



December 2013
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

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Following considerable discussion at Committee meetings and General meetings, President Tim Arnison would like to advise members of the following decisions re working bees.

The number of volunteers who have attended working bees recently has declined to the extent that it has made it almost impossible for Peter Culley, our Track Manager, to plan and progress some of the works.

To be effective in getting work carried out there are three key elements:-

1. having the materials required
2. having the equipment and tools required
3. having the people to do the job and **being sure they are going to be there.**

It has been decided that the arrangements for working bees will be changed. Now we are going to plan specific works that need to be done and advertise when we are planning to do this work. We will look to volunteers to commit to assist and as long as we have sufficient numbers it will be "full steam ahead".

If a group of members wish to do work on the infrastructure at other times they are very welcome to do so as long as they book in through the Track Manager. At no time are we allowed to have any member working on their own

Next Meeting
Ordinary General Meeting
7:30pm 5th February, 2014

Xmas BBQ

The OTHR Christmas party and BBQ are planned for the Saturday evening of 14th December, at the end of the working bee day. This will take place in the rolling stock shed and is timed at 5:30pm for 6:00 pm. Attendees are requested to bring their own beverages and contributions of a salad or similar. If possible, it may also be a good idea to bring along a chair. Barbecued meat will be supplied by OTHR. This will be an excellent chance to relax and enjoy the company of fellow members and friends and to reflect on all the progress we have made this year.

NB: As is usual, there will be no January Newsletter.

Upcoming Working Bees:

The December working bee will take place over two days only – on the weekend of the Xmas party BBQ.

14th – 15th December
1st - 3rd Feb, 2014

If you can attend for all or part of this two day period, please contact our Track Manager, Peter Culley whose mobile is 0427 042448.

The first major working bee of 2014 will be for three days and will be dedicated to clearing up the station precinct and preparing for the Highlands Steam and Vintage Fair weekend of the 8th and 9th February. Even if you can spare only a few hours on one of these days, please come along – your efforts will make a difference.

Highland Steam & Vintage Fair 2014

It is now the time to put this in your diary or calendar for 2014. This famous Fair is once again hosted by the Oberon Heritage and Collectors Club who have run the event very successfully over the last few years. The main events will take place in the Rally ground at the Oberon Rugby Leagues Club in Lowes Mount Rd and this will also be the venue for the Saturday night dinner. A huge turnout of historic tractors, trucks and machinery is expected.



The dates to remember are **February 7th to 9th, 2014**. All the usual events will be on the program – including the Tractor Trek, Grand Rally, street parade and the dinner on the Saturday night. For further information see www.highlandssteam.org.au

OTHR will once again be participating in this event and the Oberon station precinct will be open to the public. Come along and see our historic carriages, two diesel locos, museum displays and photos. There will be lots to see and do – a fun day for all. A film night and sausage sizzle will be held on the Saturday night, 8th February – in the rolling stock shed - watch this space for further details of the film to be screened.

Oberon Station in 1955



The photo above was taken in 1955 as the 19 Class loco No.1942 prepares to leave Oberon station with the "up mixed" for Tarana. A rake of S trucks with finished timber products is next to the engine with three cattle wagons next in line. Bringing up the rear and nearly lost in the smoke is the guards van-cum- passenger car. Note the bogie Baldwin tender with rear headlight as the train prepares to head tender first back down the 1 in 25 grade to Tarana. On the far left of the photo can be seen a rake of S trucks alongside the loading bank and in the distance the goods shed (now demolished). By the look of the smoke a good stiff westerly wind is blowing, with the driver and fireman probably glad of the warmth inside the cab. A classic photo of the steam era on the Oberon line, when 19 class steam locos were the order of the day.

OTHR is happy to acknowledge the RTM magazine "Roundhouse" and the photographer Noel Reed for permission to use this photo. The photo comes from the August 2013 issue of Roundhouse.

Official Shed Opening

A tentative date has been set for the official opening of the rolling stock shed. Put Saturday, 1st March in your diaries now. It is to be hoped that our Patron, Paul Toole can attend and an invitation has gone out. This will definitely be a red letter day in the OTHR calendar.

Watch for further details of this event in our next Newsletter in February.



Christmas Raffle

This year's OTHR Christmas Raffle will be drawn on 21st December. There are some tremendous prizes to be won! First prize is a week's accommodation at a luxurious Byron Bay holiday retreat, second prize is a \$100 fuel voucher, with third prize being a sumptuous Xmas Hamper. Tickets are \$5 each and books of tickets are available from Secretary, Elaine on 02 6336 0441

The Bush Telegraph

The installation of the toilet and septic tank system at Oberon station is now almost complete. By the time of the Xmas BBQ the "Ladies" loo may well be operational. The interior will be tiled and painted in a style to match the period.

A quote has been received from Blayney Cranes for the cost of moving our three items of old rolling stock from the Bathurst rail yards to Oberon station. Further investigations are now underway to explore the possibilities of gaining grant funding to enable this move to be achieved in the near future.

Moves are in progress to have engineering plans drawn up showing the proposed extra "roads" into the rolling stock shed, so that our accreditation can be upgraded to allow the building of this new infrastructure. In the coming year we expect that substantial progress will be made on this part of our heritage rail project. Detailed drawings of the points layout have already been procured through the efforts of Graham Williams. These will assist in the re-assembly of the salvaged points from Leadville and Coolah.

Transport is now available for the heavy rail from Wallerawang and this should have been delivered to the station by the time you read this. This rail is earmarked for the Lowes Mount Rd level crossing and prefabrication of this crossing is expected to start in the New Year. This will be one of the major tasks for the OTHR fettler team during 2014.

OTHR now has a presence in the Oberon and Villages Community Newsletter. If you have access to this publication check it out from time to time to see the latest happenings on the Heritage Railway. See the Council website.....<http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/>

OTHR Souvenirs on sale at Oberon VIC

We are happy to announce that a number of OTHR souvenirs are now available for purchase at the Oberon Visitor Information Centre in Ross Street. Our range of souvenirs is rapidly expanding and now includes, mugs, key rings, pens, postcards, notebooks and badges. Check these out at the visitors centre and stock up for your Xmas presents.

Contacts:

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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 photos of current events.