



## June 2011 Newsletter

PO Box 299, Oberon 2787

<http://othr.com.au>

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*July monthly meeting - Wed 6th  
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the June newsletter. Members are once again reminded that annual fees are now due – this will unfortunately be the last newsletter for those that have not renewed their subscription. Please don't miss out – we value your contributions. The membership fees are a bargain and remain at \$15 per person and may be paid by cheque, EFT or by credit card/PayPal via the website.

As the winter cold bites it is always more difficult to work up enthusiasm for attending a working bee. Be assured, your input is always valued and your efforts appreciated. We always need more participation in the working bees and Lynette Ireland has submitted this little poem which is particularly appropriate in this context. Our thanks to Lynette for bringing this little gem (author unknown) to light.

*Are you an Active Member?*

*Are you an Active Member?  
The kind that would be missed,  
or are you just content  
that your name is on the list?*

*Do you give a little time  
And help to make things tick,  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And whinge about the clique?*

*There's quite a programme scheduled  
Which means success if done,  
And this **can** be accomplished  
With the help of everyone.*

*So think it over members -  
Are you right or wrong?  
Are you an Active Member  
Or do you just belong?*

*from the Quarterly Magazine of the Garden Clubs of  
Australia, Feb.1994.*

### **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.

### **June Working Bee: 11th to 18th**

The June 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. This coming workbee will kick off with Peter and his team travelling to Coolah to inspect the sets of points on offer and see how to go about retrieving them.

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**

<b>June</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>July:</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>August:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>September:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>October:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>November:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>December:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup></b>

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.

### **Offsider Wanted**

Last newsletter we appealed for OTHR members keen to lend a hand by means other than swinging a pick, as our Systems Manager, Ian Davis, was looking for an assistant – he still is! Track Manager, Peter Culley, had more luck as new member Jesse Frith has volunteered to be Peter's offsider. Welcome aboard, Jesse. Meantime, Ian Davis would still like to hear from anyone interested in giving him a hand.

### **Appeal to Mystery Member!**

Would the member who deposited \$50 in the OTHR account by electronic transfer on 2<sup>nd</sup> May please make themselves known to our Secretary or Treasurer. Although this is a very fast and convenient way of doing your banking, we do need to know who you are for our accounting purposes. Please respond!

## Member Profile, Tim Arnison

Our new President, Tim Arnison was born in the UK in the small town of Penrith, on the main northern rail line to Scotland. Tim developed an early fascination for trains, particularly on the scenic branch line to Keswick, near Derwent Water in the heart of the Lakes District, just to the west of Penrith. Tim's childhood memories of steam trains and two-car diesels on local trips lay dormant for many years as he immigrated to Australia in 1970 and became involved for over 25 years in the engineering and construction business in Sydney. However, by moving to Oberon in 1998 with his wife, Sue, to set up a beef breeding herd Tim has returned to his rural roots. Little did he know that his early interest in trains would re-emerge to see him now deeply involved with a different branch line – in Australia!



## S Truck Conservation Progress

The group from Conservation Volunteers Australia have been hard at work restoring S truck 14201. This is 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, being ably supervised by OTHR Track Manager Peter Culley. The photo shows



the old wagon stripped down prior to being sandblasted in preparation for the repainting of the steel framework. Quotes for timbers compatible with the originals have been received and will shortly be on site. We now look forward to seeing the work develop. Keep watching this space for more progress photos as the project continues.

## Wood Raffles

With winter comes the wood raffle season and volunteers to sell tickets on the Oberon streets are needed. Ticket sellers are required on the following dates – June 18, July 2, 16, Aug 6, 20. Usually four people are required in two shifts to cover the time between 9 am and 12 Noon. Contact Marjorie Webb on 6337 5835 or [ganguddy@ix.net.au](mailto:ganguddy@ix.net.au) Previous volunteers have done a sterling job, with the last raffle raising over \$250. The lucky winner of the last wood raffle was Grace Sward of Oberon.

## Well Oiled Locos...

The two OTHR diesel locos have benefitted from a handsome donation from Gulf Western Oil. In spite of the name, this company is 100% Australian owned and manufactures this oil at their Penrith refinery. The value of these four drums of oil is almost \$3000 and we thank Ben Vicary, Managing Director of Gulf Western Oil, for his most generous support.



## Around the Traps ....

As you may know, the *Australian Railway History* magazine, the official bulletin of the Australian Railway Historical Society, is published monthly and is available on many news-stands – price \$7.50. If you've not seen the March issue (still available at Central Station bookshop) there is a good article there (with a cover page photo) on the Tarana station, with plenty of information on the Oberon Branch Line, with photos. The points and signal arrangements at Tarana for the Oberon line and goods sidings are well covered in the accompanying diagram. See if you can get yourself a copy – it's definitely worth the read.

## 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. If you have not visited for a while, please check it out. <http://othr.com.au>

**NB:** Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... [taranaob@activ8.net.au](mailto:taranaob@activ8.net.au) Please put *OTHR Newsletter* in the subject line – so your e-mail will not be deleted!