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HRASA UPDATE & PORTFOLIO SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

HRASA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The challenge, which HRASA has had to face since its inception, is the lack of manpower – the knowledge, experience and commitment of more of our members to participate in the process to secure the future of rail. The HRASA BOD is pleased to announce that Andreas Matthee has been co-opted on to the Board and will serve on the Corporate Liaison Sub-Committee.

I believe HRASA has already seen a measurable change on some fronts. We already have a sound working relationship with SAHRA, but recent contact with other key stakeholders, such as Transnet, Rail Safety Regulator and other stakeholders at provincial and national level of both the private and public sectors, have of late become more solid and are evolving into the partnerships we planned to establish.

The contribution by HRASA to the Transnet Heritage Policy (THP) has been a huge achievement. The contributions by Ian Pretorius and Andreas Matthee are invaluable and to be commended. The co-option of Andreas onto the HRASA Board of Directors (HRASA BOD) was a sound business decision that has already borne fruit and we look forward to his future role.

Over the next few weeks HRASA is going to be hard-pressed to co-ordinate the verification and compliance process needed for Transnet to start rolling out the THP.

The HRASA BOD also needs to square up to the challenge of what the RSR expects in terms of the MOU, as well as proving our commitment to rail safety through compliance by our members.

I know a lot has been asked of this Board, but we cannot and must not falter now.

Let's keep steaming!
Nerina Skuy

HRASA SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

HRASA CORPORATE LIAISON SC REPORT

The Chairman attended the inaugural 3-day Ports & Maritime Expo and Conference – held in Port Elizabeth from 29 to 31 May – during which meetings were held with Eastern Cape MEC: Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture, Mcebisi Jonas). He is looking at rail tourism in the province.

The *Africa Rail 2013* event was the most successful of those held over the past four years. The HRASA presentation, delivered by the Chairperson, Nerina Skuy, entitled "**The challenge of heritage railways operating on modern technology**" was very favourably received. In fact, a number of exhibitors have already responded to some of the challenges presented.

There were many interactions with a much wider range of exhibitors, which included Siyabonga Gama (CEO, TFR).

Transnet Foundation/Transnet SOC

Over the past couple of months numerous follow up meetings have been held, with Brian Murison and Kobus Volschenk in George, to discuss the current status and the way forward. The HRASA Board has submitted detailed input for inclusion in the Transnet Heritage Policy (THP), which is being finalised for submission to the Transnet Executive Committee. HRASA will now implement a member compliance verification process in anticipation of the roll out of the THP.

TFR museum project – the facts

HRASA followed up on the Transnet Freight Rail circular, issued by Mlamuli Buthelezi (COO, TFR) and entitled "*Launch of the Railway Museum and Heritage Preservation Project*". It was established that this was an internal communiqué to TFR employees, which had been leaked into the public domain, where it was portrayed as an open statement.

According to TFR, the objective of this circular was to encourage its employees to contribute artefacts and memorabilia to be displayed in the new home of the Transnet Library – to be known as the Transnet Knowledge Centre. Although the facility has limited space, it is planned that its ambience will be a testimony to its rail heritage. The Centre will fall under the jurisdiction of TFR.

Rail Safety Regulator

The RSR CEO, Nkululeko Poya (NP), and members of his management team met with the HRASA Chairperson to discuss the Business Case for the New RSR Permit Fee Model and the planned interaction with stakeholders through workshops that would be held countrywide shortly to get input on a new fees policy.

Board of Directors 2012-13:

Skuy, N (Skuys Communications) [Chair]; Pretorius, I (Atlantic Rail) [Vice Chair]; Ngxonono, MG (AER) [Secretary]; Smuts, L (RSSA) [Treasurer]; Appleton, S [Rail Safety Rep]; Matthee, AD [Co-opted].

Heritage Railway Association of Southern Africa NPC (Non-Profit Company) is incorporated under New Companies Act 71 of 2008. Company Registration: 2000/027224/08

The RSR office is Cape Town office is fully functional, with the Port Elizabeth branch scheduled to be operative in April 2014. The RSR will host the International Railway Safety Conference 2015.

HRASA TOURISM & MARKETING SC REPORT

HRASA members continue enjoying some much-needed exposure, with coverage across different media, such as print and broadcast. Atlantic Rail, Friends of the Rail and Reefsteamers have featured on various television programmes on both SABC-TV channels and DSTV.

The Foschini Group July 2013 magazine to their customers carried an attractive article entitled *"The wheels keep on rolling"*, which read: *Relive a bygone era and go on one of these top train trips – from luxurious to modern and plain fun.* The article went on to list the experiences in their order of preference:

- 1) Atlantic Rail, Cape Town
- 2) Metrorail to Kalk Bay, Cape Town
- 3) The 'Toy' Blue Train, Cape Town
- 4) Umgeni Steam Railway, Durban
- 5) Rovos Rail
- 6) The Blue Train
- 7) Apple Express, Port Elizabeth
- 8) Reefsteamers' Magaliesburg Express, Johannesburg
- 9) Gautrain, Johannesburg
- 10) Shosholozha Meyl, Countrywide

THE local press in KZN had a field day with the debacle surrounding the province's leg of the Geoff Cooke Tour. It was unfortunate in that it occurred during the annual *Tourism Indaba* exhibition – the largest of its kind on the continent. In his opening address at the showcase for tourism, South Africa's Minister of Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, said: "We are growing into a most sought-after tourist destination, with a vast array of unique experiences on offer."

It took some hefty negotiations with reporters to get them to ease off and not cause more damage than necessary. Thankfully, they were rail enthusiasts and saw the wisdom in looking for a positive angle, like USR stepping in to save the day and TFR pulling out all the stops to get some tour action on the line. The experience by this tour group is a wake-up call and highlights the importance of heritage rail working closely with their access agreement partners..

Ian Pretorius was invited onto a 25 minute live interview on Cape Talk on the 20 August, during which not only Atlantic Rail was discussed, but also heritage railway in general as well as the history of railways in the Western Cape. The interview went very well and very good feedback has been received.

The Getaway magazine have advised us that the October 2013 edition will feature the top 10 things to do in Cape Town over the holiday season, with Atlantic Rail featured in the top 10!

HRASA OPERATIONS SC REPORT

The quarterly report submitted by all HRASA operator members to the RSR will in future be used to produce a quarterly HRASA Operations and Rail Safety audit report.

This quarterly report will form the foundation of an Annual HRASA Operations and Safety Report, which will be submitted for inclusion in the annual reports of the Transnet SOC and the Rail Safety Regulator.

Regular trips have been operated by Reefsteamers, Friends of the Rail, Umgeni Steam and Atlantic Rail, with Paton's Country Narrow Gauge Railway having a re-launch special trip with VIPs on board as well as its annual Aloes Festival trains. Reefsteamers and Friends of the Rail have had photo-shoot and Open Depot days.

RAIL SAFETY SC REPORT

Steve Appleton is representing HRASA and its members on two standards working groups, which includes weekly meetings that address the revision of standard SANS 3000-1.

The "Railway safety management - Part 1: General" is well under way. Together with diagrams and annexures, this has become a massive document (some 83 pages at last count). Apart from re-organisation of the content and a greater emphasis on safety systems, security requirements have also been introduced and incorporated throughout. Starting with this one, all standards in the series will also introduce the concept of "life-cycle" management into all railway-related projects, systems and components. Common to "life-cycle" management in other engineering disciplines, the intention is to ensure that safety and security are considered, approved and incorporated throughout all project processes from conceptualisation at the start all the way through to decommissioning and disposal at the system's eventual end of life.

At the time of going to publication no new safety bulletins have been issued and there have been no reportable incidents or occurrences amongst operating Hrasa heritage members during the period under report.

Issued by the HRASA Board of Directors

Date: 05 October 2013

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