



# June 2013 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787  
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Well, the Oberon 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations are rapidly approaching – put Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July in your calendars. OTHR will have a display at the Showground and a float in the parade. A shop window display is also in preparation.

Meanwhile, meetings are underway with the Oberon council re the earthworks and drainage needed to restore the perway south of gate 6 and east of Lowes Mount Rd.

Members are reminded that “The Great Gatsby” film is now showing at the Bathurst cinemas. Our carriages feature for all of 15 or 20 seconds.

Next Tuesday at Oberon station Russel Merriman is starting the TMV training for any members interested in attending. Come along and improve your skills.

**Next Meeting**  
**Ordinary General Meeting**  
**7:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2013**

Our website and Facebook pages need updating regularly. Any member with the time and skills to undertake this task should contact Secretary Elaine.

## **Coolah Rail Retrieval**

As part of the **July working bee** a major excursion to Coolah and Leadville is planned – the dates are Wed 10<sup>th</sup> to Sun 14<sup>th</sup> July. Please contact Peter Culley if you can attend – at least 8 volunteers are required to make this exercise a success. OTHR has the funds to cover members travel and accommodation expenses at Coolah – the cabins at the local caravan park have been checked out by our team and come with their recommendations. Also, the local BP service station has been noted as a good eatery – right opposite the Coolah station site!

Initial efforts at unbolting fishplates and removing lengths of rail will commence at Leadville (on Wed 10<sup>th</sup>), some 30km south of Coolah. Two frames, two sets of points and some 45 lengths of rail will be salvaged here. As work progresses, the team will move on to Coolah where more points and rail will be lifted. It is expected that the salvaged rail and other items will be strapped and stacked by Sunday afternoon to be loaded by crane onto two trucks on the Monday morning. Most of the team should be able to wind up on the Sunday afternoon. OTHR is extremely grateful to Oberon Council in allowing us to borrow the excavator for this exercise. Thanks also to Richard Webb who has offered to transport it on his truck.

## **Upcoming Working Bees:**

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jun – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Jun

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jul – Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Jul

The next working bee will be concentrating on the construction of a float for the Oberon 150 year celebrations on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. A mock-up of a 73 class loco will be mounted on a vehicle and take part in the street parade. Come along and lend your carpentry skills to this novel task. It is also hoped to make a start on the trench to supply power to the rolling stock shed.

If you can attend this **June** working bee, please let our Track Manager, Peter Culley know as soon as possible – Peter’s contact details are – 0427 042448.

The upcoming **July working bee** will be extended to the Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> to enable the removal of rail from Coolah and Leadville – see details over the page – and the story of the initial trip to Tamworth, Coolah and Leadville.

## **Fettler Accommodation**

The Oberon Men’s Shed team is now offering accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. The only cost will be to join the Men’s Shed at an annual fee of \$10 – a bargain! Volunteers requiring accommodation over the working bee days should contact Laurie Evans (Ph 63361254) - co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

## **Working Bee Catering**

Members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Volunteers are required to assist with the catering - any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

## **Mystery photo of the Month**

Correctly identified by Russell Merriman as being housed at the Trainworks sheds, Thirlmere. He also informs us that this was the first loco across the Harbour Bridge, which led to its being selected for preservation.



## The Bush Telegraph

As previously mentioned cattle wagon (No. 17192) has now been moved to Warwick Armstrong's property where the timber superstructure will be rebuilt and refurbished. It is planned to sandblast the steel frame or chassis before that too is moved to Warwick's property to be married up to the rebuilt superstructure. As shown in the photo below, the timber superstructure needs some considerable work to bring it back to a respectable condition. This will no doubt be a long-term project, but will be well worth the wait.



## Tamworth

The weekend of 18/19 May saw a select team of OTHR members travel to Tamworth, Coolah and Leadville. The core team was Tim Arnison, Peter Culley and Arthur Robinson, meeting up with Wayne Dempsey in Tamworth on the Saturday. An American suburban carriage in a state of disrepair was inspected and numerous items chosen for salvage. The back of Tim's truck and a box trailer were laden down with goodies by the time they left Tamworth. Some of the retrieval team are featured in the photo.



## Rolling Stock Shed Activities

Plans are now well advanced to connect the rolling stock shed to mains power via a 200 metre trench to be dug northward from the station building to the new shed site. Also, the moving of our heritage carriages into the new shed is soon to be carried out under the auspices of RTM and we have provided them with our risk assessment for this purpose.

A number of our track maintenance vehicles (TMVs) are now safely housed in the rolling stock shed, rather than in the old "coal shed".

Some concreting of the shed surrounds remains to be completed during upcoming working bees.

## Coolah & Leadville

On the Sunday the team transferred to Coolah, where Graham Priddle joined and your editor, Col, caught up with them. Arthur, Peter, Tim and Graham can be seen in the photo below engaged in deep discussions re the merits of rail and points at Coolah. The only standing remains of Coolah station are behind the group. At this site some trial removals of several fishplates and rail lengths were undertaken with the help of some WD40 and a large spanner – much elbow grease being provided by Arthur.



On the Sunday afternoon the team moved on to the Leadville station site where more lengths of rail and points were examined, together with several frames – all found to be in good condition and readily accessible. This proved to be a relatively dry site where the rail had not been covered by grass and soil so the condition of the steel was much better than at Coolah.



**Membership reminder... Now Due!!** Our financial year now runs to 30<sup>th</sup> June, so your membership will shortly become due. The membership is still only \$15 per person – send your cheque to our Treasurer Marjorie at the address on the masthead. You can also easily pay online at our website.

Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can also easily find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc](http://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc) Check out the events calendar on our website, plus new historic photos.

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