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July 2011 Newsletter

*August monthly meeting - Wed 3rd
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the July newsletter. Members and Conservation Volunteers have been particularly active over the last month – both at Oberon Station and farther afield at Coolah. These stories and more are outlined in this issue of the OTHR Newsletter.

Oberon Snows....



June 21st saw the Central West of NSW under a blanket of snow. Oberon did not escape as these photos by Peter Culley show. This view of the Oberon station yard is from the south, looking to the north in the direction of the up main. Luckily, this was not a working bee week.

The (almost) completely restored S truck now sits on the run-around loop, while the rake of goods wagons can be seen on the goods siding, next to the 5 ton crane. The newly restored and installed points indicator can be seen just to the left of the S truck, between the run-around and the up main.

The points in the foreground lead off to the south to the "Public Works" siding – which was built in 1944 to receive goods traffic during the construction of the Oberon Dam on the Fish River. This is the siding where our two diesel locos are currently stabled - in the photo below you can see loco 7321 shivering.....



July Working Bee: 9th to 16th

The July working bee will be underway as you receive this newsletter. Although the days are cold, there is always a warm fire in the lunchroom at the station.

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 be pleased to hear from you.

Working Bee Dates for 2011

July:	9th – 16th
August:	6th – 13th
September:	3rd – 10th
October:	1st – 8th
November:	12th – 19th
December:	10th – 17th

Remember, even one day spent on the workbee helps. There has been quite a lot happening at the station over the last few working bees – so if you haven't been along for a while, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Workbee Catering

Any OTHR member who can assist with catering for our hungry fettlers of the working bee crew is asked to contact Secretary Kylie on 6336 0207 prior to the working bee. Any edible donations will be greatly appreciated and these will help OTHR conserve some of our precious funds.

Workbee Accommodation Needed!

Some local OTHR members have volunteered their spare accommodation for out of town members during workbee times. Would members who are able to billet workers during the working bee periods 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 a volunteer requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie and let him know in plenty of time.

Next Meeting Brainstorming

The next ordinary meeting in August will feature a brainstorming session to generate and finalise fundraising ideas and methods needed to get us to the stage of running tourist trains by the end of the year (or very shortly afterwards). The OTHR Management Committee has already held one planning meeting at the station recently, so the groundwork for upcoming developments has been laid. Your input and constructive comments are eagerly sought so please make a special effort to attend this meeting – even if it's snowing!

S Truck Work Nears Completion

As you already know, the group of five enthusiasts from Conservation Volunteers Australia has been hard at work for many weeks restoring S truck 14201 - one of the better condition S trucks we have at Oberon Station. These volunteers roll up on Wednesday and Friday to work on the project, and are being ably supervised by OTHR Track Manager Peter Culley.

The wagon has been completely stripped down, photographed and all parts catalogued and measured up for replacement where necessary. The steel framework and underbody of the truck has been sandblasted and epoxy painted in traditional black – a bit like Henry Ford's T-models.

The photo below shows the current state of progress in re-assembling the wagon. The steelwork is almost all replaced and the new timbers for the doors are about to be delivered. Behind the S Truck can be seen the louvered van and the cattle wagon, which will undergo restoration in due course – probably when we get the rolling stock shed erected and we have covered work space available. Keep watching this space for more progress photos as the project continues.



Around the Traps

As you may know, the sleeper timbers for the level crossings are now stored in the Oberon Council yard and the rail is being sourced from the Lithgow area. Delivery is expected by the Friday of the current working bee.

The plan is for OTHR fitters to pre-assemble the track for the crossings and for the Council to assist OTHR with the installation and associated roadwork. Much hard work and planning lies ahead before all this comes to fruition.

Wood Raffles

Recent wood raffle winners were David McMurray of Steam and Vintage Fair fame and Sam Lord of the Green Fox second-hand shop. Our congratulations to these lucky winners. Also, heartfelt thanks to our team of willing volunteers for braving the icy streets of Oberon to sell tickets.

Coolah Excursion



At the beginning of the June working bee, Track Manager Peter Culley and a group of nine OTHR fitters made a lightning trip to Coolah and Leadville to inspect rail and points that have been made available to OTHR by ARTC.

At Leadville there were 500m of line and two nice sets of points – all in good condition. The Coolah rail yard site near the grain silos yielded several sets of both right and left points as well as a good length of rail suitable for salvaging. The acquisition of these perway items will enable us to construct the three roads into the large rolling stock shed which will soon be built in the NW corner of the Oberon station precinct. We may also be able to use some of these points for the Hazelgrove run-around, which we have to restore during the re-development of the Hazelgrove station precinct.

The word from the team is that the retrieval of these items poses no major problems once transport has been arranged. The photo above shows President Tim Arnison inspecting a set of points. A frame with two points levers can be seen in the background. The team reports that the long day of travelling and inspection was made much more bearable by the excellent lunch enjoyed at the Coolah hotel.

A Reminder....

The minutes of the Ordinary General meetings are now available on our website – thanks to the efforts of Secretary, Kylie, and Minutes Secretary Lyndle. Go to the “About” tag and go to “Meetings” on the drop-down menu. They will be posted one week after the meeting.

Additions to OTHR's website –

Our website continues to evolve as more features are added. The site now has more historic documents, as well as photos of recent events – such as the Oberon snows! If you have not visited for a while, please check it out. <http://othr.com.au> Also, you can now find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc

NB: Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in 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!