



November 2014 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

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As you will have gathered from the last Newsletter, we have some new faces on the Committee – these people are now settling in to their assigned tasks as past treasurer Marjorie Webb takes a well-earned rest.

John Brochie is wrestling with the financial matters while Greg Bourne – assisted by Ian Davis – is involved in re-designing the website to make it more user-friendly.

As this issue goes to press, an OTHR planning meeting is slated for Sunday at the Men's Shed. Discussions at this meeting will include critical planning issues which are needed to move our heritage rail project forward over the coming 12 months and beyond.

Although the meeting will have taken place by the time you receive this Newsletter, I'm sure the new committee would welcome any constructive comments by email or in writing if you would care to put pen to paper. We are after input from any and all members who have a valid comment or suggestion, so please put your thinking caps on and speak up!

Watch this space for further reports on the outcomes of this important meeting.

Next Meeting

General Meeting

7:30pm, 3rd December, 2014

*** OTHR Christmas Party ***

Put Saturday December 13th in your diaries now!! We will be holding our Christmas party BBQ in the rolling stock shed from 6pm. Similar arrangements to last year are in place – OTHR will provide the meat, but otherwise its BYOG, etc. Anyone who can provide a plate to contribute to the mix would be appreciated. Further details from our Secretary, Elaine. Bring your folding chairs if you have some. Come along and bring your friends and family – a great chance to swap yarns on what has been achieved over the last year and to learn of the upcoming tasks and plans for 2015.

Steam & Vintage

Fair The 2015 Fair will be held on 6th, 7th & 8th February. A great program is planned, with all the usual events – tractor trek, street parade, etc. Don't miss out – put these dates in your diaries now!



Working Bee News

Next Working Bee

Saturday, Dec 6th to

Wed. Dec 10th

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the current *November* working bee will have concluded.

Our Track Manager, Graham Williams, reports that during the October working bee a small but enthusiastic group of fettleers laid out the #2 road in the rolling stock shed – this was subsequently gauged and pinned during the November working bee (photo). Special thanks are due to Peter Culley who once again put the excavator to good use.

Greg Bourne's drop saw proved invaluable and Tim Arnison manned the mobile crane to great effect. Meanwhile Arthur Robinson continues with the valuable task of refurbishing fishplate bolts at the Oberon Men's Shed.



Keep watching this space for updates on future working bees and their aims and focus. If you can assist at the next **December** working bee – **the last of the year!** please contact the Track Manager, Graham Williams on 0422 596 438.

Reliance Credit Union – OTHR display

Our supporters and sponsors Reliance Credit Union have given us the opportunity to mount a display in their Oberon office. This display will feature framed photos of rail related topics, historic photos of the Oberon Branch Line, together with railway memorabilia and historic items related to the Oberon line. The display is currently under development, so keep an eye out when next you do business at Reliance Credit Union.

Insights Tour Visit

On a very wet October 13th OTHR hosted a visit by a small group from Insights Tours of Thirroul. (<http://www.insightstours.com.au/>). The tour began with an excellent lunch at Tarana Pub and then made its way, via an inspection of Carlwood station site (with Col as guide), to the OTHR Heritage Display at Oberon station. Due to the very wet conditions the group were then bussed around to the rolling stock shed where they inspected the heritage carriages and enjoyed a welcome afternoon tea provided by OTHR volunteers. Thanks to all OTHR members who assisted on the day – including providing the eats for afternoon tea.

Feedback from the tour group indicated that they were impressed with what OTHR had to show for our efforts over the last few years. We look forward to welcoming the Insights Tours people on a return visit to OTHR.



Valley Heights Excursion

In conjunction with Oberon U3A, there was a one-day excursion to the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot on October 27th. About 25 people took part and the day proved to be a fascinating experience. A steam tram ride was a highlight of the afternoon together with the traditional tea and scones served in the small cafe on site. The local guides were excellent and a behind-the-scenes tour of the workshop was an option which was taken up by many in the group. A photo supplement appears on p.3 which shows some of the highlights of the tour. Thanks to the organisers Elizabeth and Maree.

An unexpected “highlight” of the day was the major wind storm which was raging as we travelled back to Oberon in the bus. Two westbound empty coal trains



were seen held up on the down main between Katoomba and Medlow Bath while a large crane was also observed on the job of lifting fallen pine trees from the main line. The line was out of action for about two and a half hours that afternoon and the western highway was also briefly blocked.

Oberon Yard

Recently the Oberon yard has been brightened up by the addition of some very appropriate new signage – one example appears here – along “road 1” into the rolling stock shed. Several other signs, including the old “Carlwood” station sign, are now undergoing further restoration in the rolling stock shed.



The Bush Telegraph

OTHR has plans to participate in the 2015 Bathex. This popular and long-running exhibition at the Bathurst Showground includes many varieties of collectibles - firearms, jewellery, minerals, fossils, model railways, books, stamps, coins, and much more. Over a September weekend, there are thousands of people attending this event, which has a real “fairground” atmosphere. OTHR is now making plans to mount an exhibit at the 2015 Bathex, with the likelihood that we will have on display a trike, historic photos, railway memorabilia and souvenirs. This represents an excellent opportunity for OTHR to gain some valuable exposure and publicity.

The ballast plough van retrieved from Bathurst yards now has a tarp covering the exposed end protruding outside the rolling stock shed. It has also been thoroughly swept out and cleaned of rubbish (thanks Arthur!) – ready for the refurbishing to be planned.

A recently donated high pressure water blaster will be used to clean the graffiti from the bogie refrigerated van in the near future.

Mannequins Wanted

The recent donation of additional railway uniforms by enthusiastic collector and OTHR member Wayne Dempsey has prompted a rethink on how these items are to be displayed. Consequently, we are on the lookout for at least two male mannequins to model our uniforms. These need to be complete mannequins, with stands – perhaps some shop owners or businesses may have a few of these which are surplus to their requirements. Any donations would be much appreciated.

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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

Photo Supplement – Valley Heights Loco Depot

