



June 2016
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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Your Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes lately, with progress on a number of fronts. Our President, Tim Arnison has attended the Transport Heritage NSW conference in Sydney and found it very useful. Good contacts were made with fellow rail heritage operators and other interested groups.

Ian Davis has been continuing to develop our SMS documentation and a number of these have been upgraded and ratified by your Committee. These can now be found on our website.

Editor Col has also been supplying our website Manager Mike Lorimer, with further photos to upgrade various pages. The latest photos to go up document our public level crossings.

The major funding initiative organised by David McMurray is now yielding results – see story on p2.

Your Committee has decided to trial a change in the frequency of general meetings – Please note the date below of the *****NEXT MEETING!*****

Next Meeting
General Meeting
7:30pm, 3rd August, 2016

Publicity Officer Steps Down:

Your long-serving Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor is in need of a break. Col has produced the Newsletter (with a few exceptions) since March 2010, nearly 65 issues over 6 years. He is now stepping down from these positions as of the end of June. Consequently, this is *last Newsletter* from Col.

It has been a remarkable time, with many exciting and significant achievements by OTHR reported in these pages – just check out your back issues to see this!

The new Publicity Officer/Newsletter Editor has yet to be chosen, but I'm sure the wishes of all OTHR members will be for his or her success. Please give the new Editor all your support for the Newsletter – it is your valuable medium of communication.

Information and particularly photos are always welcome –work on the line, working bee successes, social events, visitors, tours, open days, local heritage happenings, etc.

Working Bee News

Graham Williams reports that he has been making an inspection/survey of the track between the Oberon yard and Hazelgrove. The Hazelgrove end is now very much overgrown and will need clearing in the immediate future. Graham has already made a start on this and requests some help from able bodied member who can put in a few hours during working bee times.

Our carriage expert, Wayne Dempsey, and Graham have been assisting Louise Krieger, the owner of the carriage now stored in the Oberon yard. This carriage is in surprisingly good condition inside and will eventually make a great addition to our display of heritage rolling stock. Lots of TLC needed – no great skills required!

Next Working Bee

Saturday, July 9th to

Wed, July 13th

If you would like to assist with these activities during the July working bee period – please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams, on 0422 596 438. Even a few hours assisting the team can make a big difference – step up and have a go. Your input is needed!

Loco training

A few of the members after starting the loco – Peter Culley, Col Bembrick and Charles Hazelwood – see story over page.



Funding Update

David McMurray reports....

Our fund raising programme is moving along quite nicely; a big thank you to our members and friends who have donated so far. This is a fantastic opportunity for all members who can't usually help out to really make a difference by making a donation via the "Gofundme" fund raiser. Remember these funds are being quarantined and will be used specifically for the various projects in our start up costs as outlined in OTHR business plan.

We have had plenty of publicity lately on ABC Central West radio, B_Rock radio, the Village Voice and the Oberon Review newspapers.

To make a donation simply google "Gofundme" and search "Oberon NSW" and follow the prompts. For those who do not have a computer we will gladly accept your donation via our postal address:
PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787.

The coverage in our local paper – the Oberon Review – can easily be found at:

<http://www.oberonreview.com.au/story/3929331/crowd-funding-to-keep-project-on-track/>

Membership Renewal Time.....!!!

Its that time of year again. As mentioned previously, the fee increase this year is largely due to the increased postal charges introduced by Australia Post at the beginning of this year. Even so, the annual fee of \$20 is still quite modest and represents extremely good value for all our members.

You may pay by sending a cheque to our Treasurer, John Brochie at the address on the masthead. Alternatively, you may pay by direct debit – please remember to include your name. The bank details are:- BSB 062 632 Account: 1004 9851. A membership form can be downloaded from our website.

Loco training

At Oberon station on Saturday, May 7th, 'trainees' Tim Arnison, Col Bembrick, Graham Williams and Charles Hazelwood were inducted into the 'mysteries' of starting the diesel hydraulic locos by instructor Peter Culley. As part of the care and maintenance programme for these locos, they are to be started and run at least once a month – usually on the first day of the working bee. To facilitate this, several OTHR members attended a training session to learn the procedure.

While the whole start-up sequence is fairly basic, there are quite a number of critical checks and preparations to be made beforehand. Oil and water checks of course, and also fuel priming, fuel levels and gearbox oil – all need to be checked and verified – we don't want to damage our precious locos!

Railmotor visit to Tarana



Tour guide John Tuckerman handing over a donation to OTHR President Tim Arnison.

At Tarana station on Wednesday, May 11th the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway members were on hand to welcome an [Insights Tours](#) group, travelling in railmotor set 721/621 belonging to the Rail Motor Society www.railmotorsociety.org.au from Paterson. Over 35 people on the tour made a stop at the Tarana Pub for a hearty lunch in a dining area heated by a blazing fire. The food and fire were much appreciated by all the travellers on a cold and windy day.

As the travellers sat down to dine, a presentation was made by Tim and Col to inform the gathering of the recent progress and future plans of the OTHR for the restoration of the 24km Oberon Line as a tourist railway. The new brochures were handed out as well as the latest copy of the Newsletter. A great deal of interest was generated and several questions were answered after the brief talk.

OTHR members Elaine, Tim and Glenda manned the stand which we had set up on the platform, with many historical photos of the Oberon Line and a large range of souvenirs on display. These proved to be of great interest to the tour group. Some old friendships were renewed on the platform, as this is the second time OTHR has hosted an Insights group. OTHR looks forward to increasing our collaboration with Insights and other tour companies in the future as we progress towards running tourist trains to Hazelgrove.

Station Roof Replacement

The orders have now been placed with the plumbers for the station roof replacement. The first stage of this work will involve the asbestos removal team. It is anticipated that things should start happening in few weeks – let's hope so, as we have been waiting for this to happen for a very long time!

Yard Plan

An updated plan of the Oberon station yard is now on the project books. Col Bembrick and Charles Hazelwood are undertaking this task. This will involve mapping the locations of all the new 'services' such as water and power and sewerage that have been installed over the last few years.

Also on the plan will be the accurate locations of the new 'roads' into the rolling stock shed. A start has been made on this project by obtaining some A3 printouts of a digital file showing the 1965 track layout to use as a working sheet.

Office in Rolling Stock Shed

The plans for an office in the rolling stock shed have now been submitted to Council, so approval is anticipated very shortly. Ian Davis is progressing this project at a considerable pace.

The construction of this office will free up the rooms in the station building which will eventually be restored and used to expand out heritage display area, which currently is housed in the old parcels room.

Steaming out of Bathurst

On Sunday, June 5th, Glenda and Col were fortunate in getting tickets for the steam shuttle out of Bathurst to Newbridge. This event was run by the Canberra Rail Museum, [Canberra Rail Museum - Google Search](#) and featured the huge Beyer-Garrett loco 6029.

There were four shuttles on both Sat and Sunday – about one hour out to Newbridge and return. The train had five carriages and they were packed. A very popular event – lots of families and kids.

Unfortunately, the weather was overcast and raining much of the time, but this did not stop hundreds of train enthusiasts following the train by car and photographing from every conceivable vantage point along the route.



Oberon Line Ordinary Train Staff

Some very interesting photos have come to light recently – for instance a photo of a highly original Oberon Tarana ordinary train staff that was used on the Oberon Branch Line.



We thank Steve Bucton in Victoria for permission to use this photo.



The City of Canberra at Bathurst Station

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Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website www.othr.com.au You can also now easily find us on Facebook at... www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc