



February 2012 Newsletter

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

Sponsors:



The coming year promises to be a very busy one for OTHR and our Heritage Rail project. We expect to see the Albion St level crossing completed in the near future and materials are now being sourced for the longer Lowes Mount Rd crossing. The other big project we should see completed is the large rolling stock shed within the station precinct, where work will be proceeding as you receive this Newsletter. This will provide much needed shelter from the elements for our collection of heritage rolling stock.

Next General Meeting:

Plus the AGM

7:30pm 7th March

The Xmas party has now been re-scheduled for 10:30am Sat 10th March at the Turon Technology Museum. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes Museum entry and a BBQ catered lunch. RSVP to Kylie by 7th March.

Steam & Vintage Fair

The *Highland Steam and Vintage Fair* will be held on the Saturday and Sunday, 11th & 12th February. OTHR will be a significant part of this major event and our preparations are well underway. Volunteers are now called for – contact Secretary Kylie if you can spare a few hours on that weekend to assist OTHR at the station precinct - all available members are encouraged to



participate. This event promises to be bigger and better than ever and OTHR will have the locos and vintage carriages on display, together with the restored S truck and much more! OTHR will have cakes, muffins, coffee and sandwiches on sale over the two days. The Fair will again include a grand main street rally, tractor pulls, market stalls, vintage cars and tractors, traction engines and a free bus will be operating between venues. The presentation dinner/dance is already sold out!

SPECIAL PURPOSE WORKING BEE

February Working Bee:

During the February working bee the main focus will be on preparation for the Steam & Vintage Fair. Repairs to the crane will be completed and if time permits, some further work on the rolling stock shed foundations. Work on tidying up around the station and in the heritage carriages will be needed. The two carriages – returned from the set of “The Great Gatsby” - are now housed on the main line next to the platform and are readily accessible.

Working Bee Dates for 2011/12

February: 4th – 10th

(Steam & Vintage Fair, 11-12th)

March: 3rd – 9th

April: 14th – 20th

Also slated for this working bee are repairs and replacement of some of the points timbers for the two sets of points nearest the station platform.

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 no doubt be very pleased to hear from you.

Fettler Accommodation

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.

In the not too distant future, the Men’s Shed will be in a position to offer accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. This generous offer will greatly assist OTHR during future working bees. We extend our thanks to all the Men’s Shed team for this support.

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. In particular, assistance is urgently requested for the Steam & Vintage Fair weekend.

***** MEMBERSHIP REMINDER *****

Members are reminded that the March meeting will be our AGM and, once more, fees become due – but they haven't changed! No need to fill in a form if you are renewing – just post us a cheque (\$15.00) and include your up to date contact details (phone, email, etc) please. Also, it is easy to pay via our website – using paypal, direct bank transfer or credit card. We value your membership, so please continue to support our heritage rail project – come along to the AGM and have your say. Tell us what you like about OTHR and where we could improve our services to members.

Around the Traps...

A heritage plaque with photo and text featuring the opening of the Oberon Branch Line will shortly be mounted on the wall of the station. A ceremonial unveiling may take place if time permits before the Steam & Vintage Fair.

The approval to move our locos up to the station on the main line is imminent – the documentation has passed all but one hurdle at ITSRR. Our thanks to Systems Manager Ian Davis for his persistence and perseverance in this regard.

An official track inspection has taken place of the Oberon Station yard and, with some minor issues (to be rectified during the coming working bee), the results were satisfactory. All our hard working fettlers and particularly our indefatigable Track Manager deserve our congratulations. Well done guys!

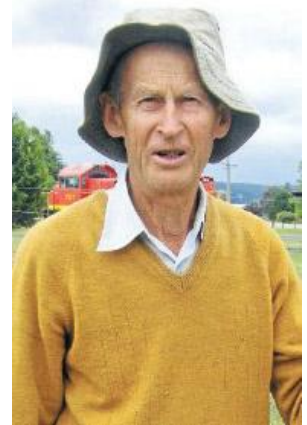
The last of our two carriages from “The Great Gatsby” set at White Bay has now been returned to Oberon station. Once again Mario and Nora Mencigar from Australian Train Movers were involved in this transport epic. At the Oberon end a little help from one of Shane Moorhead’s “toys” was required. Both carriages are now on the main line next to the station and are readily accessible for inspection by the many visitors expected on the Steam & Vintage Fair weekend. They have benefitted from a coat of paint on the exterior and some other improvements while they have been away, but there are still a few little things to “rectify”.

Peter and his small but dedicated team of fettlers have recently installed a new buffer stop (complete with red lamp) at the end of the main line near Scotia Avenue. This is an essential safety requirement to enable out heritage trains to operate on the line. A very smart and workmanlike job



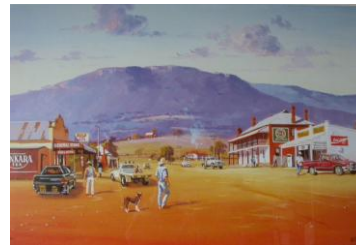
Barry Webb... Congratulations!!

Valued OTHR member Barry Webb, has been recognised as Oberon Citizen of the Year for 2012 at the recent Australia Day ceremonies. Many OTHR members will know of Barry’s work in and around the station precinct – tending the gardens, mowing the lawns and looking after the cattle yards. Some highly



colourful results of Barry’s efforts can now be seen in the profusion of flowers around the old stock yards and in front of the OTHR supporters sign at the station. We wish Barry all the best and offer our hearty congratulations... well deserved!!

Upcoming Raffle Prize



This very handsome numbered print by W. O’Shea shown here will be offered as a raffle prize during the weekend of the Steam & Vintage Fair. For this we have to thank Roger

Arrow who donated the print and Bill & Mary Long who kindly did the framing for us. The print is entitled “The Boys from the Bush”. Be sure to get your raffle tickets at the station on the Fair weekend.

Vale Keith Jones

We were all greatly saddened to learn of the recent passing of OTHR member Keith Jones (aged 85). Keith was involved in many activities including trackwork, distributing this Newsletter to Oberon locals and manning the OTHR stand at the Mt Victoria Great Train Weekend. Keith was also responsible for making our raffle sellers desk, which is still in use at the present time. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Pat from all his OTHR friends and colleagues.

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 Check out the events calendar on our website.

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