

STEAMNET 2000 NPC

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"Preserving Northern Cape's Steam Trains"

Affiliated to Transnet Foundation and a member of the Heritage Railway Association of South Africa

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3437 News

Johan J Hanekon was well known to Steam Kyalami visitors in the late 80,s. For 7 years in the 70's/80'ss he was driver on the "Douglas link" with Class 24 No 3654 which he named after his daughter "Ansa" and later saved from scrap on Warrenton dump to become a Beaconsfield "prestige " locomotive. 3654 has been out of use since appx 1992 but placed under our care on "loan" by T F in 1/2016.

But he is better known as being the regular driver of Class 26 the "Red Devil" for the final 2 years of his career appx 1990/1991, 3450 then becoming a Beaconsfield "pool" loco throughout 1992. Johan was a founder member, original owner of No 3437 and assisted with 1990's Plandampf,s untill relocation to Koffiefontein. Ownership passed to Oscar Sabatini in 2004. On Saturday October 22 he paid us a visit and were pleased to see No 3654 still sporting her "Ansa" nameboard.

Shown on the footplate is daughter Petro with J J in the driving seat. Below are Ansa, Marion and Oscar.

He also produced the original 1970's De Aar applied smokebox nameplate "Trudie" which he presented to Oscar.

Work continues on 3437 at an agonisingly slow pace. It is now over 12 months since the initial steaming & boiler recertification but there is still much mechanical restoration to do. Deadlines for a 2nd test steaming are constantly set back.

Painting of the "worshond" tender was completed some weeks ago and the rear now sports a daily updated "incentive" of work days remaining. All cladding has now been replaced, body putty applied where required and the full boiler sanded down for painting. There then began a waiting game & constant monitoring of weather forecasts through mid October as every morning dawned cloudy/showery and/or windy! Patience paid off and October 23/24/25 held clear, cool, still & dry allowing primer & topcoat to go on in a 36 hour period. Next to tackle is cab interior, smokebox and later, after steamcleaning, the wheels & frame.