



# June 2015 Newsletter

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OTHR has been fortunate with donations of late. An application was made to our sponsors Reliance Credit Union for funds to assist in erecting the rolling stock shed signage and they obliged with a substantial donation of \$500 – Many thanks Reliance!

In addition, as a result of two OTHR members taking part in their tour to South Australia (story below), Insights Tours gave OTHR a donation of \$150 – a great vote of thanks to Insights! For details of future Insights trips see [Insights Tours](#)

## **Next Meeting**

### **General Meeting**

**7:30pm, 1st July, 2015**

Col & Glenda have recently returned from a trip to South Australia with Insights Tours, riding heritage and tourist trains all the way. This was a memorable trip for the 44 people who signed up and a most enjoyable experience. Too many highlights were experienced to relate them all here but suffice it to say that the train interior was of the utmost luxury! – lounge car, buffet car and first class seating – three cars for 44 people, lots of space to move around and interact with the other travellers. The first day was from Thirroul to Parkes hauled by a magnificent vintage (1965) diesel, which had literally just come out of the paint shop the day before! On day two, travelling between Parkes and Broken Hill we experienced a freight train cross at the Matakana siding, south of Mt Hope, where we all detrained to imbibe champagne by the trackside as we waited for the freight to pass by – talk about decadence! The Pichi Richi rail motors were also a unique experience as was the heritage tram ride to Glenelg.



## **Working Bee News**

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the June working bee will be over. That working bee has seen considerable progress on the track restoration down near Frame D – near the Lowes Mt Rd level crossing site (see photo over page).

Work has continued in the yard with the run-around loop receiving much attention and re-sleepering (see photo over page).

The big news is that the new roads laid into the rolling stock shed have been certified as 'fit for use'. We are just now waiting on the paperwork from Greg Noble to confirm this. Many thanks to Greg for his ongoing efforts on our behalf.

## **Next Working Bee**

**Saturday, July 4th to**

**Wed, July 8th**

This event marks a major step forward for OTHR and a great achievement for Track Manager Graham Williams and his team of willing fettlers. A round of thanks to all those involved!

If you can join our select band of hard-working volunteers and assist with the work during the **July** 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!

The luxurious lounge car we enjoyed...



## Heritage Display

On a recent fine and sunny Saturday a modest number of visitors attended the station and inspected our heritage items on display. Many donations were received and some souvenirs sold. The drawcard for the youngsters were the cabs of the diesel locos.



## Down the Track

Much activity has been taking place north of the cattle yards, near the Lowes Mount Rd level crossing site. Rail has been lifted and replacement wooden sleepers inserted ready for pinning and gauging. In a short while the track relaying will be up to the level crossing site. Also, plans are in preparation to re-align the Highland Pine factory fencing along this section of the track – where the fencing encroaches on the rail corridor. The completion of these last few metres of track will take us up to the level crossing site at Lowes Mount Rd. This crossing is the last major hurdle in completing the line to Hazelgrove – we are nearly there!!



## Signage for Shed

The OTHR logo signage for the rolling stock shed will now be going ahead with the contribution of funds from Reliance Credit Union (story page one). As noted previously, Oberon Council has approved the development and a quote has been received. This new signage will consist of the OTHR logo in black and white on a large board attached to the north end and the east side of the shed.

This latest addition to our handsome shed will certainly give OTHR more “exposure” in the local community. Watch this space for photos of the finished job.

## Albion St Crossing

Plans are well advanced to make the final connection of our rail to the newly installed Albion St crossing. A rail saw is to be borrowed from our colleagues in



Lithgow. Some other components such as transition plates are already to hand, with more to come. Our Track Manager, Graham Williams, aided and abetted by Greg Noble has this well in hand.

## Around the Traps

The loco move into the rolling stock shed will take place as soon as the paperwork is finalised. Lachlan Valley Railway guys will do this for us under their accreditation.

Recently, we have had the pleasure of seeing our carriage repair expert, Wayne Dempsey, back on the job. He has been beavering away in our 1897 heritage carriages and applying some TLC – good on you, Wayne!

Three sign holders for the track maintenance vehicles have now been re-built and upgraded – ready for the next open day display.

Work on the run-around loop in the yard is proceeding apace – with many sleepers being laid and the area generally cleaned up.



A new brochure (in similar format to our glossy green brochure) is now being prepared by your Publicity Officer. A draft is to be discussed at the next Committee meeting. Comments and criticisms welcomed. Also Col would like to hear from anyone who considers them self reasonably proficient with Word – so he can learn more about formatting!!

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