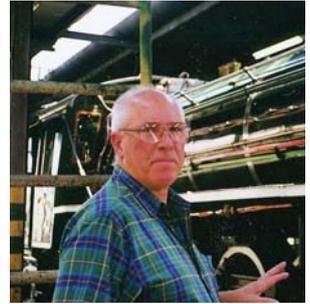




STAFF NEWS

Wolf Mensing, Peter Winterbottom and Noel Durie will be retiring at the end of the year.

Wolf's association with Rovos Rail goes back to 1986 at which time he, with Phil Acutt, sowed the seeds for the creation of our railway business. He has also been responsible for the development of the robust locomotive department and of late our fine museum.

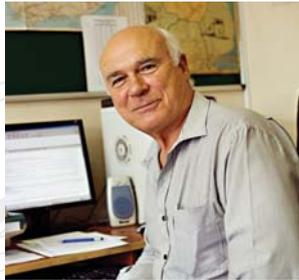


Wolf Mensing

FAREWELL TO ZOG

Our beloved Dalmatian, Zog, died on 22 April. He was 14 years old.

He will be fondly remembered for his amazingly bad habits such as destruction of the rubber bumpers of visiting cars, apparent deafness when reprimanded, his exceptional attraction for blonde canines, a digestion that summarily dealt with wood, coal, putty etc producing more air than the average compressor, and not least a stubborn refusal to walk on four legs when on a leash – no one took Zog for a walk, he took you for a skiing lesson. Taller and stronger than the average Dalmatian, he was fearless and tough as nails. He had a disarming smile however and thus got away with most indiscretions. A larger-than-life character, he will be in our hearts forever.



Peter Winterbottom

Peter Winterbottom joined the company in 1995 as a Train Manager and after many successful years as 'mine host', he took charge of the operations and charter office. He will be moving to Cape Town to enjoy his retirement amongst friends.

Noel Durie, who has always been based in Cape Town, joined us in September 2000 in Sales and Marketing and specialised in the Far Eastern markets. He has also made himself useful around the office in Cape Town standing in for me in my absence.

I wish to thank these battle-scarred survivors for their considerable efforts and sincerely appreciated loyalty. They have contributed enormously to the development of our fine business.



Noel Durie



CAPITAL PARK BOARDROOM REVAMP

Our newly refurbished boardroom building provides tranquil surroundings for our financial staff, training and meetings.



The stork has visited Capital Park again with Heike Gertholtz and Marielle Wynbergen both expecting babies in the coming months. We wish them health and happiness.

We would like to welcome Edward Mitchell as our Sales Manager and wish him joy in his endeavours.

Edward Mitchell



SPARKLE POWER

Our nine, very smart 5E1 electric locos have on the odd occasion been on duty between Capital Park and Germiston. During the railway strike in May they proudly took our trains to Kimberley and Durban. Not bad for a bunch of 43 year olds!

A MODEL COACH

Rovos Rail has a brand-new coach in production! These model coaches will be available in our gift shop.



HO (1:87) scale working model
16,5mm authentic bogies
Kadee couplers (NMRA height). NMRA weight
Manufactured on wooden plinth with Perspex cover by Scalecraft on behalf of ROVOS RAIL

THE ROVOS TIMES

OCTOBER 2010

The Most Superior Train in the World



STATELY ST JAMES TRIO



The St James Manor has undergone a comprehensive refurbishment and has become a really outstanding guesthouse.

St James Seaforth, which was acquired in June, has three en-suite bedrooms of approximately 45m² and will be opening 1 December. It has an enviable position overlooking a pristine beach and is the perfect property to hire as a unit for a family or group of friends.

Next door, the historic and charming St James Homestead will be undergoing a considerable renovation programme before joining our five-star stable.

Annali Blignaut and Ian Jefferson, who worked on the train and in our Pretoria office, are now running the properties.



Top left: St James Manor House
Left: St James circa 1895
Below: St James Seaforth and the St James Homestead



Built 100 years ago, St James Manor has an unpretentious aura of grandeur and old-world charm. A magnificent staircase leads up to the large suites, which have all been individually decorated to reflect the opulent times of a bygone era.



The St James Manor, the Seaforth and the Homestead overlook the trendy and vibrant fishing village of Kalk Bay with majestic views across False Bay and the Indian Ocean. The harbour itself offers superb seafood restaurants from rustic, local cuisine to fine-dining experiences.



Dear Friends,

Hello again from Anthea and I and our 300 personnel at Capital Park.

This has certainly been a year to test our nerve and resilience. It is however a tribute to our people that we have managed to weather a continuing financial crisis with poor attendant occupancies, the negative effects of the volcanic ash that resulted in the cancellation of two big train journeys, the runaway train accident, which tragically cost the lives of four people and destroyed 10 carriages, a three-week railway strike that caused the cancellation of three train journeys and the disturbance of more, then last but not least a four-week soccer world cup period that had us withdraw two trains and run others at very low occupancies.

Needless to say we have lost a bucket of money during this three-month storm but have somehow come through with slightly tattered colours flying and a reasonable grip on our future.

As I write this we are launching a new generator car, dining car, kitchen car, lounge car and Pullman carriage and are simultaneously repairing six of the damaged coaches. From a business-plan point of view, our aim for the next six months is to build two more pillared dining cars using second-class steel stock (replacing Nos. 148 and 195) as well as five more sleepers to complete the third 20-car set, bringing our total to 95 operating cars.

The coming months are still not looking good although there is a definite upturn in passenger numbers and hopefully, as the year progresses, we might see the graph improving further. We are not holding our breath mind you!

Enclosed are updates from several of our varying and busy departments as well as itineraries for the epic Cape to Cairo journeys in 2012.

We do hope you've enjoyed hearing from us and look forward to having you on board again soon.

We all wish you good health and happiness for 2011.

Richard Vos



TRIP NOTEBOOK

Dar es Salaam

We completed five return journeys last year and are repeating the schedule in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The change in routing via Botswana is working well and the hire of a diesel locomotive to take us all the way has proved successful. Come join us on this epic adventure.



Durban Safari



This is now our second season where we are running the new route and considerable effort is being expended on marketing the varied and interesting itinerary. Our special offers – including exciting new hotels – are proposed on the website.

Gamebirds

Peter Johnson has hired the train ever since we launched in 1989 for train shoots in various corners of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia. This July, however, he had us hosting his group on a new adventure in Namibia, which by all reports was a great success.



Golf Trip

Our last trip for 2010 departs on 1 December and will be accompanied by Alwyn Vorster, talented golfer and jazz musician. The courses are all in magnificent condition at this time of year and you can be assured of good weather throughout. The itinerary was planned firstly for non golfers so, if you need nine days of relaxing, scenic holiday, come and join us. We still have space and would love to have you on board.



CAPITAL PARK ANIMAL FARM

Ostriches arriving for lunch. Anything will do – bolts, sandpaper, buttons, keys, and on a good day some staff grub. Betty, the leader of the group, stole and swallowed the laundry padlock last week but still appears to be in good health.

Our animal count is increasing steadily with the antelope population now numbering 20 while the horses, donkeys, rabbits, emu and our many feathered friends are doing exceptionally well.

*We think this peacock has an identity crisis!
Ever heard a rabbit laugh?*



FIRST-CLASS DINING CONVERSION

We are very proud of this conversion having stripped out a third-class sleeper and widened the windows to provide a shell for what has turned out to be a first-class dining car. We are also manufacturing our own ceiling fans circa 1924.



CAPE TO CAIRO 2012

NOW THESE TWO HISTORICALLY LINKED AFRICAN CITIES WILL BE JOINED TOGETHER BY ROVOS RAIL'S TRANS-AFRICAN SAFARI

The Pride of Africa



34-DAY ITINERARY

13 January - 15 February 2012

- DAY 1 Arrive Cape Town.
- DAY 2 Tours Cape Town.
- DAY 3 Tours Cape Town.
- DAY 4 Train departs from Cape Town Station. Matjiesfontein excursion.
- DAY 5 Kimberley tour.
- DAY 6 Pretoria city tour.
- DAY 7 Arrive Zeerust – game lodge overnight.
- DAY 8 Game lodge overnight.
- DAY 9 Depart Gaborone, Botswana.
- DAY 10 Travel through Zimbabwe.
- DAY 11 Arrive Victoria Falls. Overnight hotel.
- DAY 12 Victoria Falls activities.
- DAY 13 Travel through Zambia.
- DAY 14 Travel through Zambia.
- DAY 15 Chisimba Falls excursion.
- DAY 16 Travel through Tanzania.
- DAY 17 Train journey ends in Dar es Salaam. Local flight to Zanzibar. Stone Town tour. Overnight hotel.
- DAY 18 Spice Tour. Overnight hotel.
- DAY 19 Fly Zanzibar to Kilimanjaro to Ngorongoro.
- DAY 20 Game drive and picnic lunch on crater floor.
- DAY 21 Transfer to Masek tented camp, Serengeti.
- DAY 22 Game drives morning and afternoon.
- DAY 23 Fly Serengeti to Kilimanjaro to Entebbe, Uganda. Chimpanzee or Source-of-Nile excursions.
- DAY 24 Chimpanzee or Source-of-Nile excursions.
- DAY 25 Fly Entebbe to Khartoum, Sudan.
- DAY 26 Full- or half-day tours, Khartoum.
- DAY 27 Fly to Abu Simbel, Egypt. Lake Nasser cruise.
- DAY 28 Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.
- DAY 29 Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.
- DAY 30 Road transfer to Luxor. Antiquities tours. Overnight Luxor.
- DAY 31 Antiquities tours. Overnight Luxor.
- DAY 32 Fly to Cairo. Tours Cairo.
- DAY 33 Tours Cairo.
- DAY 34 34-day tour ends.

28-DAY ITINERARY

14 February - 12 March 2012

- DAY 1 Arrive Cairo Airport.
- DAY 2 Tours Cairo.
- DAY 3 Morning tours Cairo. Fly to Luxor. Tours Luxor.
- DAY 4 Tours Luxor.
- DAY 5 Road transfer to Aswan. Lake Nasser cruise.
- DAY 6 Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.
- DAY 7 Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.
- DAY 8 Morning antiquities tours. Fly Abu Simbel to Khartoum, Sudan.
- DAY 9 Full- or half-day tours, Khartoum.
- DAY 10 Fly to Entebbe, Uganda. Chimpanzee or Source-of-the-Nile excursions.
- DAY 11 Chimpanzee or Source-of-Nile excursions. Fly to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.
- DAY 12 Road transfer to Ngorongoro. Game drive and picnic lunch on crater floor.
- DAY 13 Transfer to Masek tented camp, Serengeti.
- DAY 14 Game drives morning and afternoon.
- DAY 15 Fly Serengeti to Kilimanjaro to Zanzibar.
- DAY 16 Stone Town tour.
- DAY 17 Island Spice tour.
- DAY 18 Fly Zanzibar to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
- DAY 19 Victoria Falls activities.
- DAY 20 Board Rovos Rail. Overnight train.
- DAY 21 Breakfast, lunch, dinner and overnight on train.
- DAY 22 Arrive Pretoria. Transfer to hotel.
- DAY 23 Dinner and overnight. City and Capital Park Station tours.
- DAY 24 Depart for Cape Town.
- DAY 25 Kimberley tour. Matjiesfontein excursion. Train arrives Cape Town. Overnight hotel. Tours Cape Town.
- DAY 26 Cape Town. Overnight hotel. Tours Cape Town.
- DAY 27 Tours Cape Town.
- DAY 28 28-day tour ends.

For detailed itineraries please visit our website www.rovos.com or email reservations@rovos.co.za



Travelling a distance of 10 700 kilometres (6 650 miles) by train, plane and ship, Rovos Rail will carry its exclusive band of intrepid travellers through the heartlands of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, the Sudan and Egypt in comfort, luxury and safety.

We are proud to introduce the ultimate African experience with the exciting Cape to Cairo sojourn mixing train, plane and Nile cruiser in a fabulous medley with other distinguished and evocative properties. These epic journeys promise adventure, style and wonderful scenery supported by our world-renowned friendly service.

We have endeavoured, with these two itineraries, to create a restful yet interesting and varied kaleidoscope of Africa and have also applied the usual attention to detail with due consideration of our sophisticated international guests' expectations.

We sincerely hope you might be able to join us on this grand voyage.

