



February 2010 Newsletter

PO Box 299, Oberon 2787

www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway

Secretary: phone: 6336 1211

email: conners@activ8.net.au

****April monthly meeting - Wednesday, 7th at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.**

**** March working bee: 20th - 27th incl.**

Welcome to the February newsletter which has been held over so that the results of the AGM held on the 3rd of March could be included. A large number of members were in attendance, including members from Sydney and Bathurst.

The following members were elected as Office Bearers of the Committee of Management for 2010:

- *President* *Shane Moorhead*
- *Vice President* *Tim Arnison*
- *Secretary/Public Officer* *Margaret Connors*
- *Treasurer* *Marjorie Webb*

Members who were elected as ordinary members of the Committee to take up the listed duties are:

- *Catering Manager* *Lynette Ireland*
- *Finance Manager* *Graham Parker*
- *Rolling Stock/
Infrastructure Manager* *Harry Cole*
- *Special Projects* *Bill Muldoon*
- *Systems Manager* *Rick Fletcher*
- *Track Manager* *Peter Culley*

Two other members will fill important roles in OTHR. Lyndle Hawkes will take up the position of Minutes Secretary and Col Bembrick has accepted the busy role of Publicity Officer. The meeting congratulated all the members who have agreed to steer OTHR through 2010.

Doug Booker continues his role as OTHR's official photographer. Doug's photographs have built up a wonderful historical record of our restoration work. Many thanks Doug for your dedicated work since 2007.

In his President's report, Shane thanked members for their hard work and highlighted OTHR's achievements in 2009. He also thanked the retiring Vice President, Bill Muldoon and the Publicity Officer, Bob Connors for their work on the Committee of Management. Shane then outlined the major tasks for OTHR in 2010. These include:

- Completing all track restoration work from the Oberon station area to Hazelgrove siding.
- Restoring the Hazelgrove siding area.
- Erecting a shed for rolling stock using the trusses from Eveleigh.
- Finalising the acquisition of the CPH railmotor and making it serviceable.
- Transporting rolling stock to Oberon to run on the line or as a static display.

It is going to be a very busy year but we have the team to complete the tasks above and get a train running as soon as possible. Today we received enquiries from a Sydney heritage tours operator who is keen to arrange

bus trips to experience the heritage offerings of the Oberon district, and in particular our railway.

Annual Memberships are now due

Membership fees for 2010 are now due. Fees had not risen since OTHR was first established in 2005 and the Committee of Management decided that it was appropriate to raise them to \$15 per member. OTHR is now facing increasing costs as it completes Phase 1 of the track restoration and takes control of heritage rolling stock. Family memberships have now been abolished because of confusion about voting rights under our Articles of Association.

Please complete the enclosed membership form or download it from our website and send it with your payment to our Treasurer at the address above. Alternatively, you can arrange to pay your fees by direct bank transfer (see details on form). **Remember to forward the completed membership form** so that we can keep our database up to date as we find that many people change their address details during the year.

Membership News

Our organisation continues to grow and is the largest volunteer community group in Oberon. We welcome Ted Gray (Bathurst), Ian Forsyth (O'Connell), Sonia Cattley (Katoomba), Greg Standen (Bathurst), Colin Jarrett (Emu Heights), Nathan Murphy (Lawson), Rod Campbell (Lane Cove), John Currey (Werris Creek), Hugh Morris (Crows Nest), Ivan Ploskonka (Concord West), Bernice & Wayne Keft (Oberon), Scott McGregor (Possum Creek) and Greg Young (Yagoona). It is pleasing to see the wide range of experiences and skills you bring to OTHR. As always, you are invited to join our working bees and social activities or just come to Oberon Station and admire our progress.



This year's Easter Raffle has 3 stunning prizes!

First prize is donated by our members Melissa and Ian Burgess and is valued at \$2,000. It consists of 7 nights' free accommodation at the luxurious Byron Retreat, Byron Bay— see www.byronretreat.com.au for more details of this stunning location.

Second prize, donated by members John and Katrina Mellon, is a \$100 gift voucher from Birkenstock by Nature footwear stores at Mona Vale or Neutral Bay. The **third prize** is an Easter hamper loaded with traditional goodies. Tickets are \$2 each and the raffle will be drawn on Easter Saturday, 3rd April.

***Contact our secretary to get your books of 5 tickets.**

A big thank you from OTHR for their generosity goes to our prize donors and to Kathy & Chris Segaert of Permanent Press Printers for donating the raffle tickets.

March Working Bee: 20th to 27th

During the February working bee we concentrated on cleaning up the station precinct for our open days on 20th and 21st February. At the March working bee we will be working back on the track as we still have 300 metres of track outside the station precinct to be restored. Our fettleers are keen to complete this work so the 3 major level crossings can be installed.

If you can help at the working bee, even for one hour, please phone Track Manager, Peter Culley on 6336 0228 or 0427 042 448 by Thursday, 18th March. Peter will now be looking after accommodation needs for our workers as Bob Conners, the previous booking officer, has retired. Free accommodation for out-of-town members is still being generously donated by the Big Trout Motel and the Titania Motel. Please let Peter know as soon as possible if you require accommodation.

Duties of workers at OTHR worksites

At its February meeting the Committee of Management discussed and confirmed the revised role descriptions and duties of all managers and workers who participate in OTHR's work activities. The Committee considers it important that all future employees, contractors as well as volunteer safety workers are aware of their responsibilities and duties to maintain a healthy and safe work environment. Workers need to:

- Comply with OTHR's SMS provisions and related standards and procedures.
- Implement OTHR's risk management policies and procedures.
- Perform allotted duties in accordance with OTHR's documented procedures.
- Report safety issues and suggestions for solutions in accordance with OTHR's reporting procedures. If unsure, report issues at Toolbox meetings or write, with your concerns directly to the Secretary.
- Participate constructively in the development and review of safety systems as required.

Working Bee Dates for 2010

March	20 th – 27 th
April:	17 th – 24 th
May:	15 th - 22 nd
June:	12 th – 19 th
July:	10 th – 17 th
August:	7 th - 14 th
September:	18 th – 25 th
October:	16 th – 23 rd
November:	13 th – 20 th
December:	TBA

Social Outings

By popular demand, these outings are on again and will take place on the last Saturday of working bees. Our

first outing for the year will be held on Saturday, 27th March when we will travel to the scenic Kanangra Boyd National Park for a barbecue. After lunch we will travel (about 10 minutes) to the magnificent Kanangra Walls. All members and friends are invited to join us.

Please note the following details

- Let Peter Culley know if you are coming (see phone numbers above).
- Meet at Oberon Station at 9.00 a.m.
- Bring your own barbecue food and drinks.
- We plan to return to Oberon by 5.00 p.m.

Successful Weekend on 19th – 21st Feb,

This was the weekend of the Oberon Show and the Highlands Steam and Vintage Fair and OTHR was involved in both events. We set up a stand and photographic exhibition in the Oberon showground pavilion illustrating the history of the track and the restoration work we have undertaken. Much interest was shown in our work by the Show visitors.

Thanks to the hard work of the OTHR volunteers at the February working bee, the station precincts were in pristine condition. Hundreds of visitors explored the Oberon railway station and viewed the S trucks, the Arnott's Biscuit Van and two trikes, including "Ross's Rocket" Wickham section car and machinery including the dog spike puller and trolleys. It was gratifying to witness the enthusiasm of the crowds as they relived the past and discussed future train operations with OTHR volunteers, or just relaxed on the platform with a cup of tea and cakes supplied by our catering team.



Large crowds

enjoyed the photographic displays in the station showing the branch line's history and the more recent restoration work undertaken in the past 4 years. Many complimentary comments were made about the rolling stock display with goods typical of those that were transported from Oberon before services were suspended - including wool bales, potatoes and pit props.

One of the highlights of the station exhibition was the model train display set up by the Georges River Model Railway Club. This brilliant display featured a 7m x 2m model of Tarana railway station with trains typical of the 1960's that ran on the lines. Our grateful thanks go to Greg Young and his team for the huge effort they put into setting up their display for OTHR and our visitors.

OTHR's website – don't forget to keep checking our popular website that our web manager, Rick Fletcher regularly updates with news and photos. Thank you Rick for all the work that goes into this task.