



December 2010 Newsletter

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*February monthly meeting - Wed 2nd
7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the last Newsletter of the year. A happy Xmas and an enjoyable New Year to all our readers. Our annual Xmas BBQ was a great success and was enjoyed by many of our local members – see story below. Keep your eye out for the next Newsletter in early January, as we will have some new initiatives to announce. A huge vote of thanks to all our members who have helped throughout the year in so many ways.

OTHR Xmas Party BBQ



This annual OTHR event was held this year on the historic goods loading bank at Oberon Station – next to our heritage carriages. A splendid marquee was provided by Moorhead Engineering, with rotary spit supervised by Col Maloney and beast provided by Rick and Marjorie Webb. The rain managed to stay away for most of the time, although the quagmire underfoot took some getting used to! A good crowd enjoyed a sumptuous repast, including many delicious sweets.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS for OTHR Members

A very special appeal is made to all OTHR members to make their New Year's Resolution to attend the working bees in January. There will probably be more than one working bee in Jan so as to ensure our very own two diesel locos are on the track beside the station by the time the Steam and Vintage Fair takes place in February. These working bees will be specially targeted to complete only those jobs necessary to get the station yard and the locos ready for the Fair, when we will be hosting many members of the public at the station and showing them our locos and other achievements. Please seriously consider assisting on these special working bees. As always, tea, coffee and a good lunch is provided to the hungry volunteers.

OTHR Xmas Awards

At the Xmas Party on Saturday 4th President Shane Moorhead gave a short speech of thanks to all members who have supported OTHR throughout the year. Track Manager Peter Culley added some comments on how close we are to finishing the section between Oberon and Hazelgrove. Shane then announced several awards to members who have made a special contribution in time and effort over this year (and other years).



Certificates of appreciation were presented by Shane to Arthur Robinson (centre) and Barry Webb (right), with a big round of applause from the assembled gathering.

Souvenir OTHR Badges

These superb metallic badges are the first of a long line of quality OTHR souvenirs. For \$50 plus postage they come complete with screws for mounting on the wall or mantle shelf. These are sure to become collectors' items, so contact Secretary Margaret Connors (Ph 6336 1211) to secure one of the first 50 badges produced. At the Xmas party these were selling like the proverbial "hot cakes" – so don't miss out!



Donations to OTHR by TRAK

On Wed 17th Nov at Oberon Station OTHR members gathered to welcome two members of the now disbanded TRAK group, John Cooper and Paul McDonald. At lunchtime John and Paul presented OTHR with various items of perway and station equipment, plus a cheque for almost \$2000. Their generosity was much appreciated and they were given a hearty thanks by all members present. They accepted our invitation to stay for lunch on the station platform, and much valuable information was swapped re Heritage Railways.



Paul McDonald presenting the cheque to OTHR President Shane Moorhead (far right). To the left are John Cooper and OTHR Secretary Margaret Conners.

Steam & Vintage Fair 2011

It's not too early to put these dates on your calendar as a reminder for 2011. The hugely successful **Highlands Steam and Vintage Fair** is coming to Oberon once again. This memorable event will be held over three days from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th February at the Oberon Leagues Sport & Recreation Club grounds, Lowes Mount Rd. OTHR will be closely associated with this event via displays at Oberon Station. More details in future issues of this Newsletter. See their website at....

www.HighlandsSteam.org.au

OTHR Presentation to Rotary

Monday 29th Nov saw Col and Glenda attending the Katoomba Rotary meeting in the Library of the Carrington Hotel. After dinner Col gave a presentation on the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway and the work done by our willing volunteer fettlers to date. A very attentive audience asked a good many questions at the conclusion of the evening and expressed enthusiasm and considerable amazement at the progress of the project so far. Col took the opportunity to publicise the Highlands Steam and Vintage Fair, with many saying they will attend. Thanks go to OTHR member and Rotarian Ewen Stewart for organising this venue for OTHR to publicise our achievements.

Annual Clearance Sale 2010



OTHR members man the registration desk at the Annual Clearance Sale.

The **Annual Central Tablelands Combined Clearance Sale** was again well attended this year, in spite of the weather. A huge and varied range of items were on sale and the two auctioneers did a marvellous job throughout the day to work their way through the lots up for sale. OTHR was there among the bidders, coming away with two very useful filing cabinets for the Station Office. Although profit and loss figures are not yet finalised, it appears that a useful profit was made at the end of the day and OTHR will be applying these funds to our Community Heritage Railway project.

The eats and drinks stall manned by Oberon Rotary members was well attended and numerous OTHR members gave stalwart service in a variety of capacities. Thanks go to organisers such as Bill Muldoon, Tim Arnison and others behind the scenes. Also lending a hand on the day were Arthur Robinson, Bob & Margaret Conners, Marjorie Webb, Graham Parker, Ian Davis and Doug Booker. Our grateful thanks go to the hard-working auctioneers of the day – Pat Bird and Brian Harman – well done, guys!

XMAS Hamper Raffle

Our latest raffle is for a sumptuous Xmas Hamper. Dont miss out on this opportunity. The raffle will be drawn on 18th Dec., but tickets are still available by contacting Lorraine Fielding on 042 5289245.

Historic Document on OTHR Website

The NSW Railways Weekly Notices – No 41, 12 Oct 1923 – which announced the opening of the Tarana to Oberon Branch Line for commercial traffic is now up on the website, where it can be viewed or downloaded (as a pdf file). Running times, fares, level crossings, and signalling arrangements are all detailed – check it out as it makes fascinating reading.

NB: Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... taranaob@activ8.net.au Please put "OTHR Newsletter" in the subject line so your email will not be deleted!