



June 2009 Newsletter

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****July monthly meeting - Wednesday, 1st July at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.**

**** July working bee: 11th - 17th July**

Into the Station this month

At a meeting on the 11th June between representatives of OTHR, the Oberon Museum, ARTC and Oberon Council, an agreement was reached for OTHR to move into the station precincts on 15th July. OTHR and the Museum group will share the area with our group controlling the station buildings, platform, the car park and most of the area to the north of the station, including the original toilet block.

Extra accommodation on both sides of their large storage facility will be provided for the Museum group by ARTC. Come along to the Station on the 15th July to welcome us home.



The last freight train about to leave Oberon Station on 27th September 1979. Note the shed on the eastern side of the tracks is no longer standing. Photo courtesy of Dennis O'Brien.

June working bee

Volunteer attendance started off slowly but steadily increased with a healthy number of workers turning up as the working bee progressed. Track Manager, Peter Culley reported that a culvert was restored to its original pioneer condition and all sleeper replacement to Gate 6 outside Carter Holt Harvey timber complex has been completed. The line and all sleepers were removed from behind the trucking yards and the bed for the track was graded.

A big thank you to our-of-town workers Graham Williams, Stephen Bosanquet and Bob Wilson who made the trip to Oberon to give their time and effort to the project, OTHR is indebted to the Big Trout Motel for providing free accommodation to these workers. The McGrath family have been wonderful supporters of our restoration project.

Another wood raffle

Champion ticket sellers, Lorraine Fielding and Keith Jones held a successful wood raffle on Saturday, 13th

June. Thank you both for braving the cold weather in the main street in order to raise money for OTHR as well as raising OTHR's profile in the town. The lucky winner of the load of wood was Philippa Paige from Hazelgrove. OTHR is thrilled by the support it receives from the local community.

July working bee and social outing

The July working bee will start on Saturday, 11th July and end on Friday, 17th. During this time we will be working on the line outside the railway station as well as restoring the line behind the heritage-listed trucking yards. We will also be carrying out preparations for the 3 major level crossings that have to be installed.

On **Saturday, 18th July** there will be a visit and tour of the old Burruga mine site followed by a barbecue. Members are requested to bring their own food for the barbecue. Departure time for the excursion is 10.00 a.m. from outside Oberon Station. Please phone Peter Culley on 0427 042 448 if you will be coming.

OTHR's History Project

Our unique pioneer line that commenced operations in 1923 has a rich and exciting history. A project has begun that sets out to capture "Life on the Oberon to Tarana Line". It is planned to be a short history of the line that describes the everyday operations of the railway and the railway employees who worked on the line. The book will cover the goods carried such as vegetables, wool, animals as well as the pit props that were destined for the Broken Hill mines, and also the passenger services.

We have already gathered some fascinating information but would like to hear from anyone who:

- Sent produce or other goods on the train
- Travelled on the line as a school student
- Travelled on the line as an adult
- Worked on the line as a train driver, guard, fettle, station master or attendant (at Tarana or Oberon) or had some other connection with the line.

Perhaps you know of people who would fit into those categories above and you could put us in touch with them or their families.

The research team is looking for interesting stories and anecdotes that will help to bring the line alive. Interviews can be carried out over the telephone or by a personal visit if more convenient. If you can assist us or know of someone please contact the publicity officer, Bob Connors on 6336 1211.

Annual Central Tablelands Clearance Sale

Our annual clearance sale for 2009 will be held on **Saturday, 14th November** at the Oberon Showground. Put the date in your diary and contact the sale organiser Tim Arnison on 0428 250 402 for preliminary details. The sale last year was a big fundraiser for OTHR and promises to be even bigger this year. So start sorting out those items of machinery or furniture that you no longer need and would like to sell at the clearance sale.

Successful Trivia Night

It was a great fun night on the 12th June at Oberon Golf Club when OTHR held its first trivia night. The questions organised by Harry Cole were challenging but fair and covered a wide range of topics. The winning team "The Clever Dicks" led by Lyndle and Jim Hawkes won by 2 points. Congratulations to this team who collected some wonderful prizes. During the evening there was a continuous drawing of lucky door prizes and everyone went home a winner.

We are indebted to Jenny Cole, Harry Cole, Lorraine Fielding and Lynette Ireland for organising the evening and a big thank you to Lorraine for being a very professional compere during the night.

OTHR is grateful to the Oberon Golf Club for giving us the free use of its facilities, to our member Paul Duncan who donated a large model boat as a prize and to members Allan and Elizabeth Ross of Ross Conifers who donated prizes consisting of vouchers from their nursery at Gemalla.

By popular request OTHR will try and organise a trivia night later in the year. We will let you know the details when they are finalised.

On the road to recovery

Our best wishes go to member Kevin Haswell who hasn't been well of late. We hope you are soon on top of things Kevin and we will see you again in Oberon. Also, it is good to see regular fettler Harry Cole making a first rate recovery from a hand operation (you can still work one handed Harry!) and that stalwarts Ross Allen and Arthur Robinson are on the mend and ready for the busy OTHR times ahead.

2009 Working Bee Dates

July: Sat. 11th – Fri. 17th
August: Sat. 8th – Sat. 15th
September: Sat. 5th – Sat. 12th
October: Sat. 17th – Sat. 24th
November: Sat. 14th – Sat. 21st
December: Thurs. 10th – Sunday 13th

Note: Our Christmas Party will be held on the evening of the 13th December.

Contact our Track Manager, Peter Culley on 0427 042 448 for further details about working bees.



OTHR's ace team of fettlers examining wooden sleepers on the line while track manager Peter works away in the excavator in the background.

Good quality garden sleepers for sale

Contact Bill Muldoon at Oberon Thrifty-Link Hardware on 6336 1438 for more details.

Restoring Hazelgrove siding

Within the next couple of months OTHR plans to start restoring all of the Hazelgrove siding precinct. We will be erecting an original pre-cast concrete station, building toilets and installing a water tank to replicate the old station. A platform will be constructed of old sleepers, the area will be cleaned and landscaped and picnic tables and chairs installed. Some of the work entails building, painting, plumbing and electrical tasks. Trees will be planted in the grounds and a car park constructed. If you can help with any of these jobs let our track manager Peter Culley know and we will contact you when the project is ready to start.

News from the Friends of Oberon Library

Our supporters, the Friends of Oberon Library Inc and Oberon Writers' Workshop are holding a "Right Royal Yulefest" on 1st August with traditional fare and entertainment on a tongue-in-cheek regal theme (and it's the horses' birthday too!). Proceeds will go to support the interests of all library users and local writers. Inspired by OTHR's successful Bush Poets Night, a bush poetry workshop is coming up. Tickets are \$35 per head, BYO. Book by 22nd July. Phone Kathy Sajowitz (6336 0742, Anne Russell (6337 0363). Book at VIC, Cobweb or Ye Olde Shoppe.

The next newsletter

The July and August newsletters will be a combined edition and will be sent out in mid August due to your secretary and publicity officer taking off for the warmer climes of North America. We will be riding on the famous Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad which featured in the film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid". We'll be taking lots of notes about how well they look after their visitors and run their railway.