



March 2015 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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Well, the 2015 Steam and Vintage Fair is now over and we have all recovered. As mentioned briefly last issue, the Fair was a resounding success with over 2000 people attending the venues from all over NSW and interstate. Over 1000 exhibitors rolled up with their wares for display. We estimate that well over 200 people came through our Rail Heritage Display. Although this is a good number we need to think about what we can do to increase this in future years. Having a coffee vendor on the station platform worked out well as did the miniature railway on the loading bank. It is to be hoped that both these drawcards can be a permanent feature of future OTHR open days.

Next Meeting

General Meeting

7:30pm. 1st April. 2015

Once again we need to thank all our OTHR volunteers who made the day so successful as well as the crews running the miniature trains and manning the coffee caravan – thanks to all!!

Profile - Greg Bourne, Vice President

After retiring in 2012 from a long and productive science teaching career, Greg moved from Parramatta to Oberon to settle down. Looking around the area for a community project he joined OTHR with the aim of meeting local people who had an interest in volunteering.



Greg says he knows very little about railways (this is changing fast) but does have an interest in things mechanical and how they operate. He has so far enjoyed the camaraderie of the track workers during working bees and also the monthly general and committee meetings.

Greg's experience includes professional management and community committees. He is currently "working up to speed" in learning to drive the website and is also heavily involved in sorting out the SMS documentation (with Ian Davis).

Working Bee News

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the March working bee will be almost over. The current working

Next Working Bee

Saturday, Apr 4th to

Wed, Apr 8th

bee will continue the pinning and gauging of the points for roads one and two leading into the rolling stock shed. Continued steady progress is being made here, with the points from Leadville being carefully restored to working order.

Other recent tasks completed include the interior painting of the bogie plough van – thanks to Mike O'Kane - see photo later in this issue.

Oberon Council is progressing (slowly) to finalise a date for the installation of the level crossing – originally slated for February. This will be a landmark day for OTHR when this occurs, so *watch this space!! - but don't hold your breath!*

If you can join our band of dedicated volunteers and assist with the work during the **April** 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!

New Railways Book

A new book is on the market – entitled "Australian Railways, their life and times". The book is by Robin Bromby, journalist, author and publisher. Originally from New Zealand, Robin moved to Australia in 1978 where he now works for *The Australian* newspaper. The book is available as an e-book or paperback from Amazon, priced at US\$5.99 and US\$11.99 respectively – sounds like a bargain!

Raffle Winners

The OTHR raffle conducted during the Steam and Vintage Fair was well patronised. The winners are...

1st Prize – 2 tickets to Mayfield Gardens – won by Ben Grohmann of Tuena.

2nd prize – Gift Hamper – won by Bev & Michael O'Brien of Oberon.

3rd prize - \$100 gift voucher from Ross Conifers – won by Jenny Gibbons of Bathurst.

Congratulations to all the lucky winners.

REMEMBER...

The OTHR Heritage Rail Display at Oberon station is open on the first Saturday of every month from 10am till 2pm. One or two of our members are always present to act as a guide to the displays and numerous souvenirs are available for purchase.

Come along and learn about the fascinating history of the Oberon Tarana railway and the future plans for our tourist rail operations.

The roster of members who will be in attendance on these Saturdays throughout the year appears below :-

January: Elaine boxer

February: As required (Steam & Vintage Fair)

March: Col & Glenda Bembrick

April: Arthur Robinson

May: Elaine Boxer

June: Col & Glenda

July: Lyndle Hawkes

August: Arthur

September: Marjorie Webb

October: Arthur

November: Col & Glenda

December: TBA

All of these volunteers are to be warmly thanked for putting their hands up to enable our Rail Heritage Display to open on a regular basis.

Rolling Stock Restoration

Considerable activity continues to take place in the rolling stock shed and the inside of the Bogie Ballast Plough van now looks very presentable – see photo below –



Mike O’Kane’s skill in wielding a paint brush has made all the difference to the sad, graffiti covered interior as we received it from Bathurst yards. Graham Williams has added some seating to make the job complete.

The refrigerated van is now about to receive some attention to rid it of graffiti and clean up the paintwork.

Oberon Station Yard

A small but highly motivated team continues to make steady progress in the station yard on the task of pinning and gauging the points on roads 1 and 2 leading into the rolling stock shed.



The fettlers disguised in the photo above are (l to r) Graham Williams, Greg Bourne and Arthur Robinson. The delicate task of aligning the switchblade and getting the clearances right takes time.

The rail borer has been put to good use on many occasions, proving to be an essential tool for rail and new points installation on the rolling stock shed roads.



Frame A Completed

Your Editor has completed (at last) the restoration of Frame A from Leadville and a report that fully documents the process has been submitted to the OTHR archives.

In a moment of madness – after a day in the Sun - he decided to start on Frame B, which is now fully dismantled and in the “Sectionman’s Workshop”.



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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