



## February 2009 Newsletter

PO Box 299, Oberon 2787

[www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway](http://www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway)

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*\*\*Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm  
at the Oberon RSL Club*

Autumn is gently making its presence felt as the deciduous trees are changing colour in Oberon. It is a delightful time of the year to visit this area so OTHR members who haven't visited this beautiful district are encouraged to do so in the next few months. There is always a friendly welcome for all our members who want to explore the line and assist with the restoration work that is taking place.

### February working bee report

Track Manager Peter Culley was pleased with the work achieved at our February working bee and was also happy with the increased attendance of volunteers every day. During the week all the remaining sleepers from our container base north to Peter Hanrahan's fence were dog spiked and gauged. Peter also used the excavator to replace all sleepers north to the summit. The grading of all our recently purchased sleepers was completed – many thanks to Peter for the late nights he put in to sort the “mountain” of sleepers.



*Ross Allen and Richard Webb sorting and bundling some of the thousands of sleepers OTHR purchased from ARTC. These sleepers were recently replaced by concrete sleepers on the main western line.*

The only setback that occurred during the week was when our air compressor had a major internal failure. However, there is now great news as one of our star mechanics, Tony Thackray has carried out all repairs and the compressor is operational for the March working bee. Well done and many thanks, Tony!

### Wooden Sleepers for Sale

OTHR has a limited number of wooden sleepers for sale at \$18 per sleeper. Sleepers are available for collection from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March. Contact Bill Muldoon on 6336 1438 for more information.

### Annual General Meeting Results

Twenty-six members attended OTHR's 2009 AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> March at the Oberon RSL Club. The following members were elected to the Committee of Management for 2009:

- ▣ **President:** Shane Moorhead
- ▣ **Vice President:** Bill Muldoon
- ▣ **Secretary/Public Officer:** Margaret Connors
- ▣ **Treasurer:** Marjorie Webb
- ▣ **Track Manager:** Peter Culley
- ▣ **Assistant Track Manager:** Tim Arnison
- ▣ **Publicity Officer:** Bob Connors
- ▣ **Special Projects Officer & Website Manager:** Rick Fletcher
- ▣ **Finance Co-ordinator:** Graham Parker

Congratulations to the newly elected Committee of Management members who will work hard to steer OTHR through an exciting but challenging 2009.

In his report to the meeting, the outgoing President, Bill Muldoon, outlined the group's significant achievements for the year, described the future challenges and paid tribute to all members for their outstanding support during the year. A number of retiring members from the Committee of Management did not seek re-election. OTHR sincerely thanks Matt McMahon for his untiring efforts since OTHR's inception in 2005 and also Committee members Ross Allen, Russell Merriman and Chris Stott for their invaluable work for OTHR. All have indicated their continued commitment to our organisation and we look forward to calling upon their wise counsel and expertise throughout 2009.

### Oberon Show and OTHR's Displays

OTHR had a strong presence at the Oberon Show on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February. A photographic display of the line's past history and our restoration progress was erected in the main pavilion. Many thanks to Glenda and Colin Bembrick, Doug Booker, Lynette Ireland, Lorraine Fielding and Margaret and Bob Connors for looking after the information stand. A number of visitors to our display became members of OTHR and others purchased sleepers in our Sleeper Club.

Down in the ring OTHR's restored Wickham Section Car was on display, sitting resplendent on rails and sleepers on the tray of Tony Thackray's 1968 3-ton Austin truck. Many thanks to Ross Allen for organising this exhibit and to his assistants Charles Hazlewood, Harry Shannon, Arthur Robinson and Tony Thackray. Both displays created a lot of interest among the show's visitors.

## OTHR's youngest member

Congratulations to Megan and Matt McMahon on the birth on 7<sup>th</sup> March of Sophie Grace, a sister for Katie. All the family are progressing well and we look forward to meeting Sophie out on the line.

## March working bee plans

The March working bee is being held from Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March inclusive and our track managers have organised the gauging and spiking of all sleepers to the summit. What a great achievement it will be when we have completed this section. After our work is finished in this area we will move closer to Oberon and replace all unsuitable sleepers.

### Enjoy a walk from Hazelgrove siding to Carlwood- Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am

On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March there will be no working bee conducted on the line. Track Manager Peter Culley will lead a walk down the most spectacular section of the line from Hazelgrove to Carlwood. Please bring your friends and your own food and drinks so that you can enjoy a picnic lunch at the old Carlwood siding.

The route is all down hill and takes visitors through interesting forested areas and then open farmlands as the track crosses the Snakes Valley Creek via the trestle bridge which is shown on our logo. Walkers will leave the Hazelgrove siding at 9.30 a.m. and should wear suitable clothes and shoes for the trip. Contact Peter on 0427 042 448 if you can attend or would like more information.



*OTHR members undertaking their walk north from Hazelgrove siding in May 2008.*

*They enjoyed discovering some interesting rail artefacts lying along the line and cleaned up small shrubs that had grown up between the sleepers.*

## Welcome to new members

OTHR continues to increase its membership. We welcome the following new members, thank them for their support and hope they can assist us with our exciting project during the year- Kevin Brown (Blacktown), John Donohoe (Chester Hill), Stanley Gillett (Elizabeth Bay), Maureen and David Heap (Armidale), Ann Warnes (Hazelbrook), Rodney Cherrey (Hazelbrook) and Bob and Helen Slattery (Oberon).

## Restoration at the trucking yards

OTHR member Barry Webb is certainly the quiet achiever in our group. Barry has taken it upon himself to keep the trucking yards and environs in pristine condition. Not only has Barry cleaned up the yards, but he has now removed piles of soil and rubbish in the area and made great progress in cleaning the double line behind the yards. OTHR is deeply indebted to Barry for his support and determination to ensure the line is operating again.

## Do you have any fundraising ideas?

OTHR's Budget Committee has met to prepare the budgets for 2009/10 and we have planned to raise funds through wood raffles, mid-year and Christmas raffles, the Central Tablelands Annual Clearance Sale and sleeper sales. We are investigating conducting a social night to raise much-needed funds and we will be applying for any appropriate grants that might become available. With so much of the track completed to Hazelgrove we are now in a position to seek sponsorships and sell OTHR memorabilia. We need members who have marketing expertise to help establish our merchandise sales of items such as caps, T-shirts, jackets, badges and toy trains.

If you can help us with merchandise and marketing or you have fund raising ideas, no matter how big or small, please contact our secretary, Margaret Conners on 6336 1211. This year OTHR requires large-scale fund raising but times will be difficult so we need all the creative ideas we can get.

## April working bee: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April

Remember there is free accommodation for our out-of-town workers at the Big Trout Motel. Many thanks again to the McGrath family for their great support.

## Time to renew your membership

Your 2009 memberships are now due. The fees remain the same as for 2008 and are \$20 per family and \$10 for individuals, concession card holders and students. Please help us by signing up new members to OTHR. The 2009 membership form accompanies this newsletter so please complete the details and send it with your fee payment and donations to: The Treasurer, OTHR, PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787.

The strength of OTHR lies in its active membership, so the larger our membership, the greater our lobbying power. *Note:* No 2009 fees are due from members who joined OTHR in the last 4 months.

### **Dates to Remember**

- ☞ Next general meeting: 7.30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> April
- ☞ April working bee: Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April
- ☞ May working bee: Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May
- ☞ June working bee: Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June