



# August 2012 Newsletter

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



The next meeting of OTHR will be a Special General Meeting, held to consider some changes to our Constitution. The Ordinary General Meeting will follow – see notice below. The details accompany this Newsletter. Please make an effort to attend – we value your input.

**This will be a  
Special General Meeting –  
7:30pm 5<sup>th</sup> September  
please make an effort to attend  
it will be followed by the  
Ordinary General Meeting**

## August Working Bee:

### Working Bee Dates for 2012

<b>August</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Sept</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Oct</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup></b>

The August working bee will again be concentrating on the rolling stock shed – the missing purlins will be inserted between the two roofs to join the sheds into one structure. Work will continue on the cladding of the walls to weatherproof the shed.

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

## Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men's Shed team is now offering accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. The only cost of this overnight accommodation will be to join the Men's Shed at an annual fee of \$10.

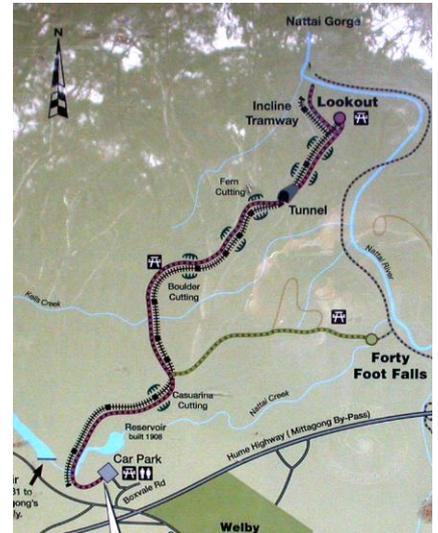
If you are one of our out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254). He is the co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

## 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 fettlers. Also, any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

## Historic Railways...long forgotten

An interesting and historic railway branch line in NSW lies near the town of Mittagong - this is the long forgotten Boxvale Tramway. In spite of its name, this was in fact a standard gauge line, built in 1888, running 4.5 km from Welby (see map) to the Nattai Gorge. Two substantial timber bridges (no longer existing) and an 84m tunnel through solid sandstone brought the line to the top of a cable hauled incline which led to the coal mine below.

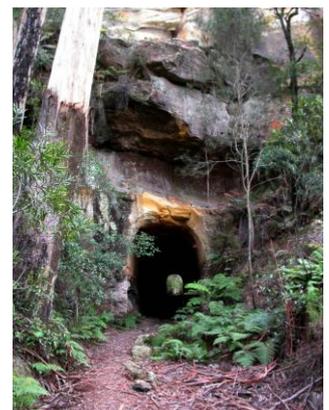


The saddle tank loco used on the line was built in the UK in 1862 and imported into Australia at the instigation of John Whitton, the "Father" of NSW railways. The 1890 photo below shows the loco emerging from the tunnel towards the end of the "tramway".



At the present time, the line is promoted as a walking track to the scenic Nattai Gorge. The steep cable incline and the mine are long since abandoned and all but inaccessible. There is no sign of the stationary steam engine that powered the cableway. Some of the cuttings are partially blocked by rockfalls.

The walk is however, a very pleasant one as can be seen in the photo of the tunnel and perway as it remains today. The views from the lookout are great.



## Railway Digest Magazine.

In the May issue of this magazine there is an interesting 5 page article (complete with photos and maps) by Shane O'Neil on the history of the Zig Zag Railway operation. This details some of the trials and tribulations of running a successful tourist railway. It covers some of the problems recently encountered and efforts to overcome them. It makes for some thought-provoking reading for any organisation attempting to run a heritage/tourist rail operation. There are some lessons there for all tourist/heritage rail operators.

## Help !! ..... Wanted...

The Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway is appealing for assistance in reviewing and developing our Safety Management Systems. The tasks include reviewing and commenting on risk assessments or performing audits on our existing systems. Some industry experience is desirable.

These volunteers would need to have experience or knowledge of the development or maintenance of SMS documentation, an interest in heritage rail, and of course some free time – perhaps a few hours per week.

If this sounds like to sort of activity you would like to be involved in, please contact our Secretary, Kylie Moorhead on **02 6336 0207** or [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)

## Hazelgrove Station site

Recent archival research has brought to light some of the original plans of both Hazelgrove and Carlwood stations. In the not too distant future OTHR will be restoring the Hazelgrove site to act as our terminus for tourist excursion trains. The run-around loop has to be re-instated, with two sets of points needed. A PC1 waiting shed will be erected as this was the original type of waiting shed on the site. As can be seen from the plan below, toilets were provided at the station. Also provided, but not shown on the plans, was a small timber "platform". The plans as shown below will enable us to re-erect these structures in their original locations. The photo at the right shows the original Hazelgrove facilities, circa 1956.

## Reminder...

Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can now easily find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc](http://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc) Also, check out the events calendar on our website, plus new historic photos.

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## Around the Traps....

In the coming months there will be a Sunday BBQ organised at the station to show our appreciation to all our volunteers. Keep watching this space for further announcements. This promises to be a big event, so keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

The Albion St level crossing is still subject to discussions with council, but has been put on the backburner for a while as all our efforts are concentrated on the rolling stock shed. It is regarded as a top priority to get the carriages and other rolling stock under cover.

As soon as the shed is finished, the Coolah rail and points retrieval will become a priority. At that stage a major expedition and working bee will be held at Coolah to extract the rail and points from the abandoned station yard.

