



Stars of Sandstone

Final Communiqué

30TH MARCH – 9TH APRIL 2017

You are no doubt all getting ready for your forthcoming visit to Stars 2017. Some people have already set off on their journey and are due to arrive on the farm shortly. Our team is pulling out all the stops to make sure your visit is a memorable one.

Stars of Sandstone 2017 officially kicks off in just under a week's time and we thought now was a good time to send out this final circular so that you are fully updated prior to your visit.

Official opening of Stars 2017

As advised in Newsletter No. 15, *Stars 2017* will be officially opened by the Angolan Ambassador to South Africa, Josefina Pitra Diakite, on 1st April 2017 at 10h00. We have received wide coverage on this in the press and one of many articles can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.businesseventsafrika.com/2017/03/15/angolan-ambassador-open-stars-2017/>

Transport to/from Johannesburg

We have a mini bus which we are hiring from Johannesburg which will be proceeding to Sandstone Estates on 27th March 2017. It will be returning on 10th April 2017.

We are happy to offer free transport to anybody who might want to do the trip.

We have just received word that one of our UK guests, Michael Rhodes, is flying into Jo'burg on 2 April 2017. His flight is due to land at 09h15. If anyone is travelling down to Sandstone that day and can offer Michael a lift, please call Dave Richardson on mobile + 27 (0) 82 447 9167

Stars 2017 updates

We shall be updating our web sites and Facebook page throughout the show. If you would like to contribute pictures during the event, please e-mail them to daver@sandstone.co.za. When posting on social media yourself, please use hashtags #sandstoneinaction and #starsofsandstone2017

Period Clothing

Many of our Vintage and Classic Car people are going to come dressed in period dress. It contributes hugely to our overall ambience, so please do not arrive in trendy clothes from Khaliques.

Special Events

Just to remind you of the following:

Saturday, 1 April 2017 10h00: **Official Opening of Stars of Sandstone 2017** by the Angolan Ambassador to South Africa, Her Excellency, Josefina Pitra Diakite.

Sunday, 2 April 2017 09h00: **Official Opening of Seb's Railway** and the first train with 1925 O&K, "Ermyntrude".
10h00: **Official Launch of 1919 SAR NGG11 No: 52**

Saturday, 8 April 2017 13h10: Military Parade Events commence
14h00: Full Military Parade & Salute to be taken by Senior SANDF Officers. To be held at Grootdraai near the balloon on the Lesotho end of the Sandstone Railway – get there by train!



NGG11, No. 52



Catering

We have taken a giant leap forward by making a substantial investment in a new kitchen which will be under the control of our experienced chef, Ivan Belotti. Ivan and his team will be very accessible and will be doing their best to serve good quality, traditional Free State meals in this tranquil environment.

We now have two 1920 ex-SAR Dining Cars fully restored for your use. They are immediately adjacent to the **Waenhuis Restaurant** and you should make a point of using them.

All food will be served from the central **Waenhuis Restaurant** area, but due to the number of people on site, seating has been extended to the Dining Cars, patio dining area, and extensive open seating under the trees next to the Hoekfontein Railway Station.

The weather should be exceptionally good for sitting outdoors, so do not feel you have to be sat in the main **Waenhuis Restaurant**, which has limited seating anyway.

Cafeteria

Coffees and a selection of tasty treats can be purchased at any time of the day. Just talk to the staff at the Cafeteria counter in the **Waenhuis Restaurant**.

Food & Refreshment Village

Our Food Village vendors are very excited to be at Sandstone this year and look forward to serving you. They will be open from 07h00 every day, located immediately adjacent to the shop and the railway line.

Any problems in any of these areas should be reported to Celeste Haupt, Event Coordinator, on C: +27 (0) 64 752 3852.

Reminder about essentials for Coach Accommodation.

A number of people have booked accommodation in our coaches. The most important thing to remember is your bedding, but we have found in the past it helps to list items that you are most likely to need to assist you when packing. Obviously some of the items listed below might not apply to you all, but it may help the people at the camping site, too.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Torch | • Shampoo |
| • Portable Mirror (ladies) | • Deodorant |
| • Insect/Mosquito repellent | • Brush / Comb |
| • Wet Wipes | • Headache Pills / anti-histamine |
| • Female Products | • Savlon (Antiseptic Cream) |
| • Razor | • Plasters (Bandaid) |
| • Toothbrush | • Comfortable Shoes / Track Shoes |
| • Toothpaste | • Towels |
| • Dental floss | • Bedding: Pillows, Sheets |
| • Bath Soap | • Sleeping Bag / Blankets |
| • Electrical adaptor (foreign visitors) | • South Africa uses 220V |

We would like to remind all campers that there will be prepaid electricity meters. You will be able to purchase vouchers for these at the Visitor Reception Area.

First Aid

Medics will be on duty throughout the show in the Waenhuis Restaurant/Hoekfontein Station area. An ambulance will be parked directly opposite Visitor Reception Area at the entrance to the parking area.



Aviation Flight Opportunities

Our crack team of pilots and support crew would be happy to share a flying experience with any visitors to **Stars 2017**. The Harvards represent a very special experience and the cost is R2400 for a flight of 15 minute duration. There is an option for scenic or aerobatic flights in the Harvard Aircraft.

Regarding other aircraft, which include Tiger Moth, Chipmunk, Auster and possibly additional classic and vintage aircraft, you will still need to book a flight and the cost is as follows: Tiger Moth: R1500; Chipmunk: R1500 and Helicopter: R2400.

We do strongly recommend that people review their visit dates and try to book a flight on that day. To do so, please contact Gavin Brown on C: +27 (0) 83 409 3405. This means that you will be placed on a firm roster.

There will be a shuttle service every 30 minutes from the Sandstone Main Complex to the Airfield, alternatively you can use one of the many trains running to Grootdraai and back. All trains will stop briefly at the Aviation Flight Control Centre.

Cell phone coverage

We have a Vodacom Base Station on the farm with 3G capability. However, do turn off your data roaming when you arrive because sometimes mobile phones prefer to lock onto the Lesotho networks (international, even for South Africans).

How to use the Stars of Sandstone Wi-Fi

You can purchase a Wi-Fi voucher at the Visitor Reception Area (see the Site Map on page 4 of the official programme) for all your Wi-Fi needs. Vodacom will be supplying us with a substantial amount of data for the event.

A Wi-Fi connection will be available for the duration of **Stars of Sandstone 2017** for all our visitors. Data Vouchers can be purchased at the Visitor Reception Centre for any data required. International visitors are advised to make use of this service by switching off data roaming on their phones to avoid excessive out-of-home-country charges.

- 1) Connect to the network "sandstone-wifi"
 - It's an open network so no password is needed to connect.
- 2) You will be prompted to sign into the network depending on IOS or Android. This will only need to be done once per a device for the entire event.
 - **IOS**
Once you connect to the network it will pop up with a window and you can sign in with your unique username and password on the voucher that you bought.
 - **Android**
 - i. Once connected it will pop up and prompt you to "Complete the Action"
 - ii. Either use "Chrome" or "Internet" (Select "Always" or "Just Once")
 - iii. It will open up either program and then you will be requested to sign in with your unique username and password on the voucher that you bought.
- 3) To view the status of your connection: open your browser and go to sandstone.wifi/status this will allow you to see your current connection time and data used.
- 4) To logout of your current device: open your browser and go to sandstone.wifi/logout.
- 5) If you have any further problems please call Tyrone Pearce on 082 740 7927.

Package Pricing

- 250mb R45. • 500mb R75. • 1 GB R110. • 2 GB R185. • 5 GB R350.

Wildlife

You will notice that there are Ground Squirrels and Meerkats who are in evidence in many areas including the camping grounds. At Sandstone, we live in harmony with nature and we would be pleased if you could leave them be. In the past, people have blocked their burrows with rocks and that sort of thing. They are entirely harmless and a delight to watch.

Rubbish collection and recycling

A pair of oxen will work all day, every day, 7 days a week to keep the site clean and tidy. There will be special bins for recycling near the Waenhuis but if you need to use a bin further afield, it will be processed accordingly.

Our oxen are extremely docile, but they can get a little nervous if people attempt to pat them. You will probably want to keep a few metres away from them.

Sandstone Railway Poster

We have commissioned an international artist of repute to produce a period railway poster advertising Sandstone as a railway destination. This poster is designed to capture the mood of our railway in the Eastern Free State during Autumn.

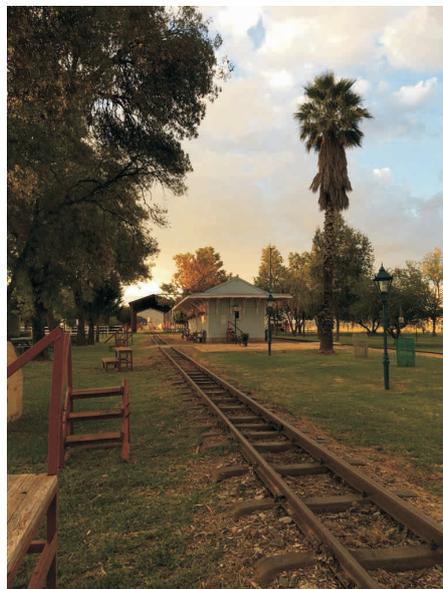
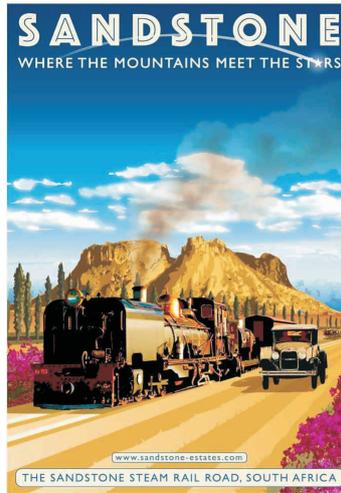
I am sure you will agree when you ride the railway that it is an extremely well presented artistic representation of the rail experience. This will be on sale at the Sandstone Shop at R75.

Our special light

The Eastern Free State is one of the finest places in the world for photographers to capture the light. These two pictures underline this point.

Be on the lookout for these monster prairie tractors working to the horizon: on the left, an Emerson Brantingham Big 4-30 from 1912, and on the right, a Rumely Oil Pull 20-30 from 1916.

Mules are no longer common and in fact they may soon become threatened. Shorty and Big Boy will be out and about hoping to keep the place tidy pulling a general mule wagon dating back to the Anglo-Boer War. Feel free to hitch a ride around the main complex (wait for the cart to stop first!) Off duty oxen chilling in their kraal in the late evening are also a relaxing country sight.



Surprises

Although many people will have read our newsletters we have never attempted to provide a comprehensive insight as to what you might see.

For example, a genuine WW2 Wehrmacht motorcycle will be heading up some of the convoys.



1951 Aveling Barford Roller compacting the parking area

Seb's Railway for Children

Our track-laying teams are working around the clock to finish this line. There will still be signs of construction activity and the team will be working on certain aspects of the line, but it will be in use.

It is a slow, leisurely steam railway experience behind extremely iconic, rare and ancient steam locomotives.

The Rail Programme ([click here to view](#)) clearly shows what will be operating when.

We do have a request for visitors, and perhaps ladies in particular, to be minders on the trains. Children can become very exuberant and it would be well to have an adult in every carriage just to keep things under control.

Please also adhere to Railway Safety Rules.





An early 1950's Reo truck being dragged unceremoniously out of retirement. A long, long line-up of restored freight wagons patiently awaits your arrival



Do not ever feel lost at Stars of Sandstone 2017

Marshalls will be walking around in distinctive bright orange luminous vests. Please approach them at any time for assistance.

The Visitor Reception Area will be manned by Leigh Sanders and Alina Halafu throughout the event, and they are both extremely experienced and will know how to assist you.

Our Station Master, Peter Mole, will be on duty in the Hoekfontein Station building most of the time — you will not miss him in his distinctive uniform.

All these people are there to help you, so please do not hesitate to approach them.

The official *Stars of Sandstone Souvenir Programme* also lists important numbers, but here are key contact numbers in case of emergencies:

Visitor Reception/Event Administration: Leigh Sanders
leighs@sandstone.co.za / +27 (0) 51 933 2235

Event Coordinator, Catering & Farm Shop: Celeste Haupt
celesteh@sandstone.co.za / mobile + 27 (0) 64 752 3852

Military Vehicle Programme: Raymond Hohls
rhohls@mweb.co.za / mobile + 27 (0) 83 303 9865

2ft Narrow Gauge Locomotive Operations: Gert Jubileus
gertj@sandstone.co.za / mobile + 27 (0) 73 531 1852

Locomotive Technical Support: Lukas Nel / lucasn@sandstone.co.za
 mobile + 27 (0) 82 990 0727

Classic Cars and Trucks: Dave Richardson
daver@sandstone.co.za / mobile + 27 (0) 82 447 9167

Aviation: Gavin Brown / gavin@watex.co.za
 mobile + 27 (0) 83 409 3405

Tractors, Plant & Equipment, Agricultural Implements:
Chris Wilson / katbr@worldonline.co.za / mobile + 27 (0) 84 556 1117

Stationary Engines: Danie Pretorius / danie.pretorius@telkomsa.net
 mobile + 27 (0) 82 556 1838

Traction Engines, Oxen, Ox Wagons, Horses, Mules, Donkeys and other livestock: Wilfred Mole / +27 (0) 51 933-2235 (landline)

Photographic Opportunities: Rod Hering / rodhering@gmail.com
 mobile +27 (0) 82 780 5110

Security: Charl Malan / charlm@sandstone.co.za /
 mobile +27 (0) 74 684 3749 and/or +27 (0) 83 252 5229

Computer, IT and Electronic Infrastructure: Tyrone Pearce
pearcet@me.com / mobile +27 82 740 7927

First Aid/Paramedic provided by ER24: 084 124

On site Medic Pieter Bekker +27 (0) 71 882 4363

This is our last *Stars 2017* communication. If you receive this document it means you have already registered. There are a lot of people who have told us they are coming, but who have not registered. If you know of anyone who has not registered yet, please forward this to them and ask them to register online at: <http://starsofsandstone.com/index.php/info-booking/book-now>

While we will do our best, we will not always be able to match the demand for train rides with specific trains — but if you miss one there

will be another one coming along quite soon after. We hope you will be patient and appreciate that the Eastern Free State is a long way from Switzerland. The average age of our railway assets is in the high 80's with a large number of them topping 100 years of age. We are sure that all of them will give of their best.

Finally, a thank you to all our volunteers from around the world (some of whom have already arrived) without whom this would not be possible. We look forward to seeing you all!

THE SANDSTONE TEAM

Curator, Sandstone Heritage Trust:

Gert Jubileus
gertj@sandstone.co.za

Farm Affairs:

Leigh Sanders
leighs@sandstone.co.za

Event Matters &

Dave Richardson
daver@sandstone.co.za

Newsletter Editor:

International Enquiries:

Louise Norton
tourism@sandstone.co.za

Production:

Claire at Eschie Graffix



Please click on the logo to visit the Sandstone Heritage Trust website