



## August 2011 Newsletter

*September monthly meeting - Wed 7th  
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the August newsletter. During the current working bee it is anticipated that a start will be made on the level crossing construction. Rail and sleepers should be on site to enable work to start on the prefabrication of the sections of line for the two major crossings. This will be one of the last major tasks to fully complete the line from Oberon to Hazelgrove in preparation for running our Heritage trains. So, if you would like to be a part of this exciting period of our rail project, please consider attending the current and upcoming workbees.

Also, the site preparation for the large rolling stock shed has started with the levelling of the ground in the NW corner of the station precinct. This OTHR project now has ARTC and ORH approval, with our project manager being Bill Muldoon. This shed, when completed, will mark another major milestone in our progress towards having a well equipped heritage rail centre at the Oberon station. It will be in stark contrast to the primitive "Oberon Loco" facility which occupied ground near this site in 1923 (see photo below).



©Ron Preston Collection

### **Accommodation Urgently Needed!**

OTHR members regularly volunteer their spare accommodation for out of town members during workbee times. We need more members to assist in this regard. Would those who are able to billet workers please make contact with Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254) and let him know as soon as possible (preferably the Wed before the working bee). If you are one of our out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie.

### **Workbee Catering**

Any OTHR member who can assist with catering for our famished fettleers is asked to contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809 prior to the working bee. Any edible donations will be greatly appreciated and these will help OTHR conserve some of our precious funds.

### **August Working Bee: 6th to 13th**

The August working bee will be underway as you receive this newsletter. During the cold winter days in Oberon there is always a warm fire in the lunchroom at the station. Remember, a good hearty lunch is always provided to hungry fettleers by our hard working catering volunteers.

#### **Working Bee Dates for 2011**

<b>August:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>September:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>October:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>November:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>December:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup></b>

If you can attend the working bees, please let Track Manager, Peter Culley, know as soon as possible – at least by the Thurs before the workbee. Peter's mobile is 0427 042 448 – he will be pleased to hear from you.

Remember, even one day spent on the workbee helps. Come along and see the progress in and around the station precinct – lend a hand and see what difference you can make. There are many tasks – large and small – that need to be accomplished before we can run our heritage trains by the end of this year.

### **August Meeting Brainstorming**

The August ordinary meeting featured a discussion session on fundraising ideas, many of which you will find in the minutes. Some of the varied ideas that were proposed included:-

- Corporate sponsorship
- Trivia nights
- Sleeper Club
- Group tours and events
- Spring Fair/Open Days
- OTHR merchandise.

Both the Sleeper Club and the trivia nights have proved successful in the past and deserve to be encouraged. Some group bookings are already in hand for "carriage dinners" and tours of the station – indeed one of these events has already taken place and was judged a resounding success.

If you have a novel idea for fundraising and the expertise and enthusiasm to carry it out, please contact Secretary Kylie with your suggestion. We need not just ideas, but people ready and willing to take up the challenge to put their ideas into practice.

## Railway Jargon.. Origins?

Has anyone – like me – been mystified by various terms of railway jargon? The idea of moving goods by wagons on parallel sets of rails goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The early rails were of wood and sometimes even of stone. With the advent of cast iron at the beginning of the industrial revolution, they became iron plates with a flange. The workers who laid the rails were known as “platelayers”. The motive power at the time was, of course, the horse.

Collieries in the NE of England were at the forefront in utilising rail “ways” or “roads” – both at the mines and to transport coal to the port. The track that ran from the mine in the hills to the port was the “down” line. Naturally, the reverse direction was called the “up” line.

The other explanation for this terminology is that as the coal mines were usually on a ridge and followed the coal down-dip into the subsurface, the lines leaving the surface workings were the “down” lines and the tracks returning to the surface were the “up” lines. Thus today we have the convention that lines leaving the central terminus (eg Sydney) are the “down” lines and those returning are the “up” lines. So, if you are on a train leaving Oberon for Sydney and descending 300m to Tarana you are on the “up” line – don’t get confused.

Horses or pit ponies were often “stabled” underground between shifts – a term still used today for “parking” locos overnight. The last pit ponies in NSW were used at the Ulan Coal mine in the early 1970s.

## Rolling Stock ex Bathurst

As you may have heard, OTHR is set to acquire some rolling stock currently stored in the Bathurst rail yards. These wagons require some considerable TLC but are certainly restorable. The photo below shows their current condition – the one on the right is the refrigerated van (NBTY22726U), the other is the bogie plough van (NZBF01049X).



They will be moved to Oberon in the near future and Track Manager Peter Culley has his eye on the plough van for temporary accommodation for out-of-town fettlers. These, along with other items of rolling stock already at Oberon station, will benefit from the shelter of the large rolling stock shed when completed

## Machinery Acquired

Recently, OTHR acquired some useful machinery from the old railway workshops at Katoomba. These donations will prove very handy to OTHR in the future repairs and re-furbishment of rolling stock and other items of equipment. The photo shows the heavy duty mill being offloaded into temporary storage at Oberon Station. The mill, lathe and heavy duty pedestal grinder will form the nucleus of the OTHR workshop which will no doubt occupy a corner of the large rolling stock shed when that is erected.



## Members Complete First Aid Course

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> July saw OTHR members and several conservation volunteers turning up at the Oberon SES shed to undertake a one day First Aid Course. In all six people attended this course which was run by Francis from Allens Training. Having previously completed a lengthy question booklet the participants spent the day at Oberon doing practical work - CPR, snake bites, etc - and a final multiple choice exam.

Certificates have now been received by all those who completed the course and all who attended were of the opinion that the lessons learned were valuable preparation in coping with any future medical emergencies (hopefully minor) that may occur in the course of our work on the heritage rail line. It's good to know that we now have several trained first aid personnel on the OTHR books who can assist in the event of any incident or accident to our members.

## A Reminder....

The full minutes of the Ordinary General meetings are now available on our website. Go to the “About” tag and to “Meetings” on the drop-down menu. They will normally be posted one week after the meeting. In addition, you can now easily find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc](http://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc)

Our website continues to evolve as more features are added. The site now has more historic documents – see the original “Tarana to Oberon Railway Act 1919”, now featured on the website. If you have not visited for a while, please check it out.

**NB:** Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... [taranaob@activ8.net.au](mailto:taranaob@activ8.net.au) Please put *OTHR Newsletter* in the subject line – so your e-mail will not be deleted!