

Chairman – Chris Janisch: **Phone** +27 12 545 9401 • **Fax** +27 12 545 9401 • **Mobile** +27 82 781 3285 • **Email** janisch24@gmail.com
Secretary – Nerina Skuy: **Phone** +27 41 368 4649 • **Fax** +27 86 685 8251 • **Mobile** +27 82 921 8512 • **Email** hrasa@skuys.co.za / secretary@hrasa.co.za / skuys@worldonline.co.za
Treasurer – Len Smuts: **Phone** +27 23 356 3394 • **Mobile** +27 83 530 1692 • **Email** lenismuts@telkomsa.net



MONTHLY PORTFOLIO SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS: JANUARY 2010

Distribution: HRASA Members and Public

Period: December 2009 – 27 January 2010

SUB-COMMITTEE: HRASA CORPORATE LIAISON REPORT

Team Leader: Chris Janisch **Members:** Dudley Smith, Nerina Skuy and Elize Lubbe

Christmas time is a quiet month in railway land and this is reflected in this brief report.

We are continuing our relationship with Transnet Foundation, with our next meeting scheduled for 30 January. TF have found it necessary to alter the MoU, which was signed by us last year, - the new version is acceptable to both parties. It is due for signature by both parties on the occasion of our next meeting. With this agreement in place we can look forward to a better and more effective working relationship.

We have been advised that good progress has been made in conquering the legal matters, which affect the asset disposal process. It must be understood that Transnet cannot simply act upon a good idea; everything they do has to fall within company legal policy.

It is also becoming more apparent to us that we will have to be quite selective in what we try to save. Rolling stock in fair to good condition needs to be safeguarded and moved upon with urgency, while long-standing deteriorating stock will realistically – in most cases – only have value as parts and spares. Whilst we would all like to save and restore everything, it will be foolish to even convince ourselves that this is possible. Hard decisions will need to be made, and we here we will need the Rail Heritage community's guidance and support.

Quite a lot of interest has also emerged from private individuals willing to buy some of the assets. This is to be encouraged, as it will provide a solution to some of the disposals, as well as hopefully raise funds for the preservation of others.

We will continue to monitor, encourage and assist in the development of a Transnet policy towards Heritage Rail. This is absolutely vital should we wish to see any long-term future for our industry. Awareness is slowly arising within Transnet and TFR as to what our problems are; it seems that we are still wanted, and we will continue to motivate for more hospitable terms and conditions of access on the national network.

There have been some proposals from Natal with respect to the 150-year anniversary of railways in South Africa. Transnet, in principle, supports the initiatives and we will be speaking with TF as to how this can be translated into concrete support. We have some ideas which will be presented to them. Despite the lateness of these initiatives, we believe something can still be organised, which will put heritage rail and Transnet in a better light.

The link with SAHRA remains a vital one, especially as Transnet will only act on their heritage assets with SAHRA approval. SAHRA have already intervened on behalf of HRASA to assist in safeguarding the future of the "Blackie" locomotive in Cape Town.

We have been informed by PRASA that interface agreements should be concluded with them fairly soon.

We have agreed on the terms of the MoU with the RSR. This document is also due for signature on Friday, 29 January. We look forward to a long positive engagement with the Rail Safety Regulator in future.

Chris Janisch

SUB-COMMITTEE: HRASA OPERATIONS PORTFOLIO REPORT

Team Leader: Ian Pretorius **Members:** Coen Pretorius, Chris Janisch, Mike Du Plooy, Dylan Knott and Steve Smith

Negotiations with PRASA regarding the new interface agreements continue. In the Western Cape, in anticipation of Atlantic Rail receiving their interface agreement, we are planning to institute a training structure. Jens Uwe of Cape Western Railway Preservation Society has offered to lead this project and we need to set up a formal training programme with Coen Pretorius.

A further meeting with the office of Mr Alan Winde (Western Cape MEC of Finance and Tourism) will be held as soon as an appointment is finalised. Items to discuss with him include progress on the Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe; 150th anniversary of railways in South Africa; Atlantic Rail in the Western Cape; Athlone power station possibilities and the transfer of unused branch lines to local government.

The HRASA West meeting has been postponed to the 8th of February so that items from the BOD meeting on the 30th of January can be included. It is hoped that Mr Rod Douglas from Mr Winde's office can attend this meeting.

Ian Pretorius

SUB-COMMITTEE: HRASA FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO REPORT

Team Leader: Len Smuts **Members:** Nerina Skuy, Chris Janisch and Ian Pretorius

HRASA financial report March to December 2009

Following the HRASA Board meeting of October 2009, it was necessary to verify the information available and to draw up a fresh income statement and balance sheet. After investigation, it became clear that the audited financial statements for the year ended March 2009 contained several errors. These related to mainly a fundamental lack of understanding of accounting principles and have now been corrected.

For the nine months March to December 2009 HRASA was in deficit, and to correct the situation voluntary contributions were solicited from members, a moratorium placed on large expenses and other measures put into place with.

At the time of writing these measures had all been effective and HRASA is now solvent!

In the future cost control measures will continue, with a new firm of auditors already appointed. In order to further reduce costs it has been agreed that members will pay their own travel expenses for the present. Unpaid subscriptions have also been re-invoiced and will be followed up.

Len Smuts

SUB-COMMITTEE: TOURISM PORTFOLIO REPORT

Team Leader: Dudley Smith **Members:** Nerina Skuy, Chris Janisch, Ian Pretorius and Mike du Plooy

HRASA is in the process of developing a presentation which when the opportunity presents itself will be made to the Ministers office, National Department of Tourism

Our intention is to request a National Rail and Steam Heritage Tourism Review including the development of a Policy and Strategic Framework which would address issues such as;

- A clear national policy and enabling environment for the growth and development of rail and steam heritage tourism in terms of the regulatory framework around line access and support by the current rail authority
- The decline and demise of existing rail and steam heritage locomotives rolling stock, and rail line infrastructure and services.
- Partnership between the rail authorities, national, provincial and local government and rail tourism and steam heritage operators and the national tourism sector in general.
- Identification of existing and high potential national rail and steam heritage routes, products, infrastructure, operators and partnerships and an assessment of the feasibility issues and the constraints to and requirements for building a competitive national rail and steam heritage economic sector.
- Review of the rail and steam heritage tourism in terms of national and provincial policy and enabling environments, national and international markets, products and services, rail related infrastructure requirements, supply and value chains, and institutional arrangements for rail and steam heritage tourism development
- Competitive and comparative assessment of international best practice in rail and steam heritage tourism enablement and development in the world.
- The formulation of a National Policy for Rail and Steam Heritage Tourism Enablement and Development
- The formulation of a national strategic framework defining the goals, objectives and activities and public sector costs required to build a competitive global rail and steam heritage sector in South Africa for the period 2012 – 2015.

Without a guiding policy that has the authority of Government the volunteer movement will eventually cease under increasing obstacles and pressure - thus we are doing our best to secure a meeting with the relevant authorities. The project will comprise three deliverables:

- The first deliverable will be a National Rail and Steam Heritage Tourism Review or Status Quo report.
- The second deliverable will be a priority rail routes, products concept report.
- The Policy Framework will draw on the work undertaken in the first two deliverables and will set out a policy framework.

SISONKE STIMELA (INGWE MUNICIPALITY)

The Municipality itself has decided to run the train commencing with the first trip as an overnight experience from Creighton to Underberg returning to Creighton. This trip will take place on Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 February 2010.

In the mean time restoration of GMAM 4074 by a skilled team under Marc Bouchier of the Umgeni Steam Railway's leadership is progressing well and this wonderful locomotive should be in steam by the end of February 2010.

WESTERN CAPE

Rod Douglas advised that the WC team was meeting with TFR in George on 27.01.10 to discuss the EOI received for the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe.

Letters requesting meetings with Tourism Minister, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, and Alan Winde, WC MEC for Tourism, have been sent out and we are awaiting their response.

EASTERN CAPE

Nerina has been invited onto the Eastern Cape Freight and Logistics Forum, which encompasses rail and road. The Forum will meet in February and the agenda is focussed on branch line development projects in the region and their development for freight, passenger and tourism services. ECDORT is committed to the development of branch lines in the region that will impact all three aspects.

Dudley Smith

SUB-COMMITTEE: MARKETING PORTFOLIO REPORT

Team Leader: Nerina Skuy

Members: Dudley Smith, Charles Phillips, Kevin Wilson-Smith and Jamie Hart

1. RAIL-RELATED TRADE SHOWS/EXHIBITIONS

- (a) **Africa Rail 2010 (Johannesburg): Africa Rail 2010 (Johannesburg):** HRASA has endorsed this event and has official status, with our logo on their website and other branding opportunities, e.g. programmes, etc.
- (b) **16th International Wheelset Congress (Cape Town – 14-19 march 2010):** Members (especially BOD and SC members) are encouraged to attend, network and report back.

2. Indaba (Durban) 8 – 11 May 2010

A list of local and provincial tourism bodies as applicable to each HRASA member, is being finalised as well as draft a letter of request for participation, which may be on stand in person or by supplying brochures/pamphlets/ leaflets.

3. HRASA WEBSITE

Have identified a volunteer webmaster in Port Elizabeth, who will work to ensure website updated as regularly as required after it is re-launched. It has been decided initially to proceed with basic site upgrades and changes. The conversion to an interactive site will be carried forward to April 2010, which gives us an opportunity to source sponsors and/or funding. We thank Reefsteamers, who has committed a donation of R1000.00 (one thousand rand) towards the website re-development. The revamped website will launch in the first week of March.

4. HRASA/HERITAGE RAIL MAP

This will be developed parallel to the website upgrade and it is hoped this will be completed and available for Indaba 2010 in May this year.

5. PUBLICATION MARKETING

Publications being looked at are:

- (a) ***Inbound and Business Traveller***
- (b) ***Regional Tourism***
- (c) ***Hambakahle***

6. Steam trains for film shoots

In the past two weeks we have had approaches by studios for film shoots and commercials. These has been referred on to Ian Pretorius for follow up. This is a fundraising opportunity for both the Clubs and HRASA and we are looking to establish a database with information about Clubs, their rolling stock and capability, to be able to service this market effectively.

7. Report back on Transport Forum Meeting

Charles Phillips represented the Portfolio SC at the Transport Forum meeting in Sandton on 03.12.2009, themed improving public transport in South Africa. Various key players in the industry made presentations. The topics discussed were:

- (a) Integrating public transport in Nelson Mandela Bay
- (b) Paradigm shift for city development
- (c) Introducing standards in the public transport life cycle

In attending, the objective was to promote the organisation and to integrate as an authority in transport issues. HRASA, through its members offers a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise in rail operations and is now officially represented at the Transport Forum.

Nerina Skuy

SUB-COMMITTEE: MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Team Leader: Elize Lubbe **Members:** Dudley Smith, Mike du Plooy, Nerina Skuy and Len Smuts

One membership enquiry has been received and is being processed. Steam-in-Action is winding down and has indicated that it will make its membership list available to HRASA – this will be discussed at the BOD meeting.

Elize Lubbe



VISION

To be the recognised representative body for the benefit and support of its members and oversight of the heritage rail preservation and heritage rail tourism industry in Southern Africa”