



January 2012 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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We extend warm wishes to all OTHR members and friends for a Happy New Year – and remember, you still have the Xmas Party to look forward to...!! – postponed because of flooding at the Turon Technology Museum.

The coming year promises to be a memorable one for OTHR and our Heritage Rail project. We confidently expect to see the Albion St and Lowes Mount Rd level crossings completed, enabling our heritage train to proceed as far as Hazelgrove – but perhaps not in time for the upcoming Steam & Vintage Fair - (see below). The other big project we should see completed is the large rolling stock shed within the station precinct. This will provide much needed shelter from the elements for our collection of heritage rolling stock.

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 1st February
(Committee Meeting: 18th Jan)

The other major task we should see completed this year is the retrieval of rail and points from the Coolah area. These will be utilised in making three “roads” into the rolling stock shed.

Steam & Vintage Fair

Remember 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 already well underway. Volunteers will be called for at the February meeting and all available members are encouraged to participate. This will be a big event and OTHR will have the locos and vintage carriages on display, together with the restored S truck and much more!



SPECIAL PURPOSE WORKING BEE **February Working Bee:**

As previously reported, the November working bee had a special focus and was very successful, resulting in the construction of the prefabricated section of the line to go into the level crossing at Albion St. We are now in the hands of the Council who are in the process of deciding the exact method of placement of the rails into the level crossing roadway.

Similarly, the December working bee saw the construction of a major buffer stop at the town end of the main line. This long-awaited item is a significant step in the preparation of the station precinct for running our heritage trains.

Working Bee Dates for 2011/12

February: 4th – 10th
(Steam & Vintage Fair, 11-12th)
March: 3rd – 9th
April: 14th – 20th

For 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 work on the rolling stock shed foundations. Work on tidying up around the station and in the heritage carriages will be needed, especially if the second carriage returns from Sydney by that time.

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 Needed!

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.

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.

Taieri Gorge Railway

From time to time, peripatetic members of OTHR travel on heritage railways in the far-flung reaches of the globe. As and when space permits, we would like to share some of these journeys with you. This is a brief glimpse of the Taieri Gorge Heritage Railway in the



South Island of New Zealand, where Col & Glenda Bembrick were on a tour in May, 2010. The rail tour starts from the main central station in Dunedin and winds its way 58km up into the hills via a very spectacular gorge- which was in flood when we were there! The train is hauled by a small diesel not unlike OTHR locos. These locos are smaller than the main line locos so as to fit into the tunnels. Some of the carriages are restored heritage style, end-platform units while others are more modern with skylight windows to view the scenery – much of which is above you on the journey!

The train had a snack bar and souvenir shop on board which did a roaring trade throughout the journey. Our trip was particularly memorable as it took over four hours for the return journey from Pukerangi (normally two) due to land slips covering the line.



The track crew worked in atrocious conditions with picks, shovels and a small front end loader to clear the line of debris. What with the raging torrent of a river in the gorge, the tremendous waterfalls, the tunnels and huge wrought iron viaducts, the trip was extremely scenic. Well worth putting on your “to do” list. Send in your favourite heritage rail trip reminiscences and photos to share with members via the Newsletter.

Around the Traps...

The station we have yet to build at Hazelgrove. Note the timber “platform” next to the line.



An old photo of Hazelgrove station (circa 1956)

A heritage plaque featuring the opening of the Oberon Branch Line has now been made for the Oberon Station. This will shortly be delivered and mounted on the wall of the station. A ceremonial unveiling may take place if time permits before the Steam & Vintage Fair.

Xmas Hamper Raffle Winner

The happy winner of the huge Xmas hamper was Oberon resident Mavis Butcher. Congratulations to the winner and our band of enthusiastic ticket sellers.

Rolling Stock Shed Update

This is how the site for the large rolling stock shed looked in late November – after the levelling and compacting process. The piers for the foundations are about to go in. We will keep you up to date with progress photos as the work proceeds during 2012 – Watch This Space!.



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.

Contacts: Secretary, Kylie: Ph 02 6336 0207

Email: admin@other.com.au

Newsletter Editor, Col: taranaob@activ8.net.au

NB: Please send material for the Newsletter to Col at... taranaob@activ8.net.au Please put *OTHR Newsletter* in the subject line – so your e-mail will not be deleted!