



February 2014
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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Saturday, Feb 8th saw another successful Open Day for OTHR in conjunction with the OHCC Annual Steamfest. A steady stream of visitors throughout most of the day enjoyed inspecting our heritage carriages, 73 Class diesel locos and the museum displays. In the morning session, coffee and cakes were available on the platform, courtesy of Leanne Barlow of Oberon Pies and Cakes.

Considerable interest was shown in our museum display room (the old parcels room) and the range of souvenirs available for sale.

Official Shed Opening

A firm date has been set for the official opening of the rolling stock shed. Put Saturday, 1st March in your diaries now. See details in the flyer reproduced below. Our Patron, Paul Toole will be attending as well as Oberon Mayor, John McMahon. A ribbon cutting will take place and it is expected that newspaper and TV reporters will be on hand. This is the first major railway infrastructure to be built at Oberon since 1944, when the Public Works siding was installed to assist work on Oberon Dam. This will definitely be a red letter day in the OTHR calendar.

All our hard-working volunteers, guided by Track Manager Peter Culley and Assistant Track Manager Ian Davis, can be justly proud of their achievements. This has been an enormous effort by all concerned and OTHR is fortunate to have such talented and willing members.

Working Bee News

At the February meeting we were dismayed to learn of the resignation of long-serving Track Manager Peter Culley. Peter has been a tower of strength at our working bees for a good many years. More on Peter's career as Track Manager next issue.

In the interim the committee will be considering how to manage working bees in the future, with the view to making them more task oriented.

As has been mentioned here before, the current year will see OTHR embarking on several major projects, which will involve specific skills and equipment. These include the prefabrication of the rail for the two level crossings – Albion St and Lowes Mt Rd. The construction and installation of two sets of points and the new roads into the rolling stock shed will also involve several task oriented working bees.

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

How best to implement these project goals will be the subject of deliberation at the next committee meeting.

**OFFICIAL
OPENING**
1 March
11:30am

NEW ROLLING STOCK SHED
built by volunteers from

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway
to be officially opened by our
Patron, Paul Toole MP, Member for Bathurst
in the presence of **The Mayor of Oberon,**
John McMahon

Xmas BBQ

The OTHR Christmas party and BBQ took place in the new rolling stock shed on the Saturday evening of 14th December, at the end of the working bee day. This event was attended by a small but enthusiastic crowd of OTHR members who enjoyed a very pleasant evening surrounded by our heritage carriages and the Oberon 150th displays. Peter Culley excelled as master of the new gas BBQ and everyone enjoyed the steaks and snags that resulted. Some railway “shop talk “ was even heard around the tables as the wining and dining proceeded into the evening.



The Bush Telegraph

The heavy rail for the level crossings has (at last!) been delivered by John Holland Rail to the Oberon station yard. Oberon council covered the cost of transport. Thanks to all those involved.

This rail is earmarked for the Lowes Mount Rd level crossing and prefabrication of this crossing is expected to start shortly. This will be one of the major tasks for the OTHR fettler team during 2014.

The new flushing toilet at the station is now operational, with a few minor finishing touches to be completed. The interior has been tiled and painted in a style to match the period.

The final “Certificate of Occupation” for the completed rolling stock shed has now been obtained, following the testing of the fire hoses.

The container tool store has been relocated next to the rolling stock shed and has had a roof placed over it which is connected to the rolling stock shed. The container has also had a coat of spray paint to nicely match the rolling stock shed colour.

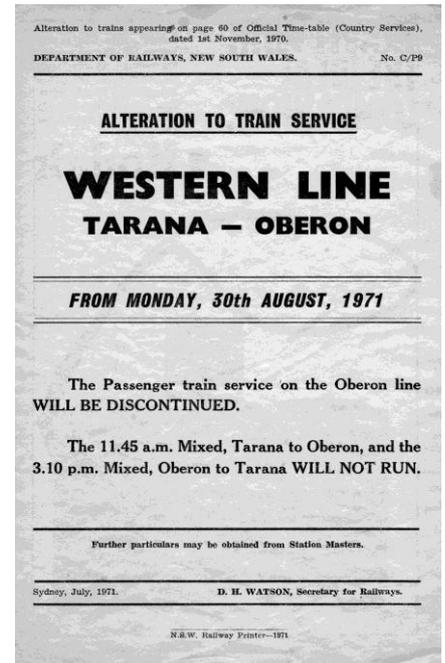
The tour notes for the self-drive road tour of the Oberon Branch Line have been updated and re-written. They proved very popular at the steamfest weekend. They will shortly be available on our website and at the Oberon Visitors Centre.

Historic Find

Enthusiastic OTHR member Paul McDonald has managed to find the original newspaper cutting with the announcement of the suspension of services on the Oberon Line. This unique item has been generously donated to the OTHR archives by Paul and he is warmly thanked for his efforts.

It is interesting to note the huge understatement in the wording “Alteration to Train Service”.

After this date, freight services continued until 1979.



Christmas Raffle Winners

This year’s OTHR Christmas Raffle was drawn on 21st December by Barbara Coleman of Savanna Café, Oberon. The three lucky winners were:- 1st Prize, Roger Turner; 2nd Prize, Jenny Rodgers; 3rd Prize, Maree Arrow. The winning tickets were drawn from a bag held by OTHR Treasurer Marjorie Webb in the presence of interested Savanna Café staff members.



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/>

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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.