



April 2010 Newsletter

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May monthly meeting - Wednesday, 5th at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.
April working bee: 17th - 24th incl.

Welcome to the April newsletter. With two major working bees, rolling stock acquisitions, the Steamfest and successful raffle behind us, OTHR is well into its stride for 2010. Additional hands are always welcome at the working bees – as are visitors who come along from time to time to see our now considerable progress. Keep watching the local papers for reports of OTHR events as we plan to continue with our policy of featuring OTHR as much as possible in the local media.

Lucky Raffle Winners

Our Easter Raffle was a resounding success as every ticket was sold. The lucky winners were:-
The 1st Prize – 7 nights' luxury accommodation at Byron Retreat – went to Ben Davis of Wallsend.
Second prize of a \$100 gift voucher from Birkenstock by Nature Stores at Mona Vale or Neutral Bay went to Rod Campbell of Lane Cove.
The third prize of an Easter Hamper was won by Stephen Preston of Wallsend.
Congratulations to all our winners – perhaps more of our members will be moving to Wallsend before the next raffle!

We extend our grateful thanks to members Melissa and Ian Burgess who donated the fabulous first prize. We must also thank Katrina and John Mellon who donated the second prize, as well as Lorraine Fielding and Lynette Ireland who organised the hamper. Once again, Kathy and Chris Segaert donated the printed raffle tickets, for which we are most appreciative. OTHR continues to receive much support from local businesses for which we are most grateful.

Member Profile – Bob Connors



Bob grew up in Newcastle, living near Cardiff railway station and developed a love of trains after watching the daily Newcastle Flyer race to and from Sydney. After retiring from his work in education in Sydney, Bob and Margaret moved to a farm in Oberon nine years ago

and are kept busy raising Angus cattle.

In the past nine years Bob has been involved in community activities and has been a member of OTHR's Committee of Management and was the

Publicity Officer for four and a half years. He is now working quietly behind the scenes helping with OTHR's mountain of paperwork.

April Working Bee: 17th to 24th

Working Bee Dates for 2010	
April:	17th – 24th
May:	15th - 22nd
June:	12th – 19th
July:	10th – 17th
August:	7th - 14th
September:	18th – 25th
October:	16th – 23rd
November:	13th – 20th
December:	TBA

At the April working bee we will be concentrating on the section of track south of gate 6, towards the concrete culvert. The March working bee laid a good many sleepers in this area and our keen band of fettlers will be doing more of the same... once again. However, it is encouraging to see that the length of line between the work site and the major level crossing of Lowes Mount Rd is becoming smaller by the day! Once this section is complete then the level crossings become one of the major priorities.

If you can help at the working bee, please contact Track Manager Peter Culley on 6336 0228 or 0427 042 448 by Thursday, 15th April. Free accommodation for out-of-town members is still being generously donated by the Big Trout Motel and the Titania Motel. Please let Peter know as soon as possible if you require accommodation.

Social Outings

Our second excursion for the year will be held on Saturday, 24th April when we plan to travel to Newnes in the Wolgan Valley. A very scenic location, with lots of industrial, mining and railway history – and a “pub with no beer”!

All members and friends are invited to join us.

Please note the following details

- Let Peter Culley know if you are coming (Phone: 6336 0228 or 0427 042 448).
- Meet at Oberon Station at 9.00 a.m.
- Bring your own barbecue food and drinks, and sturdy walking shoes.
- We expect to return to Oberon by 5 – 6pm.

Further excursions are being planned, including a trip to Cadia (probably in May) and the Chifley Dam cabins for an evening BBQ, fishing and other activities – probably at the end of the October Workbee. Please let Peter or any other committee member have some feedback on your preferences and thoughts on these events – all suggestions are most welcome.

Reminder - Annual Memberships Fees

Membership fees for 2010 are now due. Fees had not risen since OTHR was first established in 2005 and the Committee of Management reluctantly decided that it was appropriate to raise them to \$15 per member. Family memberships have now been abolished because of confusion about voting rights.

A membership form can be downloaded from our website. Please send it with your payment to our Treasurer at the address above. Alternatively, you can arrange to pay your fees by direct bank transfer (see details on form). Please **remember to forward the completed membership form** so that we can keep our database up to date as we find that many people change their address details during the year.

New Member Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to our new member James Morrison from Thornleigh. James has donated his historic hand-powered, three-wheeled rail trike to OTHR for use on the line and this was delivered to Oberon Station on Friday, 16th April, with over a dozen enthusiastic OTHR members present. In recognition of his generous gift, James has been given one year's honorary membership of OTHR. James was also able to supply engineering drawings, old photos and historical articles concerning hand-powered trikes – a most valuable acquisition for OTHR. More photos and details of this event will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter. There is also an upcoming article in the Oberon review.

Oberon Line History

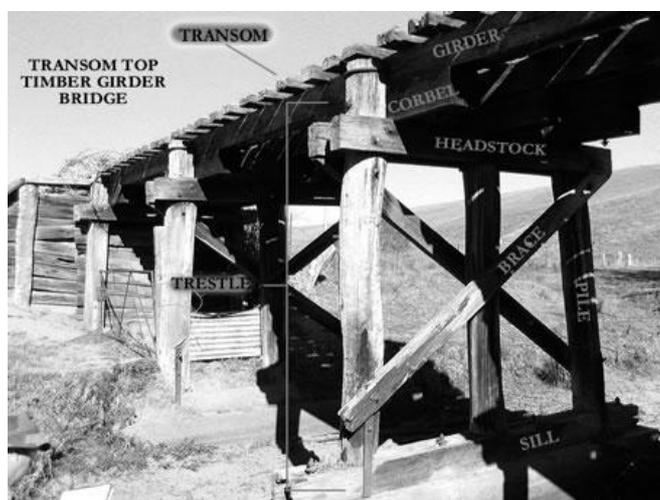
As mentioned previously, an article has recently been published in the new journal of the Bathurst & District Historical Society – authored by Rick Fletcher and Col Bembrick – dealing with the historical aspects of building the Tarana-Oberon Branch Line. Copies of the journal “The New Country” are available for purchase at the Bathurst Historical Society Museum next to the Courthouse in Russell St Bathurst – (price not yet set). The article details the trials and tribulations of getting the railway up and running, together with mention of the main protagonists involved. A number of fine historical black and white photos are included.

With the expertise of our Website manager, Rick Fletcher, this article is now available for downloading (as a pdf file) from on our website (see masthead).

Down the Line....

From time to time we will be running a “technical” corner here to illustrate some of the rail corridor hardware and other items of interest “down the line”. Many members have had the experience of a walk down the line – at least as far as Carlwood – but others may not be familiar with the route and its features. This item in the newsletter will attempt to highlight some of the interesting structures and their technical features.

Below is the Snakes Gully trestle bridge, just south of Carlwood (originally to be called Kierstone) station site, with the various timber sections named in the illustration – thanks to Rick Fletcher for this detailed photo. The bridge appears to be in fair to good condition and with some restoration is expected to have a long and useful life into the future.



Level Crossing Progress...

The major crossing of Lowes Mount Rd has been surveyed and pegged by Len Truscott and Mark Langdon. Further meetings with all concerned parties have been initiated and some additional survey work will need to be done to determine levels and drainage... but at least the work is underway! OTHR will be responsible for building the track sections off-site and getting them to the level crossing site for installation.

OTHR's website –

Don't forget to keep checking our website (see masthead) run by our hard-working web manager, Rick Fletcher. This is regularly updated with news and photos – both recent and historical. Rick continues to put an enormous amount of work into this aspect of OTHR and has received many positive comments and feedback. Historical photos relating to the Oberon Tarana line are always gratefully received and acknowledged on the website.

NB: Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... bembrick@ix.net.au