



December 2014
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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The OTHR Planning Meeting held at the Oberon Men's shed on 9th November was well attended with about one dozen members present – Graham Parker kindly acted as the MC and did a very capable job in keeping the meeting on track. A number of issues were identified, including some critical short term and long term aims. Some initiatives were taken including the establishment of an SMS Sub-Committee chaired by Greg Bourne. This group is currently coming to grips with the SMS documentation tasks which are still outstanding.

Our Track Manager, Graham Williams, attended a meeting of Transport Heritage NSW on 22nd November at Eveleigh. This was attended by a considerable number of heritage groups there to hear the news of the new operating structure as Transport Heritage NSW replaces the old Office of Rail Heritage. A great many issues were discussed relevant to small rail heritage groups in NSW and it is to be hoped that in the not too distant future more assistance will be forthcoming to heritage rail groups such as OTHR.

*** OTHR Christmas Party ***

On Saturday **December 13th** we will be holding our Christmas party BBQ in the rolling stock shed from 6pm. As in previous years, OTHR will provide the meat, but otherwise it's 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.

Insights Tours and

OTHR is pleased to announce that Insights Tours of Thirroul have made a special offer to our group for OTHR's 10th birthday in 2015. Insights have a major rail tour running to Adelaide in May and are prepared to make a donation to OTHR for each OTHR member who signs up for this tour. We would encourage all members to take his opportunity to support OTHR on our 10th birthday – and have a fabulous tour into the bargain!

Details of the tour can be found at www.insightstours.com.au but briefly, the tour is for 8 days starting at Thirroul and ending in Adelaide. The cost is \$3575 and is ALL inclusive – that means all transport, all accommodation, all meals (bar one) and all entry fees, guides etc. The train is privately chartered – exclusive to Insights, diesel-hauled with three vintage carriages, including buffet car and lounge car -

Working Bee News

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the current December working bee will be in progress. This working bee will continue the pinning of roads one and two leading into the rolling stock shed. Also slated for attention is the track prefabrication for the Albion St level crossing. Through the generosity of Elderton Engineering we have been able to acquire a rail saw and rail borer. Greg Noble has kindly offered to assist us in using these for the level crossing work.

If you can assist during the *January* working bee – please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams, on 0422 596 438.

Next Working Bee

Saturday, Jan 3rd to

Wed, Jan 7th

Next Meeting

General Meeting

7:30pm. 4th February. 2015

OTHR's 10th Birthday

- some meals will be taken on the train. All travel is in daylight and accommodation overnight is in excellent motels and hotels. Deadline for acceptance is 9th March 2015. Insights Tours can be contacted on 02 42686581 (John Tuckerman) or 02 42672535 (Paul Tuckerman).

Please give this serious consideration – as it would be great to have an OTHR group participate in this tour. You will be travelling by rail, railmotor, coach, tram and launch. A fine way to celebrate OTHR's 10th birthday – on the rails!

If you take up this opportunity, please make sure you identify yourself to Insights as a member of OTHR and also let our Secretary Elaine know.

See you on the train!!

Graham Williams – Track Manager

Graham is one of OTHR's most enthusiastic volunteers who used to travel from his home in the Southern Tablelands for our weeklong working bees. He organised his work schedule as the rural merchandise manager at Bowral Co-op to ensure that he could spend at least 3 days on the track restoration work during working bees. As our new Track Manager, Graham now lives in Oberon and it has been said you can't keep him away from the yard!



His fascination with steam trains and heritage railways began at an early age when he lived in Richmond. He recalls riding on the footplate of P class locos and in the cab of a 31-class tank loco. Graham first joined OTHR in the early days of 2005 and says that he fell in love with the district and having an old railway line in Oberon made it even more irresistible. He admits that the challenge of restoring a piece of railway history has become an obsession and he strives at every opportunity to give as much assistance as he can to our organisation.

One of the comments Graham has often made is "The one thing that stays in my mind about OTHR is the warmth and friendship of the people who work on the track. Sometimes the challenge in front of us seems daunting, but you get inspiration from others around you."

Graham has helped OTHR in many ways and he has become a highly valued member of the track restoration team. As the current Track Manager, he has been keenly pushing ahead with the task of laying new roads into the rolling stock shed and preparing for the Albion St level crossing installation.

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!



Reliance Credit Union – OTHR display

The display of OTHR heritage rail items in the Reliance Credit Union office continues to develop. This is a work in progress and feedback would be appreciated. A number of items were installed last Wednesday, with labels indicating their historic significance. These items join our framed photos now on the Reliance office wall. Further development of this display is expected in the New Year. Drop in to the office and take a look – comments are always welcome.

Oberon Yard

In the yard, the points indicator has now been fitted with a kerosene lamp so that all the four lamps in the yard are illuminated at night. Some night-time shots will be taken soon so you can see the effect.

Station Building

A number of meetings have been held between OTHR Committee members, John Holland Rail and Oberon Council. Issues concerning the upkeep of the station building and the funding available were discussed in detail. So far all the indications are positive and we should see some action in this area in the near future. As and when some progress occurs there will be a report here in the Newsletter.

Website

Greg Bourne, assisted by Ian Davis, continues to upgrade our website and to make it more user-friendly. Check it out from time to time – any constructive comments would be much appreciated.

Feb. Meeting, Steam & Vintage Fair

Our regular February monthly meeting will be an important one for finalising the arrangements for the Steam and Vintage Fair. Please make an effort to attend and give us the benefit of your input.

Once again, OTHR will have the station building open for inspection, including our heritage rail display. Also open for inspection will be our two diesel locos and the pair of 1897 heritage carriages.

We will be looking for volunteers to assist in showing the public around on the Saturday and Sunday and selling OTHR souvenirs to support our heritage rail project. This yearly event is a valued opportunity for OTHR to publicise our aims and vision for heritage rail and to raise some much-needed funds.

Contacts:

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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