



April 2015  
**Newsletter**  
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787  
<http://othr.com.au>

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you first. always.

The first Saturday in March saw smaller numbers than usual come through our Rail Heritage display, but we did have one special visitor. This was former Oberon Stationmaster Allan Book, who visited with some of his family. In honour of this occasion, OTHR member Paul McDonald had prepared a small presentation framed photo (reproduced in part below) to give to our visitor on the day. Thanks to Paul for his input in making this

## **Working Bee News**

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the April working bee will be almost over. The current working bee will continue the pinning and gauging of the points for roads one and two leading into the rolling stock shed. Steady progress continues to be made in this area, with the long sleepers retrieved from Hazelgrove now being pressed into service under the points. All going well, this working bee should see the completion of the points installation.



Presented to  
Former Station Master  
*Allan Book*

We believe that Oberon Council is progressing (slowly) towards making a decision which will lead to their initiating some plans which will eventually result in preparations being made to commence the Albion Street level crossing work at some time in the future.

*Watch this space!!- but don't hold your breath!*

## **Next Working Bee**

**Saturday, May 2nd to**

**Wed, May 6th**

If you can join our select band of hard-working volunteers and assist with the work during the *May* working bee – please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams, on 0422 596 438. Graham is always keen to hear from members who are prepared to step up and have a go! Don't forget hungry fettlers are provided with a satisfying lunch each day!

## **Next Meeting**

**General Meeting**

**7:30pm, 6th May, 2015**

## **Signage for Shed**

Progress has been made towards the new signage for the north and east walls of the rolling stock shed. The Council has approved the development and a quote has been received. Funding options for this project will be discussed at the next Committee meeting. This signage will consist of the OTHR logo in black and white on a large board attached to the sides of the shed.

This will certainly give OTHR some more “exposure” in the local community – which will be particularly welcome in our 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday year!



visit a memorable one. Allan is long-since retired from a long career with the railways and was intrigued to see what is happening now at Oberon station.

The photo below shows Allan Book and his son David with Publicity Officer Col Bembrick presenting the framed photo on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March.



## Rolling Stock Restoration

On Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March we were fortunate in having Allan Leaver from the NSW Rail Transport Museum at the rolling stock shed to discuss repairs/restoration of the 1897 heritage carriages. Allan had an attentive audience in the form of Track Manager, Graham Williams, Vice President, Greg Bourne and Publicity Officer, Col Bembrick.



Allan Leaver and Graham Williams inspecting the paintwork deterioration on one of the carriages.

After a detailed inspection of the exterior of the carriages, Allan demonstrated how to remove the windows from the carriage - as many of these need some repair to the wooden frames. Subsequent research by Allan at the RTM has revealed that we can acquire some frames from them – for which OTHR is very grateful.

Many items were found to need some repair – not necessarily major jobs - but all time consuming. These include the floor lino, roof canvas, window frame timbers and some seat frames.



The exterior marine ply of the carriage sides will probably be one of the first items to receive attention. In the near future a restoration plan will be drawn up to set priorities for these various tasks.

## Editor's Absence

Col & Glenda have signed up for the "Insights" South Australia train excursion you have seen advertised in these pages. This 8-day trip will depart on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, which means your editor has to depart for Thirroul on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> May – the day after the May monthly meeting.

Consequently, a volunteer to compile the next – *May* – Newsletter is urgently needed. Please let our Secretary, Elaine know if you can take on this task.

An account of our experiences on this trip will appear in a future issue of the Newsletter.

..... **HELP WANTED !!** .....

## Around the Traps

An OTHR flag is in the preparation stage – to be flown on a new flagpole which you will shortly see erected near the station entrance. This flag will be of similar design and colour scheme as the banners which we use on the locos on open days.

Quite a bit of time and effort has been spent lately on modifying a small car cover to protect our section car or "Ross' Rocket". The main problem was to attach a tubular extension which would fit over the rotating light on the section car. These modifications are now finished thanks to our voluntary "seamstress" Judy Carroll and the able assistance of Glenda Bembrick. The fitting process is not yet fully complete, but you can see the general



impression in the photos here. This cover will help keep the section car protected from the

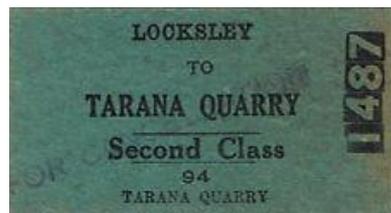
## Historic Ticket

dirt, dust and bird droppings which abound in the rolling stock shed.

A curious piece of local railway history has come to light which raises lots of interesting questions re the rail-related activities in the district.

Tarana Quarry was a railway operated quarry from the late 1800s until 1974. Did one (or more?) of the workers live at Locksley (on the main line) and travel to work every day by train?

Curiously, the ticket is a single ticket, not a return – also it is overprinted with "for cancellation", and it has no date stamp, so



it's never actually been issued. Ticket sales at Locksley ceased prior to 1988, so the ticket must be older than that – one wonders what the ticket cost.

Anyone who can shed some light on this little piece of railway history please come forward.

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