



December 2012 Newsletter

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

Sponsors:



At the November meeting Michael Forbes gave an informative and sobering assessment of the trials and tribulations of running a Heritage Tourist Railway – namely the Zig Zag Railway. The highly attentive audience responded with a good number of questions at the end of the talk and all agreed that it was very worthwhile to hear “from the horse’s mouth” the current situation re the Zig Zag Railway. Many thanks Michael!

Next Meeting
Ordinary General Meeting
7:30pm 6th February, 2013

Once again our “backroom” workers are to be congratulated as ITSR has notified OTHR of the acceptance of our Annual Safety Performance Report for 2012.

Highland Steam & Vintage Fair 2013

This major event is now in the advanced planning stage, with OTHR scheduled to play a significant part by opening our station precinct, locomotives and historical displays. In addition to the usual events, there may be two small-gauge model steam railway displays operating in the station grounds. Put this on your calendars for 2013 – its an event not to be missed!

The Fair will take place over the weekend of 9th & 10th



February, 2013 – with a classic vehicle run on the Friday 8th. The highly popular tractor trek and dinner dance will again be features of the Fair. For more information see... www.highlandssteam.org.au

OTHR members should contact Secretary Kylie who will be calling for volunteers to assist with the OTHR displays. OTHR souvenir keytags and pens will be on sale at the gate.

December Working Bee: 10th – 15th

**Roll Up Roll Up –
Be Part of the
Team that
finishes the Shed**

As the rolling stock shed is still not quite finished, it has been decided to hold a working bee this December – this working bee is **NOW IN PROGRESS!!**

There has been tremendous progress on the shed (see over page), but inevitably, there are still a few details to be sorted out. A major drive will be made this week to finish off the remaining tasks needed to complete the shed. *Please make a special effort to come along and lend a hand.*

If you can attend this December 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.

Out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the working bee days should contact Laurie Evans (Ph 63361254) - co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

Working Bee Catering

Members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Volunteers are required to assist with the catering - any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Raffle Prizewinners

The tickets were drawn at the last General Meeting and the lucky winners are:-

First Prize: V. McKinnon – the digital camera

Second Prize: E. Holt - \$100 petrol voucher

Third Prize: Lyn Humphreys – Xmas hamper

Congratulation to all our winners – and wishing them a Merry Christmas. Thanks also of course to all our tireless tickets sellers, who did a great job.

OTHR Christmas Party

This year's Party will be held at the Tourist Hotel in Oberon on **Saturday 15th December**. There will be a set menu and the cost per person is \$20. Please rsvp to Kylie by Thursday, 13th December. At the end of a highly productive year we can all relax and enjoy a chat over a beer, wine and good food. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Rolling Stock Shed Progress

As can be seen in the photo below, more progress has been achieved on the rolling stock shed over the past month. The rail for the first "road" into the shed is now largely in place, with a dozen or so more sleepers and some dog spikes needed to finish this part off.

The shed drainage needs to be sorted out and then power connected so that the lights are operational. It is anticipated that the current working bee will see the shed complete to the stage where we can move the American Suburban carriages in out of the weather.



The photo above shows the view looking south towards the station from the interior of the shed, with the rail and sleepers in the process of being laid.

Historic Photo of the Month

A very nicely restored CPH rail motor on display at the Rail Transport Museum, located at Thirlmere. This facility is well worth a visit for any rail buff. There is much of general interest and for the kids. The RTM is open 7 days and entry fees are \$19 adult, \$11 school-age children.



Around the Traps....

OTHR will shortly be embarking on the drafting of a Business Plan to cover the whole operation of the Heritage Railway and the restoration of the track all the way to Tarana.

If you have any experience in this area then please contact secretary Kylie as your input will be most welcome. All members are asked to put their thinking caps on re this task and the Committee would like to hear of any relevant ideas and comments.

Our Public Officer Graham Parker has been receiving some responses from landholders adjacent to the track re the "Interface Agreements" which we must have as part of the process of running a heritage rail operation. We have to have these agreements in place – as required by ITSR – before rail operations can commence. Graham has been working hard "behind the scenes" to generate this documentation and to contact the landholders. All this work is now bearing fruit - thanks Graham.

Negotiations are ongoing with the Rail Transport Museum re the moving of our heritage rolling stock from the Bathurst rail yards to Tarana as an initial step to getting them to Oberon.

The **first working bee for 2013** will take place from 4th to 10th Feb. Note this coincides with the Steam and Vintage Fair and part of the working bee will involve setting up and preparing displays around the station for the weekend of the Fair.

Membership reminder.... Still only \$15 per person – send your cheque to our Treasurer Marjorie at the address on the masthead. You can also pay online at our website. Our financial year now runs to June 2013, so you'll still get value for money by paying now.

Don't Forget...

OTHR is always keen to receive railway memorabilia – old photos, documents, plans and items of equipment. We currently have quite a few items for display but are always looking for more – particularly if they relate to the Oberon-Tarana Branch Line. These donations will be gratefully acknowledged, and eventually will form part of a significant display of historical railway items related to the Branch Line.

Remember that our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can also easily find us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc

Check out the events calendar on our website, plus new historic photos.

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