



April 2014
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

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OTHR presently features on the front page of the latest Oberon Community Newsletter so we are gradually getting some exposure to raise our public profile in the district. In addition, we will shortly have our regular Museum opening hours (see item below) displayed on the website, so that interested parties can visit and see our exhibits and also souvenirs available for sale. OTHR has many interesting and historic items – many of which have been donated by the local community – and these will be gradually incorporated in a more comprehensive display at Oberon station. It is also proposed to erect a sign at the North St gate to advise the general public of our regular opening times.

Next Meeting
Ordinary General Meeting
7:30pm, 7th May, 2014

Hunter Valley Steamfest

This event is held in Maitland every year and for 2014 the dates are April 12 and 13. Known as the premier steamfest of its kind, the many and varied attractions include operating steam locos – including this year 3265 and 3642 – as well as CPH rail motors and vintage diesels. Steam excursions and rail motor trips can be booked. Many other activities can be sampled on the weekend – including market stalls, road steam, mini steam train rides, Powerhouse Museum displays, live entertainment and kids activities. For more information see www.steamfest.com.au



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OTHR Museum opening times

As a result of considerable discussion at the last General Meeting, it has been resolved that our railway museum in the old parcels room will be open on a more formal and regular basis. The Museum will be open on the first Saturday of each month, from 10am till 1pm. This system will commence on Sat 3rd May. A roster of volunteers will be drawn up - any of our members who could spare a few hours on a Saturday morning are urged to put their names forward. The opening times will be publicised on our website in the very near future.

Working Bee News

The last working bee achieved much, in spite of low numbers, and all who participated were well satisfied with the work done. Concreting was completed outside the NE corner of the shed and preparations were made inside for a concrete pad to be placed in the NW corner of the shed to house the machine tools.

Next Working Bee
Sat, May 10 – Wed, May 14

Sleepers were sorted and bundled, and drinking water was plumbed to the rolling stock shed. Also, the old parcels room was given a facelift in heritage colours (see over page) and the station office was given a makeover and general tidy up.

At the *next working bee* it is planned to complete the concreting of the pad inside the shed and outside the north wall. Also, preparations will be made for the rail prefab to be installed on the Albion St level crossing. Keep watching this space for updates on future working bees and their aims and focus.

If you can assist at the next working bee please contact the Assistant Track Manager, Ian Davis on 6335 6228, or by email on iansplace@gmail.com

ARHS Group visits Oberon

On the afternoon of March 18, a group from the Australian Railway Historical Society visited Oberon station. For over an hour the station precinct was invaded by a busload of enthusiasts with cameras, notebooks and pencils. President Tim gave a welcoming address at the gate and detailed the progress of the OTHR heritage rail project.

Our locos, rolling stock and carriages came in for quite a lot of examination and learned discussion.

The OTHR museum was also popular.

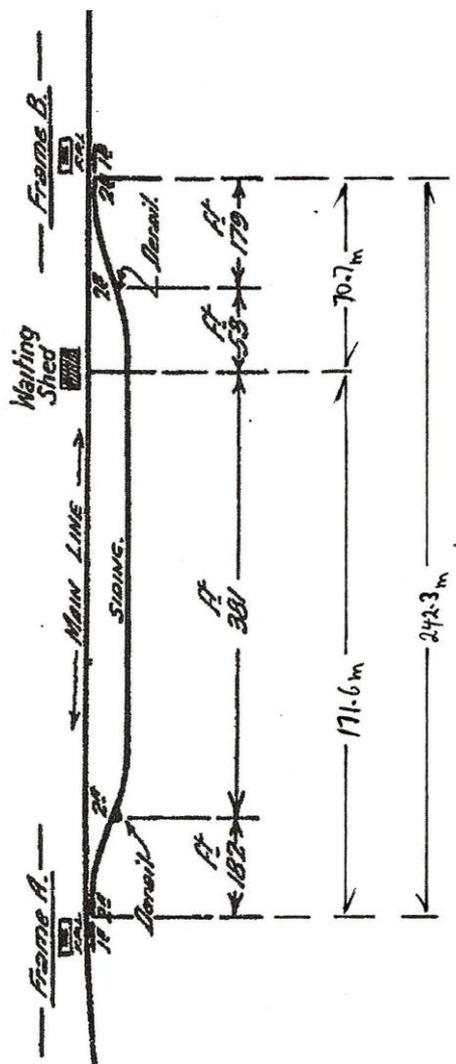
Many of our souvenirs were sold – and some additional postcards have now been purchased for the future.



Hazelgrove site

As most of you will know, the Hazelgrove station site is slated for redevelopment once we have our heritage trains running. This initially will be the terminus for trains out of Oberon and will be provided with a shelter shed, toilets and BBQ facilities for visitors. The magnitude of this task can be appreciated by the photo below and the plan of the original layout of the site.

The photo shows the main line and remains of the run-around loop looking towards Oberon from near where frame A would have been (see plan). The standing gent is somewhere near where the derail was located. The large pine tree in the middle of the track has since been removed by OTHR fettlers. Remains of ground frame A foundations have since been located near this spot.



The Bush Telegraph

Personnel from the Daily Telegraph will be visiting the station on April 8th. They are interested in seeing the heritage station and hearing about the progress of our Heritage rail project. Any volunteers who can be present for a few hours at the station on this day please contact President, Tim Arnison.

The old Parcels room received a complete paintout last working bee – courtesy of Mike O’Kane. Appropriate Heritage colours were used to make the place look very fresh and smart. This is the first stage of the upgrade of what will be our permanent museum/exhibition room.

As the collection is expanded and improved in the future new display cases and exhibits will be permanently installed here.

Grant Application...

Col & Glenda have recently been involved in applying for a VIM grant from Museums and Galleries NSW. In this we have been ably assisted by Gillian Salmon from the Oberon Council. We have applied for funds to purchase some museum cataloguing software and the training of two people in its use. The deadline for the application was Fri 4th April and we now have to await the outcome of this application.

Fund Raiser

The “History in Motion” fund raising event later this year will feature stories, songs and ballads relating to railways and transport in years gone by. This event will be held on Saturday 27th September. Preparation of “props” for the show is already underway, so put this in your diaries now so as not to miss out.

Note: Editor’s Absence....

Col (& Glenda) will be overseas in July for most of the month – and in the early part of August riding trains in far north Queensland. Consequently, we are looking for a volunteer (or two?) to compile the Newsletter for those months. Any takers??....

Reminder...

OTHR news now appears from time to time in the Oberon and Villages Community Newsletter. If you have access to this publication check it out to see the latest happenings on the Heritage Railway. See the Council website..... <http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/>

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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