



Federation of Heritage Railways of Southern Africa

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New Railway Heritage representative body promulgated

Major participants in South Africa's Railway Heritage and Tourism sector have combined forces to initiate the creation of a new railway heritage industry representative body, and to this end, the ***Federation of Heritage Railways of Southern Africa*** (FEDRAIL SA) has been established. A MOI (Memorandum of Incorporation) has been drawn up which seeks to provide effective, honest and professional liaison services to the sector.



Picture by Peter Rogers

FEDRAIL SA's mandate is as follows:

FEDRAIL SA has been formed in order to link and unify the Railway Preservation community in Southern Africa. It also seeks to establish ties with like-minded federations around the world to enhance and promote their achievements to the broader public and to provide a voice for Southern African organisations on the local and international stage. Railway Heritage has the potential to boost tourism revenues, and FEDRAIL SA seeks to promote Railway Heritage and operating railways not only as an attractive tourist experience but one that is important and relevant to future generations. FEDRAIL SA's objective is to serve its members for the purpose of expanding the sector and supporting the development of operators, interest groups and railway associations. FEDRAIL SA will also provide an advisory service to state railway organisations, operators, interest groups and railway associations. It will have a media strategy, publish articles and have coordinated gatherings, where historical railway information is disseminated.

FEDRAIL SA is not a regulatory body. It is a liaison body designed to further the interests of its members in a positive way, and to act for them at the highest level. The authorities have clearly indicated that they need a single voice promoting the development of the Railway Heritage industry which has come into being as a result of a creative democratic process. It is not the function of FEDRAIL to prescribe to its members, but it will keep them informed of the regulations that they need to comply with as required by regulatory authorities such as the Rail Safety Regulator of South Africa, as an example.

The Board of FEDRAIL SA comprises:

John Middleton, a professional mining engineer with over 35 years project management and development finance experience globally, currently with the World Bank in Washington DC. During the years when he worked in South Africa, he became involved with restoration of historic locomotives and in the rail tourism market as a director of UK based Steam & Safaris which ran many Southern African tours. He has published books on railways in the sub-continent and has a particular interest in the history of railways in industry. John will provide an international liaison function on behalf of FEDRAIL SA.

Lawrence Clayton, an experienced businessman with significant experience in dealing with the government and with the private sector brings a fresh, new approach to FEDRAIL's commercial responsibilities. He has many years of experience working in Africa.

Dennis Edgar, the Chairman of Reefsteamers, South Africa's largest Main Line private Steam Railway operator, brings practical knowledge of the difficulties encountered by operators who are attempting to provide improved Steam Railway experiences, both short and long haul, to the South African population at large.

Dave Richardson is a seasoned Railway Heritage enthusiast with wide ranging contacts throughout this sector. He is currently employed as the Business Development Manager for the Sandstone Heritage Trust which owns and operates the largest collection of 2-ft Narrow Gauge locomotives in the world. Dave will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of FEDRAIL from new FEDRAIL SA offices in North Riding, Gauteng.

FEDRAIL SA has already forged links with the FEDECRAIL (the European Federation of Museum & Tourist Railways) and WATTRAIN (The World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains) and we subscribe to their objectives and philosophies.

For more information on FEDECRAIL, go to <http://www.fedecrail.org>

For more information on WATTRAIN, go to <http://www.wattrain.co.uk>

We invite interested parties from around the world to join FEDRAIL SA to strengthen ties with Southern African Railway Heritage. To become a member, contact membership@fedrailsa.com or call Dave Richardson on +27 (0) 82 447 9167.
