



# December 2011 Newsletter

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

Sponsors:



We extend a hearty Season's Greetings to all our members and wish you well for the New Year of 2012. **NB:** *The Xmas party has been postponed till January.* The current working bee will be underway by the time you receive this newsletter, but please note the dates of upcoming working bees and meetings. Next year promises to be a big year for OTHR!

### **Next General Meeting:**

**7:30pm 1st February**

**(Committee Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> Jan)**

You will note a few small changes to this newsletter, mostly to do with the additional logo on our masthead. This is the logo of our new sponsors – see story below.

### **Sponsorship by MMP Credit Union**

OTHR has been fortunate in striking a sponsorship deal with the Maritime, Mining and Power Credit Union, initially for the next three years. They have merged with Reliance Credit Union and have offices in most major centres, including Oberon, Lithgow and Bathurst. In return for their monetary support, OTHR will be publicising the MMPCU on our website, at our functions and in this Newsletter. The MMPCU is a big sponsor of community organisations wherever they operate and we look forward to a fruitful relationship.

### **SPECIAL PURPOSE WORKING BEES December Working Bee: 10th to 17th**

The November working bee had a special focus and resulted in the construction of the prefabricated section of the line to go into the level crossing at Albion St. We are now in the hands of the Council who are in the process of deciding the exact method of placement of the rails into the level crossing roadway.

### **Working Bee Dates for 2011/12**

<b>December:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>January:</b>	<b>no working bee</b>
<b>February:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup></b>
	<b>(Steam &amp; Vintage Fair, 10-12<sup>th</sup>)</b>
<b>March:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>April:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> – 20<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.



### **Farewell to the Conners**

On Friday evening, 2<sup>nd</sup> December a large gathering of OTHR members squeezed into the Tarana Pub dining room to farewell Bob & Margaret Conners, who have sold their property, Pomeroy, and are moving to the Newcastle district. There were best wishes from over 30 people present and brief speeches were made by President, Tim Arnison, Track Manager, Peter Culley and past President, Shane Moorhead. The photo shows Bob holding the photo collage presented to the Conners by Secretary, Kylie, in recognition of their long support of OTHR in many and various roles – including Secretary, Newsletter Editor/Publicity Officer and legal advisor, to mention just a few. Although they will now be distant from Oberon and all the action, Bob & Margaret have promised to visit often and they will still be involved in the progress of OTHR.

### **Fettler Accommodation 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**

OTHR members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

## ORH Awards

On Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, Keith Howard and Marianne Hammerton from the *Office of Rail Heritage* spent some time at Oberon station with members of OTHR. Luckily the weather was mild and a general inspection was made of the S Truck restoration progress, the OTHR heritage rolling stock collection and the one 1897 passenger carriage now returned from “The Great Gatsby” film set duties. During the morning President, Tim Arnison, signed off on our Conservation Management Agreement for the S Truck. The Conservation Volunteers have now almost completed the full restoration of this historic item of rolling stock.

Keith and Marianne made presentations to the CVA team of restorers and also to Peter Culley for co-ordinating and supervising the project. John Boxer accepted the award on behalf of the CVA team. The award “trophies” are in the form of a NSW railway ticket stamping die, attractively mounted in a Perspex case (see photo). Congratulations to Peter and our team of volunteers for these well-deserved awards.

The morning concluded with a light lunch, coffee, tea and cakes prepared for our visitors by Lynette Ireland.



## 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](http://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](mailto:taranaob@activ8.net.au) Please put *OTHR Newsletter* in the subject line – so your e-mail will not be deleted!

## Panorama Motorcycle Club visit

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. saw well over 80 riders and motorbikes arrive at Oberon Station yard for a morning tea break on their charity ride. They were on their way to Rydal for a



lunch stop as part of their annual Geoff Martin Memorial Rally – the funds raised being donated to “Headspace”. Vintage and veteran bikes mixed with more modern machines as the riders swapped yarns and took the opportunity to inspect out station and locos.

## OTHR Thank You Plaque

Tim Arnison presenting an OTHR souvenir plaque to Graeme Jenkins of Turner & Central Cranes in appreciation of all the assistance given in getting our locos from



Tarana to Oberon and onto the tracks at Oberon station.

## Around the Traps...

The start for the rolling stock shed construction is imminent, with some work on the steel trusses planned for this working bee. Depending on time available, some work may take place on the signal ladder and the station main line buffer stop.

Long sleeper timbers for points are now on their way to Oberon. Planning is in hand to retrieve the points and rail from Coolah.

The Oberon IGA display is to be re-mounted, probably featuring the Villiers Quadricycle instead of the Trike. Photos & some memorabilia will be part of this display.

One of our passenger carriages has returned from “The Great Gatsby” set at White Bay and the other will follow shortly. A substantial cheque has been received from the film company. A new coat of paint is most impressive on the carriage exterior, but there are a few issues with the signage on the exterior which are being rectified.

## Keep these Dates Free...

Remember the *Highland Steam and Vintage Fair* is held on the Saturday and Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. OTHR will be a significant part of this major event and our preparations are already underway.