

**MARCH
2013**

Information

Newsletter of the Cape Western
Railway Society.
(Branch of the Railway Society of
Southern Africa)

NOTICE BOARD by Mavis Ridgard

Don't forget : Our A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 2 April 2013 at 19:30 at Live Steamers, Parow. This is an election A.G.M. so please try to be there to cast your vote.

Your membership fees are now due. They remain R100.00

A word of thanks to Mr. Neil van der Spuy for his generous donation. Very much appreciated.

PRESERVATION FEBRUARY 2013

The Site : As usual weeds are always present even while the summer dryness is restricting their growing. Ed has now appealed three months in a row for the Trustees to approve the appointment of regular garden services to cut the grass All to no avail. The alarm/security system that was installed at Epping seems to have stabilised. Mr. Con erected some shelving in the "workshop" thus enabling the paint to be removed from the heat of the closed container.

PUG : No progress on this project.

Coach 290 : Work on this coach is proceeding steadily thanks to Mr. Con and James Hopkins. Paint has been purchased and Ed believes that painting will commence in two weeks time if all goes well.

Coach 1825 : The shutters (and a few bad spots on the roof) on the north side of this coach has been painted with silver paint . Work must now move to the "south"



side of the coach. To this end Dawie is constructing a narrower scaffold as the current one is too wide to fit in between the two railway lines.

6J 641 : No progress on this locomotive the past few months.

OZ Wagon : No work done on this wagon lately. Still needs a few planks fitted.

Coach 1555 : Keith panelled up another window with some solid wood to replace the previous rotten hardboard panels.

EC Rees : Rust treatment and painting is ongoing.

THF Locos : Bay Steamers continuing to prepare the 16D and 15F locos for eventual moving to their site elsewhere in Epping.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING : TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2013

Opinions expressed or information supplied, are given as accurately as possible and producers and subscribers of this newsletter do not hold themselves responsible for any misinformation or errors whatsoever.

Chairman : Jeremy Hutton - 084 517 7480
Secretary : Diana Lester - 021 531 5998
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MALCOLM'S THIS AND THAT :

It has happened again. Just when you start thinking the problem has been solved, it starts somewhere else. We have installed a sophisticated alarm system on our site at Epping, which is directly linked to the Security Company. Since then, we have had no incidents of break-ins. Our feeling of security was shattered on hearing that the 16DA has been vandalised. It was housed at the Nampak factory at Epping. How the thieves avoided the security at the factory has not been explained. The tragedy lies in the fact the 16DA had just been completely overhauled and was looking shiny and ready to go. We are still to gauge how this will affect Atlantic Rail, who have been granted custodianship of the engine. We can only hope it is not bad news.

Railways have come a long way since the days of the Rocket. In the early days in the late 1820's, it was mandatory for a rider on a horse to precede a train. And that horse was not even trotting : it was walking! Of course. Speed was not a factor and the stopping power of the train was low on the list of priorities. Often an obstruction on the line was observed by the driver from afar, but could not stop in time because of the poor braking system. Many a person lost their lives before new technology improved breaking systems. The concept of moving without animal power was awe inspiring, things like speed and breaking power took time to get through to a wonderstruck populous. And then reality set in.



THIS MONTHS CHUCKLE

A bus station is where a bus stops.

A train station is where a train stops

On my desk, I have a work station.

COPPER THEFT FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 2009

Copper theft in South Africa fell to its lowest level since April 2009 in January, indicating that the downward momentum seen in 2012 should continue into 2013, the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sacci) said on Monday.

Sacci CEO Neren Rau said the organisation's Copper Theft Barometer recorded a decrease in copper theft to R11.1-million during January from the R12.4-million recorded in December. This followed a decrease to R13.97-million in October, from R14.7-million in September and R17-million in August.

"The progress already made against copper theft in 2012 by way of improved police cooperation with social partners, as well as the groundbreaking institutional work done with the Second-Hand Goods Act should spill over into 2013," he commented.

The international spot price of copper increased from an estimated average of \$7 971/t in December and \$8 052/t in January, to \$8 062/t during February. This was higher than the average \$7 958/t recorded last year. Copper spot prices reached their highest and lowest monthly averages of \$8 465/t and \$7 427/t in March and June 2012 respectively.

Meanwhile, copper waste exports decreased to \$37.3-million during the last month of 2012, compared with the end-year peak of \$43-million in November.

From : Engineering News



Hottest train east of El Paso on the Sunset Route was the LCL-heavy LAMFT, Los Angeles-Memphis Trailers, the eastbound equivalent of the Memphis Blue Streak Fast Forwarder. Here the hotshot flies east across the impressive Pecos River bridge, the 1930s replacement for a spindly steel structure from the turn of the century (which itself replaced an even spindlier wooden span). Locomotives are Southern Pacific Railroad EMD GP60s.
 From : Railpictures.net Photo by : Blair Kooistra

A steam / diesel tug-of-war??? No only 3655 being hauled to Atlantic Rail. Photo taken on 13 Nov 2011

