



Off the rails: the Outeniqua Choo-tjoe slammed into a bank yesterday. The train was carrying about 100 passengers, mainly foreign tourists.

Outeniqua Choo-tjoe derailed after heavy rains

STAFF REPORTER

THE Outeniqua Choo-tjoe, the historic steam train that runs daily between George and Knysna, was derailed after heavy rain at the Rondevlei level crossing between The

Wilderness and Sedgefield yesterday.

A couple who live above the railway line, Robin and Pixie Emslie, witnessed the accident.

Robin Emslie said the Choo-tjoe was carrying about 100 passengers, mostly foreign tourists, when the

engine came off the rails, ploughing into a steep bank. Nobody was hurt, although there was a severe jolt when the train came to a sudden stop, blocking the road as well.

The accident happened about 10.30am, following heavy rain – about

35mm was measured overnight.

A spokesman for the Outeniqua Choo-tjoe, Kobus Volschenk, said they were not willing to divulge any information to the press.

"We have no comment to make," said Volschenk.