



able for an even broader public. And this is exactly the aim of owner Jean Gelissen. "With a wider range of attractions for the whole family and top class theming, we are increasing the status of the park considerably. We are convinced that the Netherlanders, Belgians and the Germans within a distance of 100 kilometres will find their way to us". Toverland expects in the short term an increase in visitor numbers of around 20% in comparison to 2012, which means a growth of 100,000; in the medium term, one million visitors are expected to respond. It is hoped to win more visitors from the Nord-Rhine Westphalia area as well.

The most exciting question still remains however: what sort of magic will Toverland pull out of the hat next? One thing that is certain is that entrance into "De Magische Valley" is to be made possible also from the theme area "Troja", which until now was only through the second hall. In the near future, according to Jean Gelissen in an interview, there is also to be an additional large coaster at the park. Furthermore there are existing and concrete plans for a theme hotel. What will actually be realised and what will land in the drawer remains to be seen – but it's pretty certain that it won't be a rabbit!

■ A climbing castle from Eibe and a cable tower from Heege have also been erected

■ The theme area "The Magic Valley" in an overall view





The new main attraction at "The Magic Valley" is a Rapid Ride from Hafema Water Rides GmbH

Many people think about David Copperfield or Siegfried & Roy rather than theme parks when the subject magic comes up. However at Toverland, situated near the German-Dutch border in Sevenum, something magical has been going on for twelve years now: the change from an indoor playground into a recreational destination that instead of offering a rabbit has pulled a mobile surprise out of its hat!

Text: Marc Spies  
 Photos: Marc Spies, Toverland

✓ Toverland's General Manager Caroline Maessen is without a doubt proud of the new area and its new attractions



## De Magische Valleï

Since the opening of the GCI wooden coaster "Troy" in 2007 – which by the way still belongs among the crème de la crème in Europe, and was for example honoured by a European Star Award prize – it became rather still at Toverland as far as large ride constructions were concerned, however plans here and there of potential attractions were never discarded, but rather landed (initially?) into the drawers of owner Jean Gelissen and park director Caroline Maessen. Instead and in the meantime, the entrance area of Toverland was redesigned, a hall was thoroughly renovated, the gastronomy extended, and a shop rebuilt. Nevertheless it was foreseeable that ambitious Toverland would also invest heavily in the future.

### Magic Dwarfs

And so it came about at the end of September 2012 that the Spinning Coaster "d'wervelwind" from Mack Rides (see *KPR* 12/2012) was the first attraction to open on a four hectare extension area, as the fourth coaster of the park. However it was first in April 2013 that "The Magic Valley" opened officially, and only a few weeks later the "Djengu Rivers", the second main attraction of the new outside area, was released to the public. The basic facts about the new theme land are impressive: eight new attractions, 2.8 million kilos of stone, over 60,000 plants, a park own soundtrack, umpteen waterfalls, and a total investment







amount of some 14 million Euro. Even more impressive is that the theming came from the park itself, based on the homespun legend of Dwervel, and recreated for Toverland by artist Peter van Holsteijn. The Dwervels, a folk of small dwarfs who have magic powers, have settled in the magic valley and create a sensation – to the amusement of visitors and naturally also the operator. The theme area offers a similar landscaping as already seen at “Troy” with many rocks, water and plants.

### Water March

More or less hidden but present all the time is the Rapid River “Djengu River” from Hafema Water Ride Systems. Due to the clever covering of the course with natural stones as well as a complete theming of the station building, the track course is initially not visible from outside. This causes the feeling that during at least the very first ride, the 460 metre track appears to be extremely long, and in some cases is not recommended for those with sensitive stomachs. The ten round boats accommodating up to nine passengers go through enormously fast rotations in some parts, whilst passing waterfalls and fountains for 240 seconds. The passenger loading is somewhat more sedate as the boats travel along a slowly running belt. However “Djengu River” has sufficient capacity of over 900 passengers per hour, and offers wet and happy ride fun for the whole family, without completely soaking the guests.

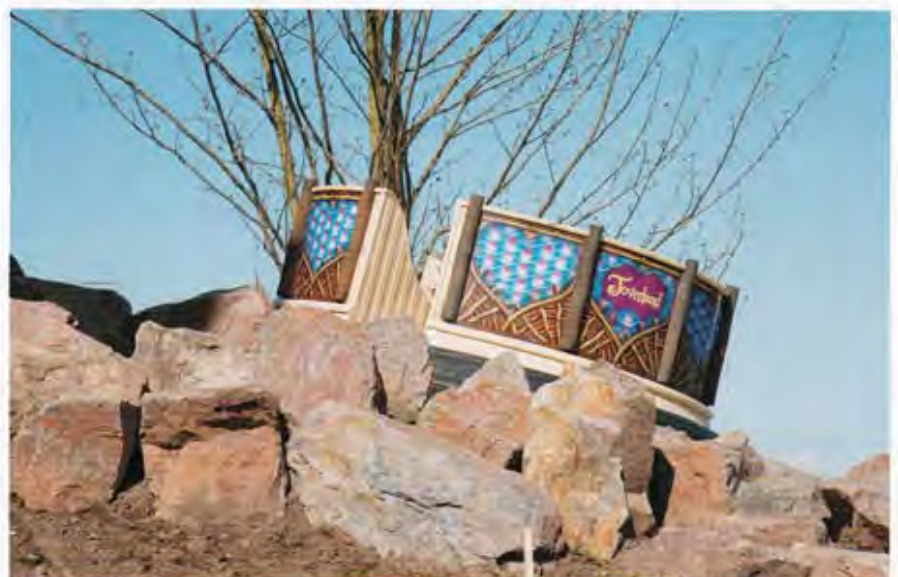
### More New Attractions

The water element is omnipresent all over the Magic Valley: no less than three of the other attractions have a connection to water: Metallbau Emmeln delivered “Tolly Molly”, a particularly lovingly designed variation of the classic duck ride, where instead of disdainful ducks there are mystical water creatures that transport up to 24 passengers.

Visitors can be more active on the other hand on the “Kid’s Survival” trail, where naturally it’s less about life and death, but more about keeping the feet dry on the course. The 12 elements stem from VelopA Omniplay.


**As powerful and wet as it should be on a real Rapid Ride**

**The track course and the lift of the “Djengu River” are well bedded into the theming**








 This water attraction comes from Metallbau Emmeln

For those for whom it's far too strenuous there is the new fountain show "Katara, Fountain of Magic" to enjoy. 136 illuminated water fountains supported by an orchestral soundtrack present a successful show with lots of spraying water. If this is too wet for visitors, the show can also be viewed from the new restaurant opposite. And if it's too dry for some, they in turn can try their luck on the Splash-Insel (Splash Island): there's a certain amount of luck and skill required to arrive in a dry state. The show was manufactured by the GHESA Fuentes firm.

 The designs in the new theme area are harmonious

Not quite as high as the up to 15 metre fountains but not rooted in the soil either, is the cable

control tower "Coco Bolo" from Heege, which is also beautifully designed. A newly hatched bird moves ceaselessly on the tip of the tower, whilst visitors are spending energy on the cable. And those who still have enough power after tower climbing can live it up on a large climbing castle from Eibe, or a large trampoline.

### Quo vadis?

Toverland has done everything right with its extension around Magic Valley. Added to the main target group of families with children, the attractions "d'wervelwind" and "Djengu River" are suit-

