



August 2013 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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A number of significant events are reported in this Newsletter. Firstly there is the story of the rail retrieval working bee at Coolah and Leadville – plus the photo supplement showing the highlights of this event – see over page. Articles will shortly appear in the “Coolah Diary” and the Oberon Review.

Next we can report that the two 1897 heritage carriages have been moved into the rolling stock shed and are finally out of the weather. For this we have to thank Max and Danny from RTM, who supervised the move, while Track Manager Peter Culley drove the tractor. So the carriages were moved under diesel (tractor) power at a walking pace into the shed and stabled on the first road. The working bee team, under the guidance of Wayne Dempsey, immediately started stripping old and peeling paint in preparation for repairs.



Membership reminder.... Now Due!!

Your membership is now due!! The membership is still only \$15 per person – send your cheque to our Treasurer Marjorie at the address on the masthead. You can also easily pay online at our website or by direct deposit – BSB 062-632, Acc: 1004 9851.

Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men’s Shed team continues to offer accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. The only cost will be to join the Men’s Shed at an annual fee of \$10 – an absolute bargain! Any volunteers requiring accommodation over the working bee days should contact Laurie Evans (Ph 63361254) - co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

Working Bee Catering

Members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Volunteers are required to assist with the catering - any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Working Bees:

7th – 13th September

During the next working bee we will be building on the success of the last two, where major progress was made. Weather permitting, the rail will most probably be moved to Oberon station yard. If time permits, preliminary work on the new roads into the shed will commence and it is hoped to do further work on the carriage repairs. A lot of this essential work can now take place under cover with the carriages now housed in the shed.

The weather will (hopefully) be warming up a little, so roll up and take part in this exciting stage of our heritage rail project. Your input is needed and appreciated!

If you can attend this *September* working bee, please let our Track Manager, Peter Culley know as soon as possible.

– Peter’s contact details are – 0427 042448.

Next Meeting

Ordinary General Meeting

7:30pm 4th September, 2013

Display Award

Our photographic display in the Arrows Newsagency window as part of the Oberon 150th celebrations gained a “Highly Commended” award. Many people commented on the old photos and the history of the line, with several request for photos now being processed.

Remember, if you have some railway photos hidden away in an old box somewhere, we would be very grateful if we could copy them for our collection. Contact the OTHR Editor.

OBERON 150TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY WINDOW
DISPLAY COMPETITION

HIGHLY COMMENDED

ARROWS NEWSAGENCY



OBERON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION INC
P. O. Box 6 Oberon NSW 2787

THANKS TO OBERON TARANA HERITAGE
RAILWAY
9
Mrs Eunice Bailey

Coolah Rail Retrieval

As part of the **July working bee** a major excursion to Coolah and Leadville took place. This rail retrieval exercise ran from Wed 10th to Mon 15th July and nine OTHR members took part. A big thankyou to all those people – you know who you are! The work was organised by President Tim Arnison and Track Manager Peter Culley. Richard Webb provided a truck to transport the Council excavator.

Members of the OTHR team travelled from Oberon, Bathurst and from Sydney. Over three days work at Leadville saw two sets of points salvaged along with many lengths of rail and two ground frames (points levers). These came from the old abandoned siding at Leadville station. The team then moved on to Coolah (the end of the line) where another two sets of points were retrieved from sidings by the grain silos. Some more lengths of rail, plus some other points levers were also retrieved here. Overall, we salvaged two semi-trailer loads of steel rail and equipment. All this was loaded onto two trucks on the Monday morning for transport to Oberon.

Many people and organisations were part of this exercise – Countrywide Cranes from Gulgong did the heavy lifting, while Henry Plant and Equipment (once again) from Lithgow provided transport from Leadville and Trevor Breed's truck did a similar job at Coolah. All the OTHR team enjoyed Coolah hospitality – staying at the Caravan Park and wining and dining at both the Black Stump and Coolah Valley pubs. The local BP Service station just across the road from Coolah station was also patronised and the food reported as excellent.

This completes a very successful exercise which was a long time in the planning and will now give a boost to our progress towards running tourist trains on the Oberon Tarana line. The only hiccup in the proceedings was the wet weather and condition of the station yard at Oberon on the Monday which prevented crane access to unload the semitrailers. Most of the material was thus dumped at the alternative site in Shane Moorhead's yard. However, restoration of Frame A from Leadville has already commenced.

Your Editor was present at this working bee and was moved to verse to describe the events – with apologies to Banjo Paterson!

Contacts: *Secretary*, Elaine: Ph 02 6336 0441, and by Email: admin@othr.com.au

Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can also easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc Check out the events calendar on our website, plus new photos of current events.
Newsletter Editor, Col: taranaob@activ8.net.au

Coolah Rail

There was movement at Coolah Station,
For the word had passed around,
The men from Oberon were on their way.
A band of wild bush fettlers,
Travelled down the Black Stump Way.

Astride his mighty digger,
The Track Manager cracked his whip.
Come on you lot, he shouted,
Time to get a grip.

Fire up that compressor,
Get that gun a'rattlin',
Loosen up those bolts,
I want to see those fishplates flashin'.

Rip out that ground frame,
Pull those points apart,
Preserve those switchblade chairs,
Extracting them is quite an art.

Midst fog and drizzle, warm and cold
The work went on from dawn till dusk.
Leadville, Coolah, sidings and rail,
The fettlers worked till fit to bust.

Come Sunday eve the task was done,
Rail was stacked..... by the ton.
The wild bush fettlers raised a cheer,
What say, "We've all earned a beer!"

Col Bembrick, July, 2013

The Bush Telegraph

Oberon station will be open on Sat 12th Oct for various groups of walkers who will be passing by. Volunteers to assist in showing the visitors around on this day are required – contact the Secretary.

A major Spring Open Day will take place on 2nd November. This will be in conjunction with our friends from the Oberon Heritage & Collectors Club. Further details will appear in later newsletters.

Our colleagues at the Zig Zag Railway report that they now expect to be back up and running in October. The downpours in February and March have caused major flood damage to infrastructure. Embankment collapse and washaways have led Zig Zag to apply for natural disaster relief funding. Another problem recently has been one of theft the General Manager, Michael Forbes, reports. All of which should be a sobering reminder to OTHR of the potential problems of running a heritage rail operation. Drainage that can cope with extreme weather events should be a necessary feature of our line.

Coolah & Leadville Rail Retrieval

