



April 2012 Newsletter

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

Sponsors:



After a successful Steam & Vintage Fair weekend, the coming months promise to be very busy ones for OTHR and our Heritage Rail project. We should to see the Albion St level crossing completed in the near future and materials are now being sourced for the longer Lowes Mount Rd crossing. The other big project now under way is the large rolling stock shed within the station precinct, where work will be proceeding as you receive this Newsletter. This will provide much needed shelter from the elements for our two locos and the collection of heritage carriages and other rolling stock.

Next General Meeting:
7:30pm 2nd May

OTHR Souvenirs

A collection of souvenirs relating to OTHR and heritage railways is slowly being built up so as to be available for sale to the public on Open Days, Steam & Vintage Fair weekends and the like. It is anticipated that these will eventually be on sale at the station and on our heritage train trips. So far we have available metal badges, monogrammed pens and key tags. Other items such as mugs, caps or fridge magnets may be added to this collection in the future as funds permit. If you have a suggestion as to what would make a good OTHR "souvenir" please let someone on the committee know about your ideas.



The badges are available at \$50 each and the pens and key tags are \$3 each. If you would like to purchase any of these items contact our Secretary Kylie –

contact details over page. These make great birthday presents or gifts for "OTHeR" special occasions.



*** MEMBERSHIP REMINDER ***

Members are reminded that, following the March AGM, annual fees become due – but they haven't changed! No need to fill in a form if you are renewing – just post us a cheque (\$15.00) and include your up to date contact details (phone, email, etc) please. Also, it is easy to pay via our website – using paypal, direct bank transfer or credit card. We value your membership, so please continue to support our heritage rail project.

SPECIAL PURPOSE WORKING BEE

April Working Bee:

During the April working bee the main activity will be construction of the rolling stock shed. It is anticipated that the steel roof trusses will be erected plus other associated tasks completed.

Apart from our regular volunteers, anyone with special steelworking skills is encouraged to attend the workbee to give us the benefit of their experience.

Working Bee Dates for 2012	
April:	14 th – 20 th
May	12 th -19 th
June	9 th – 16 th
July	7 th – 14 th
August	4 th – 11 th
Sept	1 st – 8 th
Oct	13 th – 20 th

If you can attend this April working bee, please let Assistant Track Manager, Harry Cole, know as soon as possible – Harry's contact details are 6336 5338 – he will no doubt be very pleased to hear from you. (Peter Cully is taking a well-earned break this month).

Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men's Shed team is now in a position to offer accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. This generous offer will greatly assist OTHR during future working bees. We extend our thanks to all the Men's Shed team for this support. The only cost of this overnight accommodation will be to join the Men's Shed at an annual fee of \$10. You will need to bring your own blankets, swag or sleeping bag – the Men's Shed is located within the Oberon Showground. There is a toilet, but no shower on site.

If you are one of our out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254).

Workbee Catering

OTHR members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809.. Volunteers are required to assist with the morning teas and lunches for our hard-working fettles. Also, any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.



Railcruising the Oberon Line?...

This is an edited version of an interesting article in the latest issue of the Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc. newsletter. It is perhaps something to keep in mind for the future of the Oberon line re the tourist potential.

The New Zealand company Rail Riders Ltd has had very preliminary discussions with Glenreagh Mountain Railway, Coffs Harbour City Council and ITSRR, to explore the possibility of bringing RailCruising to the Glenreagh – Dorrigo Line. Rail Riders, owned by Neil and Jane Oppatt, established the world's first commercial RailCruising operation last year on the once mothballed Rotorua Railway, a 48km railway line in the heart of New Zealand's tourist destination of Rotorua.

New Zealand tourists can now have a totally exclusive and entirely independent self-drive rail experience. The RailCruising concept is simple: groups of Rail Cruisers spaced about 250 metres apart, travel together like a virtual train in one direction to the destination railway station, they are then turned – using a miniature hand-operated turntable - to head back to where they started.

Two years of research and development produced the Rail Cruiser V3000 Hybrid, the world's first fully automated, state of the art petrol-electric Rail Cruiser. Rail Riders is presently building a variant of the V3000Hybrid specifically to operate on standard gauge track, the Rotorua Railway being a 3ft 6inch gauge.

This new Rail Cruiser will have six seats and a lot more horsepower than the original V3000, which is a four seat

vehicle. Rail Cruising promises a huge tourist potential for both the Glenreagh Mountain Railway and the Coffs Harbour Coast Region. See the website www.railcruising.com/



Around the Traps...

The Albion Street level crossing work is now progressing well. The Oberon Council has recently accepted the quote from Moorhead Engineering to manufacture the checkrail for the crossing. This is the last bit of “hardware” needed before the crossing can be installed. Watch this space for further progress reports.

The set of boom gates for the crossing is now with the Oberon Correctional Centre where the gates will be restored and refurbished in their workshops. OTHR is very grateful for their involvement in our heritage rail project and we extend our thanks to all those involved.

There were some repairs to the two heritage carriages which were needed on their return from the Great Gatsby set. These repairs have now been carried out.

We welcome on board (after a brief absence) *Harry Cole*, who has agreed to be the Assistant Track Manager, taking some of the load from Peter Cully.

Easter Raffle Winners



Roger Arrow drawing the raffle prizes, with Treasurer Marjorie Webb assisting. The lucky winners were:-
1st Prize to Paula Duncan of Leura (glider flight with Bathurst Soaring Club), 2nd Prize to Helen Lowe of Oberon (framed print), 3rd Prize to Alma Bouchier of Oberon (Gulf Western Oil clothing package). Congratulations to all our happy winners.

Reminder...

Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. Go to the “About” tag and to “Meetings” on the drop-down menu. You can now easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc Check out the events calendar on our website.

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NB: Please send material for the Newsletter to Col at... taranaob@activ8.net.au Please put *OTHR Newsletter* in the subject line – so your e-mail will not be deleted!