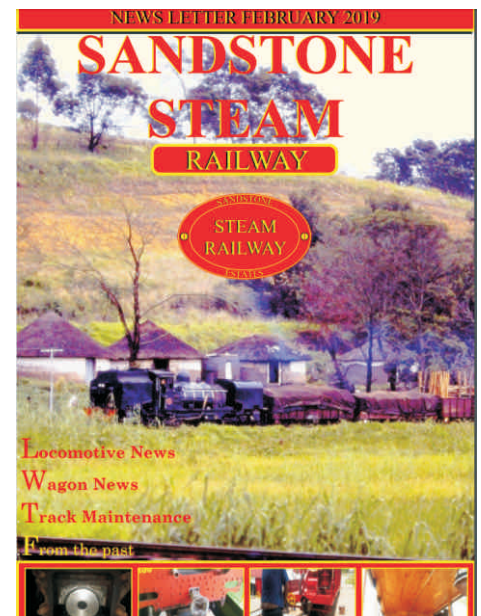
## THE RAILWAY TEAM

Many of our visitors, especially rail enthusiasts, imagine that working with the Sandstone Steam Railway is a wonderful job. All our staff love what they do but there are some days when they would rather be in an office in front of a laptop.

Sadly, one of the reasons that steam traction has faded from the everyday life world wide, is the intensive labour requirements and energy sapping work needed to keep it operating and the tough tasks required. At Sandstone we do not run all day and every day but maintenance of our locomotives and wagons is an ongoing task to ensure safe running.

Twenty-nine locomotives are being prepared for Stars and everyone of course is waiting for the arrival of the NG10 which will undergo extensive testing on the line.

Since there is limited space in the newsletter, we draw your attention to Gert Jubileus' Steam Report which gives an in-depth idea of the sort of work that is being done at the moment. Please [click here](#) to view.



## IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

It is a never ending business maintaining a railway. It is also an endless task to keep railway operations safe.

Sandstone Estates employs between 60 and 100 people on an ongoing seasonal basis. That excludes the contractors who are often working on site (the electricians, building contractors, irrigation and water system supplies etc).

We also have a full-time Military presence from the SANDF who patrol the border in our area from dedicated barracks on site. Finally, our own private Security Team under very highly experienced Security Officer, Charl Malan, effectively never sleep. Sandstone Estates has an excellent track record of being pretty much incident free.





### NG 10 No 61

The restoration of this locomotive is almost complete and it will be unveiled to you all at the event on Friday, 5 April 2019. We thought we would tempt you with a wonderful picture of this iconic locomotive.

As far as our Narrow Gauge steam railway is concerned, it is specialised. However, if anyone has worked on the railways in any capacity, do let us know because we might well be able to take advantage of your experience. We particularly need Train Conductors and Guards.

Contact Dave Richardson on E: [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)



*19D Sappi No 2 rests in the exchange sidings at Umkomaas before hauling a load of timber to the Saaicor Mill.  
Picture by Dave Richardson*

### SAPPI-SAAICOR 19D DONATED TO SANDSTONE

Ex SAR 19D, Sappi No 2, has been donated to Sandstone by Sappi from the Saaicor Mill at Umkomaas in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Umkomaas Mill was the last industrial steam operation in South Africa and introduced diesel operation in 2015. Materials were moved from the Transnet Exchange Sidings at Umkomaas to the Mill which is situated on a line alongside the Umkomazi River which was the original route of the South Coast main line.

The 19D, which was SAR No 2633, was built by Skoda as works number 928 of 1938 and is one of only fifteen 19Ds built by this manufacturer.

Planning is now underway to relocate the locomotive to Sandstone's Eastern Free State base where the locomotive will be initially plinthed and examined for possible future restoration.

Photographs of the move should appear in the next edition of our newsletter. Once again, a big thank you to Sappi for making this very special locomotive available to us for long-term preservation.

### UNIQUE CAPE EXPERIENCE TO COINCIDE WITH STARS

Sandstone Estates has had a good working relationship with Ceres Rail since they commenced operating top class tourist rail excursions in the Western Cape.

You can book a special train trip through the Overberg in the Western Cape with Ceres Rail.

Departing Sunday, 21 March 2019, return Tuesday, 2 April 2019.

For further details, price and bookings please contact us Mondays to Fridays: 09h00 to 15h00 on: T: 079 077 5332 (Overseas +27 79 077 5332) or [bookings@ceresrail.co.za](mailto:bookings@ceresrail.co.za)



*Ceres Rail's 19D 3322 departing Cape Town with the famous Table Mountain as a backdrop*





## TAKE A WALK AROUND

There are many static displays within the Main Complex. With a map of the area in the programme, feel free to walk around. Many of these are clearly marked so one can understand their origins. On the left is our 10CR Pacific locomotive, which is a high-speed commuter locomotive built in 1910 and operated in the Western Cape. It is the only survivor of its class in the world.

We have a whole building dedicated to old combine harvesters, and another building containing Classic & Vintage Tractors and old vehicles, together with our collection of road steam engines (agricultural engines, road locomotives and steam rollers). There's a Stationary Engines shed as well. There are three major buildings containing the collection of both 2ft Narrow Gauge and 3'6" Cape Gauge locomotives.

So take a walk and see all that Sandstone has to offer!



## VINTAGE & CLASSIC TRACTORS

We do from time-to-time feature elder statesmen from our Heritage fleet that still put in a good day's work. Here we have two retirees, a Fordson Major dating back to the 1960s and Johannes Nkotoane who is very gentle with this tractor and does an excellent job of cutting the bigger lawns and grassland areas near to the complex. Both of them must be well satisfied with the quality of life in what is essentially their retirement.

If you are a vintage tractor enthusiast and have experience with old tractors e-mail your details to Chris Wilson at E: [chrisw@sandstone.co.za](mailto:chrisw@sandstone.co.za).



## FOOTPLATE RIDES

We have always accommodated guests wishing to take a footplate ride during the event and experience the thrill of a ride on a steam locomotive. For 2019, the cost will be R750 per person and Indemnity 2 must be completed prior to the experience. The Indemnity is available on our website at: <https://bit.ly/2EAsiNe>

There are stricter regulations from the Railway Safety Regulator this year on such matters, and all participants must wear safety boots and a high visibility yellow jacket. We can assist with the jackets, if required.

You may contact Dave Richardson on email, [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za) prior to the event or book for this experience at the Sandstone office during your attendance at the event.



*Denise Middleditch with Driver Graham Black after her footplate experience*





## SPECIAL DISPLAYS

We often asked to coordinate dedicated displays for special interest groups.

As an example, here we have a 1915 Ford Model T Roadster and the latest Ford Ranger with a selection of other Ford vehicles to display a hundred years of Ford Motor Company products.



## HOW IT WAS DONE IN 1907

The early part of the last century saw some amazing evolutions. Ox wagons were slowly giving way to internal combustion engines. Early road vehicles looked more like horse drawn buggies without horses. Our 1907 International Farmers Buggy is a good example.

*Stars of Sandstone* is a live event where things move and people can flag down a vehicle, and ask if they can ride along with him. Our guests in this picture do look very content with their excursion in this old International Harvester vehicle, which is well over 100 years old and which was the forerunner of the *bakkie* as we know it (light delivery vehicle).

The rear seat can be removed to carry freight.

In the same way that the oxen were the forerunners of Road Transport, they were also the forerunners of Agricultural Tillage. Our oxen regularly plough the lands at Sandstone Estates.



## FOOD VILLAGE

The success of our Food Village at *Stars* events in 2015 and 2017 has inspired us to make this a feature of **Stars of Sandstone 2019** and the main catering venue for the event.

We have changed our strategy this year, and although we are offering catering for our large number of volunteers and Sandstone staff on duty at the show, and certain groups who have booked an evening meal, we will by and large be relying on our excellent Food Village to provide sustenance for our guests.

There will be a wide variety of items available from breakfast right through to early evening meals.

We are profiling one of our excellent stall holders, namely Frieda Scheepers and her team from Ionia, who will be providing savoury and sweet Belgian waffles, cherry, peach and apple preserves, plus hot, cold and alcoholic beverages.

One highlight will be an excellent selection of Blesbok Droëwors and Biltong (South African speciality dried meats) available from the bar at the Waenhuis. The Estate has large numbers of Blesbok and Springbok running wild, but we have to keep the numbers under control from time to time.







*Ariel Arrow*



*1938 Coventry Eagle*



*An interesting view of an Alouette II helicopter cockpit - Eugene Couzun and his Alouette II will be at the Sandstone Airfield for you to visit*

## Classic Flying Collection

In previous newsletters, we have covered some of the aircraft that will be visiting Sandstone under the auspices of Classic Flying Collection who manage our aviation segment of the show.

A visit to their premises at Springs airfield is a fascinating experience. While the premises are full of aircraft bits and pieces as well as complete flying machines, the work done there encompasses other aspects of preservation. With ace technician, Jacques Ritchie, as our guide, just stepping through the door revealed two vintage motorcycles under restoration, an Ariel Arrow 250 two stroke twin from the 1950s with one of the first pressed steel frames used in motorcycle construction and a 1938 Coventry Eagle.

With so many different planes under restoration, Jacques Ritchie has a tool kit that also takes one back in time — from Whitworth spanners used on the Tiger Moth and Chipmunk, to AF spec tools used on the Cessna and a Metric set for the Aero 45 under restoration. Plenty of juggling going on each day!

Of course, vehicles were needed to move around on airfields, and in another hangar we find a Series 2A Land Rover built up from two derelict vehicles. This unit is painted in the colours of RAF 26 Squadron, which was a recon unit with South African pilots in WW2.

Alongside is a WW2 Jeep restored in SAAF Air Wing colours of the RAF as used in Italy. This particular vehicle on display is the personal Jeep of Brigadier Hingeston who was actually the co-pilot of the Mosquito aircraft displayed in the South African National War Museum in Johannesburg.

So when you see the Tiger Moths, Chipmunks and Harvards taking to the skies at Sandstone, just remember that there is a lot more going on behind the scenes where these magnificent machines were brought back to life.

Flights will be available during *Stars of Sandstone 2019* in a variety of aircraft and bookings can be made with Gavin Brown of Classic Flying Collection on 083 409 3405.

## FLIGHT OFFER FROM CAPE TOWN

Andy Cluver has three seats available on his flight from Cape Town to *Stars* in April:

He writes, "It is my intention to fly my Baron 58 from Cape Town to the Sandstone airfield, arriving on the Saturday, 6 April, returning on Monday, 8 April 2019. Accommodation at Sandstone will be camping. **Anyone interested?** Cost R9500.00/person return. Included in the flight:- Breakfast, Champagne, Snacks, Drinks and great company! Luggage restricted to 15kg/person in soft bags. We would probably depart early from Cape Town and land at the mid-morning ( $\pm$  3.5 hour flight)." Interested parties can contact Andy direct on email: [andy@civair.co.za](mailto:andy@civair.co.za)



# LAND ROVERS



*Len Huxham's Series One*



*Sandstone's Series One*



*Series III Land Rover*



There has been a substantial increase in interest in Land Rovers over the last year or so. When Land Rover discontinued production of the Defender range, people who were fond of Land Rovers suddenly decided they had better have one and so the demand for (and as a result the price of) Land Rovers has gone up steeply.

We are fortunate in having a cross-section of Land Rovers which again came about more or less by coincidence. Like many of our vehicles, they work hard to earn their living.

At the top of the page is photograph of a Series One belonging to one of our contractors, Len Huxham, moving bricks to our main entrance area where the brick paving is being extended.

Len provided the following details on his Series One:

1958 year of first registration

Chassis no: Oe7990

Engine Number: 11805515

Original Reg no CAF 1451 (Barkly East)

The second photo shows the Sandstone 1951 Series One Land Rover, in company with our 1935 Ford V8 which is entirely original, and Sandstone's 1951 Ford F100, along with a brand new John Deere sit-on lawnmower.

Visitors to Stars will see these types of vehicles around as they are all part of the support team for the event.

A new Arrival to the permanent Military Vehicle collection is a restored Military Green 1975 Series 3 Land Rover, fitted with 1960-era Military Radios (C11-R210/ C42) in tip top running condition. All radios are operational.

## OLD TRUCKS

We have an interesting cross-section of old trucks on the Estate. On the left is a Kenworth W Series built in the United States. It had an interesting history doing long haul work between Johannesburg and Cape Town for many, many years.

Sandstone has a much later model Kenworth built in 1990, which we used to call new but is now fast becoming a classic. This is a highly respected brand which produces very durable products.

We have an interesting selection of other makes as well which people will be able to see at **Stars**. Many of them will be in operation during the event.





## EARTH MOVING DIVISION



We have owned a rugged old Eimco face shovel for many years. It has worked in the past and we are currently evaluating what needs to be done to bring it into operation for *Stars 2019*.

It is like all the other old veterans that we persuade to come back into operation – we hold thumbs but we are optimistic that it will work. To operate this machine is not for the fainthearted.

Our newly appointed CAT specialist mechanic, Deon Muller, is working flat out servicing all our CAT equipment. Our two CAT 621 Scrapers are ready to go and our newly acquired D7 is being put through its paces.



## FARM WORKSHOPS



*David Mpholo, our expert panel beater and spray painter, does a masterful job of making old machinery look sparkling and new. Here he is with an old Du Plessis trailer that he'd just brought in*



*A fire-fighting tanker, often seen around the Estate.*

*On the right, another of the Panel Beating projects: the 1935 Bristol Bus*

One of the units in our workshop is a Panel Beating and Spray Painting facility.

This green Du Plessis trailer that we estimate to be about 40 years old. Du Plessis Trailers was a Ficksburg based company that made probably the best trailers in South Africa.

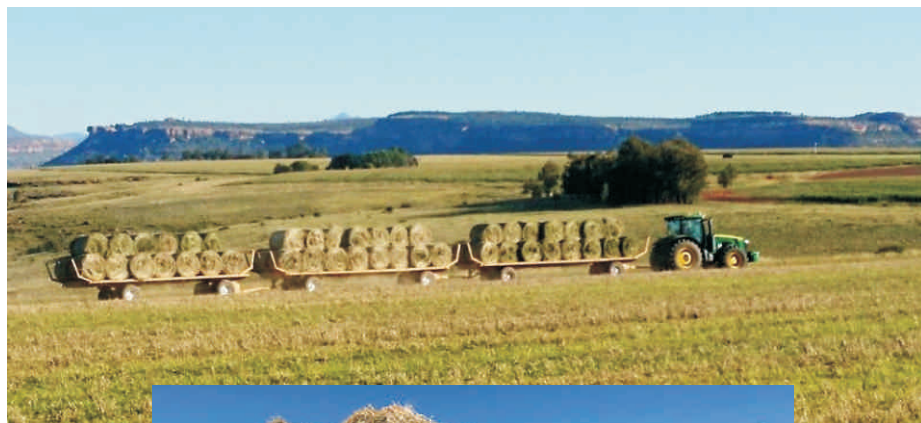
The trailer has done faithful service for many years and we think it is now due for an upgrade, which David Mpholo is taking care of.

One of our yellow hi-tech Richard Western Fire-fighting water tankers is being returned to new condition after 15 years.

So much good work is done by people like David. They work quietly, unheralded, and in many ways unrecognised.







*"He ain't heavy, he's my boulder!"*



## Making hay while the sun shines

The long, hot, dry days have provided us with an opportunity to turn our attention to haymaking. Here our venerable John Deere 7710 is hauling nearly 50 bales per load.

We are actually struggling to build up our winter feed stocks because of strong demand from our neighbours in Lesotho, which is almost continuous. Once again, they are suffering from dry conditions and lack of adequate livestock feed.

## Avoid Chemicals

Sandstone's philosophy is to farm without chemicals wherever possible, and all our grassland areas and pastures are regarded as biological.

We do not allow any chemicals to be sprayed on or near these pastures and our Main Complex.

The recent publicity surrounding the collapse of global insect populations is of great concern to us and we are aware that it is directly as a result of pesticides that are sprayed rather indiscriminately on farmland by farmers worldwide.

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/life/2019-02-11-study-warns-of-catastrophic-collapse-of-global-insect-species/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47198576>

## Cameras that fib!

Our John Deere 6130 was going about its business baling feed for winter when it was snapped by a staff member. According to this photograph, it has about 2,000t of rock on top of the cab.

## Trees at Sandstone

One thing our visitors will notice when they come to Sandstone for a visit, is how well our trees have done. The Eastern Free State is a difficult place to establish trees. Very few indigenous trees grow in that cold climate which would have been treeless open savanna in the centuries past. While the Lombardi Poplars and the Willows are fairly widespread and do well, they are in fact not indigenous.

We have succeeded in establishing a large number of indigenous trees at Sandstone which is adding to the ambience and also giving the buildings in and around the Heritage centre a sense of maturity.

Because of the contribution the trees make in terms of carbon sequestration, we feel that everybody should find an opportunity to plant a tree wherever possible.





*The herd grazing on wheat lands near to the Lesotho border, under Moeketsi Sebetoane's watchful eye*



*Raymond Hohls, General Manager, standing in a luxuriant field of natural grasses which was a field of wheat just eight weeks ago*

## CONSERVATION TILLAGE

Our wheat was harvested at the end of December. Although we received almost no rain in January, we had some reasonably good rains in early February but the current situation is worrying. We had enough rain to stimulate the re-growth of natural grasses that were present in the soil, which now provide excellent pasture for our cattle. All our cattle are watched over day and night due to the fact that we are in an area where cattle rustling is rife. Moeketsi Sebetoane is one of our dedicated cattle guards who watch over these cattle 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. One of the advantages of this strategy, is that Moeketsi knows every animal intimately and the slightest hint of a problem is brought to the attention of management.

It is normal practice in the Eastern Free State to run an offset disc harrow behind the combine harvester in order to start to prepare lands for the next crop. However, we are very committed to the concept of Conservation Tillage where one goes out of one's way to avoid disturbing the soil unnecessarily.

Had we worked this field following conventional practice it would have been subjected to wind erosion. We did experience high winds in January, and heavy rains also have the potential to cause serious soil erosion. Our policy was to do nothing with this field; it has absorbed all the rain that it has received and prospered. Sweet grass has flourished and in a matter of six weeks, we were able to take a significant hay crop off this field. The overall concept is to work with nature and not to work against it.

So essentially the strategy is to convert 800 hectares of wheat lands into top class pasture which will carry our cattle well into the winter and also provide us with an opportunity to build up significant over-winter stocks of good quality fodder.

To develop an understanding of the concept, have a look at the following video by Allan Savory: <https://bit.ly/2H7XxAO>

## LIVESTOCK



### BONT AFRIKANER PROJECT

We are into the second breeding season for our Bont cattle. Through the use of the best bulls we can find, we are developing a better quality Bont Afrikaner. In previous Newsletters, we have described the background to this particular derivative of the stunningly successful Afrikaner breed.

This little calf is an excellent example of what is being achieved. Within two or three years, we will have a fully trained team of Bont Afrikaner oxen in use.

Black & white photographs from the 1800s clearly show that Afrikaners (*Bont Afrikaners*) were the norm 100 years ago or more.





### Entrance Procedure for *Stars of Sandstone 2019*

For entrance to the event you will be required to complete indemnity forms for your party which need to be filled in and signed by each person in the group and returned to us by email.

An entry permit will be issued for your group on confirmation and receipt of your final payment.

The entry permit constitutes your entrance ticket. Should you not return the indemnity forms by e mail, you will be required to present them at the gate prior to entrance but we will still issue you with your Entry Permit in advance.

You will not be permitted to enter the event if the indemnity forms have not been previously emailed or are not presented at the gate on arrival.

All details will be at our Security Gate under your name for your entrance and camping if applicable.

The relevant Indemnity Forms can be accessed on the *Stars of Sandstone* website, [www.starsofsandstone.com](http://www.starsofsandstone.com)

**IND 1 General Indemnity.** This is **COMPULSORY** for all visitors.

**IND 2 Footplate Permit.** This is only required if you wish to, or have booked, a footplate ride during the event (additional cost).

**IND 3 Vehicle and Train Travel Permit.** This is **COMPULSORY** for all visitors.

**IND 4 Pilot Briefing and Indemnity.** This is compulsory for all pilots flying in to the event and pilots taking part in the event.

Completed Forms should be e mailed as follows:

Dave Richardson: [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)

Copy to: Leigh Sanders [leighs@sandstone.co.za](mailto:leighs@sandstone.co.za)

Remember if you do not e mail the forms, they must be presented at the gate on arrival.

### ANIMALS AND FIREARMS

Visitors are reminded that they may not bring animals and firearms on to the property during the *Stars of Sandstone 2019* event.

A list of what you can see and do at *Stars of Sandstone 2019* during the event from 4 to 14 April 2019:

- Steam train rides and photography
- Steam footplate experiences
- Vintage Aircraft Displays & flips
- Hot Air Balloon
- Tractor and vintage bus rides
- Military and Classic vehicle rides
- Ox wagon rides
- Modern farming tours
- Vintage agricultural machinery
- Traction engine displays
- Heavy armour military displays
- Special photographic sessions for the rail enthusiast, as well as numerous photographic opportunities on the farm and with the exhibits
- On site Food Village and Bar

You can become involved as an active participant in the event as well — write to Dave Richardson on email [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)

Book now to enjoy these experiences at *Stars of Sandstone 2019*.

**Not yet booked for Stars of Sandstone 2019?**

Our short video of what you can do and see at the event in April 2019 should persuade you! Be convinced here: <https://youtu.be/ziGauvrVDIA>

*From all of us at Stars'19 — that's all for now!*



Preserving the best of the Past for the Future

Please click on the logo to visit the *Stars of Sandstone* website

### THE SANDSTONE TEAM

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