



April 2013 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

Sponsor:
RELIANCE
CREDIT UNION
you first. always.

Well, March/April working bee has come and gone, with a good turnout of volunteers enabling significant progress to be made on several essential tasks connected with the rolling stock shed and the level crossing – see details over the page.

At the meeting a great deal of discussion took place re ideas and goals for our business plan. A very vocal and lively meeting ensued with lots of information and suggestions to be forwarded via Kylie to our business plan advisor, David McMurray. Thanks to all members who contributed – please keep further ideas and suggestions coming in and forward them to Secretary Elaine.

Also discussed were further ideas on the Oberon 150th celebrations and how OTHR should be involved. If you have any bright ideas please contact the Secretary or a member of the committee. Already proposed is a float with one of our track maintenance vehicles, plus a special historical display of photos at the station.

Next Meeting
Ordinary General Meeting
7:30pm 1st May, 2013

Easter Raffle Results

Drawn on Easter Saturday, this raffle was very popular and the exciting prizes were won as follows:- First Prize to C. Fittler who chose the BP fuel cards, Second Prize to R. Lane who had a load of firewood delivered and Third Prize to K. Pitcher, which was the huge hamper. Congratulations to all these winners and a big thankyou to all our intrepid ticket sellers.

The Phillip de Baun Legacy

As mentioned in the March Newsletter, long-term member Phillip de Baun passed away in February. OTHR is very grateful to hear that Phillip has left us a legacy in his will. The exact details of this legacy are not yet to hand, but we should know more when the estate is finalised in about 6 months. A wonderful thought from a loyal member.

On the Web...

It's often useful to see what our sister organisations are doing in Heritage Rail. For instance, the State Mine Railway in Lithgow has an active group and a newsletter. It's worth a look at their website at www.stateminerailway.com.au

Upcoming Working Bees:

Sat 27th Apr – Fri 3rd May
Sat 8th Jun – Fri 14th Jun
Sat 6th Jul – Fri 12th Jul

If you can attend this **May** working bee, please let our Track Manager, Peter Culley know as soon as possible – Peter's contact details are – 0427 042448.

The last working bee was well attended – so a **hearty thanks** to all those volunteers who responded to the call for more hands on deck!

Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men's Shed team is now offering accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. The only cost will be to join the Men's Shed at an annual fee of \$10 – a bargain! Volunteers requiring accommodation over the working bee days should contact Laurie Evans (Ph 63361254) - co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

Working Bee Catering

Members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Volunteers are required to assist with the catering - any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

Mystery Photo?

What is this strange beast? Where does it run? How old is it and who runs it? All will be revealed in the next issue. A clue – it is your editor's holiday transport.



The Bush Telegraph

The leaking station roof will shortly be repaired by John Holland Rail personnel. Further repairs of a more permanent nature will be undertaken when funds are available. Eventually, the whole roof is slated for replacement.

Oberon Council has generously refunded the DA application fees with respect to the rolling stock shed. OTHR has expressed its gratitude for this support.

The costing of providing an electricity supply to the shed is now in progress. As has been mentioned here previously, the large floodlights donated by Borg Panels are already in place.

Thanks go to John O'Connell for enabling the Editor to borrow a surveyor's measuring wheel for the Carlwood investigations.

Level Crossing Progress

Remember the level crossing from the September 2012, Newsletter? Well, the crossing is now (almost) ready for the Council to place across the roadway. Tony Thackray has wielded his oxy-acetylene magic wand and some of the check rails

have now been bolted in place. The main rails have been trimmed off to length and then ground, with Tim Arnison wielding the high speed cutting wheel. Although not obvious in the photo, the check rails have a taper at each end to ensure the wheel



flanges are aligned within the groove. The check rails have been constructed by Moorhead Engineering to a standard State Rail design.

The Oberon Council will be responsible for installing the crossing in Albion St, north of the station yard. This single line crossing will replace the double line crossing originally at this location. The old goods siding leading to the trucking yards will thus be isolated from the siding in the main Oberon yard. Investigations are underway to determine the best practical way of operating this crossing safely, by means of signs, gates and appropriate safe working practices, so OTHR can operate our heritage trains across this busy road.

Rolling Stock Shed Activities

The March/April Working Bee saw much progress on the final tasks in and around the completed Rolling Stock shed. In particular, the "number one road" has been installed (see photo below) and this should have had its certification inspection by the time you read this newsletter.

Also around the shed a great deal of concreting has been put in place for the pathways and drainage. The shed and its surrounds are looking better and better as the days go by – all due to a good roll-up at the last working bee.



Coolah

With the completion of the rolling stock shed and the imminent completion of the level crossing fabrication, plans for Coolah are on the horizon. In preparation for this rail and points retrieval exercise at Coolah, a grant has been applied for through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) system. The retrieval of material from Coolah will be a major task, with a crane and semi-trailer transport involved, and probably requiring several "expeditions". It is hoped that a grant can be sourced to defray some of these considerable costs. Keep watching this space for appeals for volunteers to spend a few days (or more) at Coolah.

Editor's absence

Due to the Editor being on holiday (on a rail motor!) the next newsletter will be up to a week later than usual. Apologies for the delay.

Membership reminder.... Not Yet Due!!

Our financial year now runs to 30th June, so your membership is not due until 30th June, 2013. The membership is still only \$15 per person – send your cheque to our Treasurer Marjorie at the address on the masthead. You can also easily pay online at our website.

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 Check out the events calendar on our website, plus new historic photos.

Contacts: Secretary, Elaine: Ph 02 6336 0441

Email: admin@othr.com.au

Newsletter Editor, Col: taranaob@activ8.net.au