

The big news coming out of OTHR this month is our fundraising platform, "GoFundMe".

Your committee is very keen to push Stage One, Oberon to Hazelgrove, over the finish line. Your committee has, in recent times, produced a Business Plan.

From that Plan they have worked out a time frame of approximately two years to get the Stage One up and running but need to raise funds to make it happen. The time period will run from the date all funds have been raised.

Whilst OTHR has spent about \$2.5M in cash and kind on the project so far, the committee estimates it needs another \$600K to complete Stage One to turnkey, i.e. have a train running on the track.

Unfortunately the project is not self-funding at this point and OTHR needs a constant flow of funds to keep the project moving forward.

That's why they are turning to you, one of 240 members, to do something. What they are asking of our members is that you "kick the can" just a little or alternatively pass our GoFundMe link throughout your network of rail enthusiast friends. The word must get out and you can help us!

To date they have had some wonderful support and surprisingly the most generous support has come from the general public. Many of our members are also helping out in a most generous way, most particularly since they are retired or pensioners by and large.

Simply being a member and wishing and hoping the train will run doesn't help. OTHR has a loyal band of volunteers who devote a few days every month to construction activities and their progress has been astonishing in recent months.

If you are getting the idea that your committee is putting out the hard word, then you are correct. Seeing your vision and dream come true really depends on you.

Do visit OTHR's GoFundMe platform at the following link:

<https://www.gofund.me/2mhftk44>

and follow our funding progress.



Your committee is also exploring other sources of funding including donations or sponsorships from larger companies and State and Federal grants.

Next Meeting
General Meeting
3rd August 2016
7.30PM

Know Tim Arnison.

Tim Arnison is your President. Tim is a retired farmer/grazier with a passion for railways; in particular Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway. His job is to wade through the reams of paper and red tape and some -how make it all work. His job is not easy and largely thankless. He is ably assisted by his Committee in the day to day tasks that confront an organisation such as OTHR.

Tim is available to lend an ear to every member and is a wise council to all.

Your President is the pillar of your association and without his leadership OTHR would cease to exist.

LET IT SNOW.....

The historic Oberon Station precinct has experienced a recent heavy fall of snow transforming it into a delightful fairy vista. It's been a while since we last saw you in Oberon, so why not take advantage of our chilly season; come and see the progress made in the station yard. We have many eager elves available to show you around. Afterwards sit back and enjoy a warm beverage and hearty meal at one of Oberon's many dining establishments. At this time of year, Oberon is truly a winter wonderland. Don't miss it!



Vale Brian Dunnett

Many of you would probably have known or heard of Brian Dunnett. Brian had worked on Redfern and Waterloo heritage issues and had made a huge contribution to the protection of the former Everleigh Railway workshops. He will be forever remembered for his contribution to the protection and memory of the Everleigh site.

OTHR Business Plan

For some months you have probably become aware of the OTHR Business Plan and you have probably been wondering what your committee is on about. The Business Plan is now one of the most important documents we have. It outlines our past, our present and more importantly our future. It's a means of documenting our vision and how that vision will be implemented. It

isn't a blow by blow description on how we are to do things or construct things but rather an overview of the future. The document is a plan on what is needed to reach our goal of ultimately refurbishing the Oberon to Tarana railway branch line; to see trains running as part of a major tourism attraction for Oberon and the State of New South Wales. It contains an estimate of likely start - up costs for the Oberon to Hazelgrove section of our project.

It's an important document for OTHR in its dealings with Federal and State Governments in seeking grants and with business in seeking donations and sponsorships. It indicates to everybody that OTHR is a professional organisation with a plan for the future. Already, as a result of having that plan, OTHR sees the need to ramp up our fund raising efforts, hence the establishment of the GoFundMe platform and the direct plea to all of you to make a small financial contribution and to spread the word of the funding effort. Likewise it has identified our estimated start-up costs so we can now approach various Governments and businesses with much more accurate costings for grants, donations and sponsorships. The plan also sets time frames to complete the project. It also proves to various Government and local authorities that we are aware of such things as environmental issues and act accordingly.

Next Working Bee
Saturday, August 6th
to
Wednesday, August 10th

Working Bee News

OTHR's next regular monthly working bee is scheduled for Saturday, August 6th to Wednesday, August 10th 2016. According to Track Manager, Graham Williams, there are plenty of tasks to be mastered. Currently he is concentrating on the Oberon Station precinct.

This is another area where you as a member can help out. There is a job for everyone and you don't need to be Hercules to participate. Graham's working bees are general fun and he ensures you only work at your pace. A nourishing feed is provided and there are regular cuppa stops. For those of you who might be contemplating a trip to Oberon to participate, in need, the local Men's Shed will provide shelter and the local caravan park provides a shower. You provide the rest. Give Graham a bell if you can attend, even for a few hours. He can be contacted on 0422 596 438.

OTHR could always do with some more volunteers.

General Meeting

OTHR's regular general meetings have had a change.

In an effort to make them more interesting, they have changed the format to bi – monthly, with the next meeting being Wednesday 3rd August at Oberon RSL, Dudley Street Oberon.

Your committee plans to spice the meetings up in future with less formality and more of what interests you members. That could include guest speakers, films, technical talk and so on. If you have any ideas please pass them on to the Secretary. The ideas need not necessarily relate to railways but could include interesting yarns about Oberon or any aspect of your life that would be of interest to fellow members. Our Secretary, Elaine, would be very happy to hear from you.



Left to right: Peter Culley, Col Bembrick and Charles Hazelwood

Membership Renewals due now!

Annual membership renewal is due now. For 2016 the membership fee is \$20.00. Your fees contribute to the smooth administration of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. and an early renewal would be appreciated.

What's this thing called luv?



Officially known as an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) it was used as a track inspection vehicle or a people mover during track maintenance. In emergency situations it was equipped to carry stretchers. The vehicle is battery powered.

The photo was when snow was glistenin'...a beautiful site... when we're walkin' in our winter wonderland.