



**December 2015**  
**Newsletter**  
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787  
www.othr.com.au

Sponsor:



***A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
and JOYFUL NEW YEAR  
to ALL OUR MEMBERS!***

This issue of our Newsletter brings heaps of news of many events – some in the immediate past and some upcoming in 2016. All in all we can look back on a very active and successful year for OTHR's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A huge amount of progress has occurred with respect to the level crossing re-instatement. Lowes Mount Rd crossing is now in place – see the special photo supplement on page 3 – also the photos on our website.

Plans have been finalised for our Xmas party – see below – and also for the Anniversary Dinner event in February – see the flyer on page four.

Other projects have been quietly proceeding in the background. These include the plans to retrieve the HS36 van from Broadmeadow and also the task of moving the locos into the rolling stock shed.

Also in the pipeline is the replacement of the station leaking roof. John Holland Rail is working towards this and we expect to see some action in the New Year.

We should also make mention Ian Davis and Tim Arnison who once again have been quietly beavering away in the wee small hours to sort out our SMS documentation and bring it up to scratch. A cheerless task but one which should not go unremarked. Keep up the good work guys!

Also proceeding steadily in the background is the Business Plan being devised by David McMurray, who has spent a good many hours on this task in the anticipation of OTHR being able to apply for substantial grants to further the work on this exciting project.

### **OTHR Xmas party**

This year's Xmas party will be held at the Royal Hotel, Oberon. The date is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Time – 6 for 6:30pm. This will be a bistro style meal which you order and pay for on the night. If intending to come, please let Secretary Elaine know by Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, so we have some idea of numbers. A chance for all our members and friends to celebrate a year which has truly been a memorable one for OTHR and our heritage rail project.

### ***Working Bee News:***

The November working bee achieved a great deal – work concentrated on the prefabrication of the Lowes Mount Rd crossing. All the sleepers were laid out and 40 metres of stock rail and check rail were placed and aligned. By the end of the working bee about one quarter of this had been drilled and pinned.

The special working bee on 21 & 22 November saw two rail borers in action to drill the holes in the rail and install the spacers between the stock rail and the check rails. By the end of the weekend all rail had been gauged and pinned, with the crossing ready to be lifted into position. A marathon effort by our team of fettlers led by Track Manager, Graham Williams.

### **Next Working Bee**

***5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2015***

***\*\*and also\*\****

***Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016***

Meanwhile the complete Oberon yard, including the new roads into the rolling stock shed, have been certified as "fit for use" – and we have the certificate to prove it! Congratulations to Graham and his team.

The next working bee will be concentrating on the Albion St crossing, with the cutting and drilling of rail lengths to join the crossing to our main line.

If you would like to be part of our dedicated band of hard-working volunteers and assist with the work during the upcoming working bees, please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams on 0422 596 438. Graham is always keen to hear from members who are prepared to step up and have a go!

### **Next Monthly Meeting:**

***7:30pm 3rd February, 2016***

***(Remember: Committee***

***Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> Jan)***

**Feb 12th OTHR Anniversary  
Dinner** – see flyer on page four for details...

## Steam & Vintage Fair

February 2016 again sees this event held in Oberon and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever! The dates are Fri, Sat and Sun, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. See the website... <http://www.oberonsteamfair.com.au/>

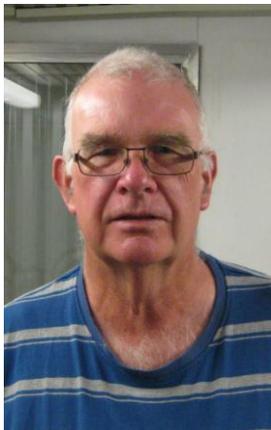
Once again, OTHR will be a part of this show, having the station precinct and the rolling stock open for inspection.



In addition, OTHR will be holding a special *10th Anniversary Dinner* at the rolling stock shed on the Friday night - see details elsewhere in this issue.

## Member Profile –David McMurray

After a long career in banking – starting in 1963 and rising to Manager of the Artarmon Branch of the Bank of NSW – David branched out into small business in 1987. Finally retiring in 2009, David and his wife Kim moved to Oberon for the quiet country life.



David has been a classic car enthusiast all his life – being involved for many years with the 48 & FJ Holden Owners Club, so on arrival in Oberon he became a founding member of the Oberon Heritage and Collectors Club Inc. holding the inaugural positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer for many years. David was also a founding member of the Highlands Steam & Vintage Fair organisation.

Currently he is a founding member of Oberon Men's Shed and holds the positions of Secretary/Treasurer and Public Officer. He has been a valued member of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway for many years and in 2014 was elected as a committee member. Very soon he found himself involved with writing a new business plan for the group and this is now in its finishing stages. The plan will take the association into the next ten years when we expect heritage tourist trains to be running on a regular basis on the Oberon Tarana line.

## In the Journals...

The November issue of the "Railway Digest" has an item of interest on p54, concerning the Bathurst Heritage Rail Precinct. Among many things, this will include a large HO scale model of the Bathurst/Lithgow and Oberon lines – previously on display at a property in the Tarana Valley. This precinct will in the future open up some opportunities for OTHR to gain some publicity, by displaying our brochures at some of these venues, as the old Railway Institute building in Bathurst is to be restored to house a rail history museum.

In the latest issue of the Lithgow State Mine Railway Newsletter, OTHR members feature on page 3 during their inspection of the State Mine site on 12th September this year. Opportunities for co-operation and collaboration were explored at this meeting and further contact is bound to occur in the near future.

See website [www.stateminerailway.com.au/](http://www.stateminerailway.com.au/)

## Historic Photos

Through the valuable donation by John Watters, OTHR has acquired some excellent historic photos of the heavy snows at Oberon in 1965. These black and white shots of Oberon station (see November issue of Newsletter) will shortly be on our website. See the section under the menu History/Historic Photos.

We warmly thank John Watters for his historic contribution.

## Swiss Insights



The little steam engine that could... The Brien Rothorn railway on which Col & Glenda travelled while in Switzerland with Insights Tours ([Insights Tours](http://www.insightstours.com))

Note the unique loco design, as it goes uphill the boiler becomes horizontal! The red carriage is our dining car – where a sumptuous multi-course lunch was served and enjoyed by all!

## Contacts:

Secretary, Elaine: Ph 02 6336 0441,

and by email: [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)

Newsletter Editor, Col – [taranaob@activ8.net.au](mailto:taranaob@activ8.net.au)

Our 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)

# SPECIAL PHOTO SUPPLEMENT - LOWES MOUNT ROAD CROSSING



Preparations of prefab rail



Half of the crossing installed



Initial cut cross the road



Second half of the crossing being lifted into place



First half being lifted towards the road



The OTHR fettler team joining the two halves



First half being lowered into place

The next  
day – the  
final tar  
seal





## Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spit Roast Dinner

When: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

6.30pm

Where: Oberon Railway Rolling Stock Shed -  
access via Albion St

Cost: \$20/head for 2 courses. BYO drinks

Music: **Kala & Dave DJ's**

Come and join the fun, have your meal in a  
heritage carriage and soak up the ambiance of  
the Heritage Railway.

Booking & payment details on OTHR and OHCC  
websites /newsletters.

Contact: Elaine Boxer 63360441

### OTHR 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spit Roast Dinner Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 6.30pm

Payment and Booking form

All reservations must be pre-paid- by 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

No bookings will be taken on the night.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Methods of payment: Cheque/Money Order made payable to Oberon Tarana  
Heritage Railway Inc.

Direct payment to BSB 062-632 Acc no 1004 9851. Please  
ensure your name is included on the statement reference

Return completed form to: Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway, PO Box 299, Oberon 2787  
Email: admin@othr.com.au