

**OBERON TARANA HERITAGE RAILWAY INC.**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**AUGUST 2016**



**.....bringing your rail heritage back to life.**

**PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787**

**Website: [www.othr.com.au](http://www.othr.com.au)**

**Email: [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc](http://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc)**

**GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/2mhftk44>**

**Proudly sponsored by**



**Committee:**

**President: Tim Arnison**

**Vice President: Peter Culley**

**Secretary: Elaine Boxer**

**Treasurer: John Brotchie**

**Track Manager: Graham Williams**

**Public Officer: Elaine Boxer**

**General Committee:**

**David McMurray: Fundraiser, Acting Newsletter Editor/Publicity**

**Ian Davis: Document writer**

**Col Bembrick.**

## Editor's thoughts

As I sit at my desk pondering the subjects of this August Newsletter my thoughts are turning once more to the future of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

Sometimes the world appears to be against our group. There are constant battles with the authorities and Government and a saner man than me would say "what's the point" and give up.

Fortunately your committee is made of sterner stuff and every pothole, every speed bump only makes them more determined to succeed. That's why we are where we are after ten years of struggle and triumph.

That's why they are resolutely determined to finalise Stage One of our mighty project – Oberon to Hazelgrove. The committee is constantly working through red tape and paperwork while at the same time a small contingent of volunteers under the supervision of our track manager beaver away completing all the smaller jobs that are required to bring our grand vision to reality.

General members can help in two ways: give some thought to volunteering a few hours or "kick the can" for a few dollars to help fund the project. With all the will in the world your committee and volunteers can't build a railway unless there is a constant flow of funds.

That's why they established a GoFundMe platform to make it easy for everyone to contribute to the grand plan. Our fundraising to date is approaching \$5K thanks to many generous donations by the general public and some members. But we need more and your committee urges you to loosen the purse strings just a little. Even \$1.00 makes a difference. If you would rather, a donation can be posted to PO Box 299 Oberon NSW and marked "fund raiser".

So with your support, your committee can overcome the trials and tribulations that beset it and the volunteers can do the hard yards.

A strong funds bank will strengthen our position and allow us to compete for the precious grant funding that we need.

It's up to you!



*Preparation of line for the Albion Street crossing*

## **Know Peter Culley**

Peter is your Vice President.

He is a local and works for Oberon Council. Peter has four passions: his wife Christine and family, The State Emergency Service Oberon, Oberon Council and lastly the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway.

Peter's role is to assist the President with all that position entails. Working for Oberon Council, he is able to source and steer the heavy equipment that OTHR requires from time to time. He has been with OTHR almost from the beginning and has a wealth of knowledge relating to our association.

Peter is the "growler" of the group, but his heart is definitely in the right spot.



### **NEXT MEETING**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

**7.30PM**

## **Some Oberon Facts.....**

- Oberon was originally known as Bullock Flat
- The village was repositioned and renamed "Oberon" in 1853 after Shakespeare's king of the fairies.
- There are many other nods to William Shakespeare in and around Oberon.
- In 1923 a branch line from Tarana to Oberon was established.
- It carried produce and goods and later passengers until the line was suspended in 1979.

- In 2006, OTHR took over a lease for the entire station precinct and there is provision to take possession of the track lease at the appropriate time. That lease is currently held by Oberon Council.
- OTHR has worked hard since 2006 to rebuild and refurbish the station precinct and the line to Hazelgrove. The committee has had to overcome a multitude of road blocks thrown up by various authorities over the years.
- Those road blocks are still being thrown up.
- OTHR believes that complete restoration/refurbishment of the Oberon – Tarana branch line will prove to be a significant tourism attraction for NSW
- That attraction, in turn, will enable all you passionate enthusiasts to indulge in the pleasures of rail.
- OTHR has an open day on the first Saturday of each month held in conjunction with the Oberon Farmers Market. Come along and purchase some local produce or farm crafts, then make a visit to Oberon Station and have a yarn with some interesting and knowledgeable OTHR folk.



*Oberon Station - last regular steam hauled train to Tarana with 1919 on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1963.  
Photo-Graham Stanley Collection.*

## **Why have a Business Plan?**

Why might you ask; what use is a Business Plan?

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. (OTHR) is now taking itself very seriously because we are not too far from seeing a train run on the tracks.

A Business Plan is the product of a professional group that knows where it's going.

Your committee has a lot of work to do including clarifying leases, getting accreditation, and finishing off the track and restoring sundry rolling stock and raising funding via grants, sponsorships and public fund raising.

Any potential grant provider or sponsor wants to know that OTHR is a group with a plan if they are to entrust funding for wise spending with us.

Your committee has uncovered lots of areas that need addressing and the Business Plan identifies most of those areas and offers a pathway to achieve a remedy.

Fund raising is just one area and that's why your committee is placing emphasis on the need for funding immediately. For example, in order for a train to run on opening day did you know your committee has to purchase a communications system, fuel for the locomotives, pay insurances, purchase essential plant equipment and vehicles, professionally rebuild the Hazelgrove end of the track, pay for marketing and the list goes on.

Many of the big grants we may have access to require a dollar for dollar contribution.

That's why there is an emphasis on the Business Plan funding area and that's why we are asking you, our members, to either "kick the can" a little or pass our GoFundMe link throughout your network of family and friends in an effort to find those willing to contribute a dollar or two.

Over the next few issues of the newsletter we'll have a look at some of the other aspects of the OTHR Business Plan.



*Glorious Oberon...a winter wonderland!*

**Next Working Bee  
Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
To  
Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>**

## **WORKING BEE NEWS**

Track Manager, Graham Williams plans a full programme centred on the rolling stock shed. Tasks include a clean-up and preparation of the area where the new storage room is to be installed. Building plans have been prepared and materials ordered for this small but very important project.  
**Note:** The last induction period for all members has lapsed and anyone planning to work onsite needs to have their accreditation updated.

Col Bembrick will be inducting any member who will be moving around in the station precinct in future. Graham will be pleased to hear from any member who would like to attend this working bee. He can be contacted via the Secretary OTHR.

## **GENERAL MEETING**

OTHR's August general meeting was held at the Oberon RSL on 3<sup>rd</sup> last. The meeting was part of our new bi-monthly regime. After formalities, President Tim addressed the meeting about the acquisition of a Heritage Operators Licence from John Holland Group. This has been an ongoing discussion with JHG and if a HOL was granted over the station precinct, it would allow the use of rolling stock within the station yard. The rail corridor lease is currently held by Oberon Council and OTHR is formalising a land swap with council around the Lowes Mount Road level crossing (because of a slight realignment of the level crossing). The Oberon to Hazelgrove

recreational bicycle track now needs a formal agreement with council after which OTHR will be able to apply for an HOL over the rail corridor.

Contractors have been appointed to repair station roof and are waiting for a period of fine weather to get the job done.

An extraordinary committee meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July to discuss some opportunities to move our project forward. A storage room is being constructed in the rolling stock shed that will be self-funded. A donation of some material is being sought from the local timber industry.

An application for a grant is being made via Transport Heritage NSW to replace the roofs of the two end carriages as the first part of their restoration.

An application is being made to Veolia Mulwarree Trust to build the proposed miniature railway but a plan needs to be produced.

An application for a grant is being prepared to move HS36 from Broadmeadow NSW to Oberon NSW.

The next induction and training day is being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September next at 2.00PM in the rolling stock shed. Anyone who wants to be inducted to work or venture onto the railway precinct needs to attend.

A meeting was held with THNSW on 8<sup>th</sup> July. During the meeting a representative from that organisation suggested that it takes over the operation of the Oberon – Tarana line from JHG. THNSW is heritage and tourism focussed and this would be to OTHR's advantage.

OTHR acknowledged the very generous donation of Ross Tighe and wife Lynette. OTHR bestowed a life membership on Ross in gratitude of his donation.

The rear boundary fence on Albion Street and hanging of the crossing gates are another identified project.

GoFundMe has raised almost \$5K, and a permanent place on the website is to be set up to direct donors to the appropriate donation platform.

Member Arthur has requested a maintenance check on the ride-on mower.

## **Membership fees due now...**

Treasurer Brotchie wants you to know that membership Fees for 2016/17 are to be renewed now. This year the renewal fee is \$20.00.

Your fees contribute to the smooth administration of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc., so an early renewal would be appreciated.

There are two ways to renew:

1. Send a cheque to Treasurer, John Brotchie via our postal address.
2. Use Direct Debit – don't forget your name, to BSB 062 – 032 Account No. 1004 – 9851.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the OTHR website.



*Oberon Lockup, an historic building located within the station precinct.  
Don't forget your renewal!*

## **You meet the nicest people.**

Ross and Lynne Tighe are the nicest people you would ever want to meet.

Ross and Lynne are from Toongabbie in Sydney's west and are furthering their retirement on the Gold Coast to be closer to family.

The couple have donated Ross' lifelong collection of railway memorabilia and his model train set, his absolute passion, to OTHR.

Ross is a retired railway worker and his father was the stationmaster at Tarana from 1940 to 1946. The collection comprises a variety of railway items representing different stages of Ross' railway life and quite a few of the items relate to the family's relationship with Tarana.

The model railway was a long term passion and it allowed Ross to loose himself in the depths of his imagination. You enthusiasts know how easy it is to get lost in your imagination!

OTHR is indeed fortunate to be entrusted with the guardianship of such a large lump of Ross' life.

So it's our gain and we wish Ross & Lynne our very best wishes and new adventures in the next stage of their retirement.



*Down mixed for Oberon waits in the station at  
Tarana for passengers for the branch line.  
Ron Preston Collection  
This one's for Ross.*

**Here's an offer you can't  
refuse....**

**Capertee Valley train trip**  
**Sunday 21 August 2016**

Railmotor leaves Lithgow Station at 9.00AM – arrive at Capertee at 10.00AM

**A 2 HOUR COACH RIDE INTO THE VALLEY**

Dramatic Gardens of Stone National Park landscape – rock pagodas, sandstone cliffs, canyons and breathtaking scenic views.

Enjoy Morning Tea or Afternoon Tea while taking in the views of Glen Davis gorge  
Enjoy lunch at the Markets, free picnic facilities, while browsing the market and displays.

Alternatively take a short walk to the café or Royal Hotel for lunch

See Mt. Airly and the valley from the air – book an optional 15 minute helicopter flight.

**Tickets:**

Train Trip - \$70.00

Coach & train - \$90.00

**Bookings:**

Contact [caperteeprogress@gmail.com](mailto:caperteeprogress@gmail.com) or

Phone Dot on 0414 395 614

Online at [www.capertee-tripoptions.pnndistribution.com](http://www.capertee-tripoptions.pnndistribution.com)



## Interested....?!

“The Australian Railways Historical Society (ARHS) ACT, is a not for profit organisation which aims to keep our rail heritage alive by operating a range of tours within our local area and further afield.

ARHS ACT is diversifying the range of tours we offer passengers to provide unique and new experiences. We are now moving into 5 star road coach tours to complement the train trips we offer. The coach tours will generally be one and two day trips.

Our tours offer something quite different to anything you might find through a travel agent. Our tours are fully escorted and inclusive from the Canberra Railway Museum and are at very competitive prices to cater to everyone’s budget.

We were wondering if coach tours might be an area of interest to your members or customers. If you feel it would be relevant to your organisation, we would be more than happy to send you information on our up-coming tours.

If you would like more information about our tours, please do not hesitate to contact us on 6362 – 6405 or by visiting our website at <http://canberrarailwaymuseum.org>

Regards  
Gary Reynolds.”

**Here are the latest tours:**



## **Onward and Upwards Tours from Canberra Railway Museum**

**Reward yourself with**

### **The Southern Highlands Spring Indulgence Tour**

Have a glorious Spring day out in the lovely Southern Highlands. Experience some of the best of the best attractions travelling relaxed by comfortable 5 star air conditioned coach.

Stroll through the heritage Harpers Mansion and maze, scour for antiques and gifts in Georgian Berrima, take high tea at Peppers Manor House at Sutton Forest, sip wines at the beautiful Bendooley Estate and explore the heritage gardens of mysterious “Moidart”

This fully escorted package provides outstanding value with:

- Travel in a luxury coach fitted with toilet, seat belts and tea and coffee making facilities from Canberra to the Southern Highlands and return through lush Spring countryside.
- A tour of highlight venues of the Southern Highlands featuring historic houses, heritage gardens and indulgent refreshments and shopping opportunities.
- Wine tasting and delectable delights are included along the way including high tea.

**All this for \$145pp single, \$139pp double and \$135pp for four or more.**

**Seats are limited so the only question remains –**

**Who to invite right now to share such a special experience?**

**For tour date and bookings simply go to:**

**[www.canberrairailwaymuseum.org](http://www.canberrairailwaymuseum.org)**

**or**

**Phone: 02 6232 6405**



*Peppers Manor House*

## **Onwards and Upwards Tours**

**from**

**Canberra Railway Museum**

**Joadja Ghost Town**

**Spring Discovery Tour Plus!**

**Saturday 24 September 2016**

**Have a marvellous Spring day out in the Southern Highlands visiting unique attractions.**

**Discover the abandoned Joadja Shale Oil Ghost Town.**

**This fully escorted and catered package provides outstanding value including:**

- **Relaxed travel through the Spring countryside in a 5 star air-conditioned coach with comfortable seats, on-board toilets, seat belts and tea and coffee making facilities.**
- **Entry and a 90 minute tailored tour of the heritage listed Joadja settlement, abandoned mine and railway by special vehicle.**

- A guided tour and tasting at the fascinating whisky distillery and micro-brewery at Joadja Town.
- An additional guided tour and tasting at the historic Joadja vineyards and winery – the oldest in the Southern Highlands.
- The delightful day includes complimentary welcoming refreshments (pre-boarding croissants, tea and coffee) with free entry to Canberra Railway Museum, morning tea, barbeque lunch and afternoon wine tasting and cheese platter.

All this for \$135pp single, \$129pp double and \$125pp for four or more.

**The only question is who would you like to share such a special experience?**

Seats are limited so avoid disappointment.

Book through:

[www.canberrarailwaymuseum.org](http://www.canberrarailwaymuseum.org)

or

Phone 02 6232 – 6405

For a full copy of the tour brochures, refer to the OTHR website.



*Splendid Joadja wine*

## What's this thing called luv?



Go on, have a guess!

It's actually a 1957 Standard Villiers Mark 8E Quadricycle.

The relic from our railway past was used to transport men and tools for routine track inspections and repair work.

This machine is part of our rail heritage collection.

Fettlers in the background are very well known members of OTHR.

Can you recognise them?

## **Contacts For all enquiries**

Secretary: Elaine Ph. 02 6336-0441

Email [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)