



June 2014
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

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As the end of financial year approaches, OTHR is looking to the membership for volunteers for committee and 'management' positions in the coming year. At present the committee is somewhat understaffed and we are looking for some new faces to help us along. Specifically, we are in need of a new Treasurer (Marjorie has indicated she is eager to retire from this position), a systems manager (to speed up the accreditation/documentation process) and a track manager (while Peter is on furlough!).

Our AGM for 2014 will be held on the Wednesday 1st October, so please give this some serious thought and consider nominating for one of these positions – or a general committee position - at the upcoming AGM.

During May the OTHR management committee convened a meeting to discuss and present OTHR's current position, aims and future plans. This meeting was attended by MP Paul Toole (our Patron), Oberon Mayor John McMahon, Oberon Council General Manager Alan Cairney and Ken Lingabala from John Holland Rail. OTHR President Tim Arnison and Secretary Elaine Boxer presented the meeting with ideas and aims for the future of OTHR's heritage rail project. This was very well received by all those present and there was general reinforcement of offers of assistance by the several parties present. All of which augers well for the future of OTHR, which continues to enjoy strong support from Oberon Council.

Welcome to David McMurray

We are pleased to have David McMurray on board the OTHR Committee. David has previously been assisting us with a business plan and he brings a wealth of experience to our committee's planning and administration tasks.

Reminder... \$\$\$

The financial year is drawing to a close and that means we need to remind our members that fees are due for the coming 12 months. In spite of postal charges increasing recently, our fees have remained the same this year at \$15 per person - (no extra co-payment!). This represents very good value for our members and we can assure them that every last cent will be applied to getting this heritage railway up and running.

You may pay by sending a cheque to our Treasurer Marjorie at the address on the masthead. Alternatively, visit our website and use Paypal or by direct debit – remember to include your name. The bank details are:- BSB 062 632, Account: 1004 9851.

Working Bee News

Next Working Bee
Saturday, July 5th. to
Wednesday, July 9th

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the current *June* working bee will be underway. Work will involve a number of tasks, including some more formwork in the rolling stock shed for concreting, installing a sink in the shed and some drainage work. Also it is expected that work will commence on the Albion St level crossing rail prefab tasks. In the near future we expect to have a rail borer on loan to speed up the level crossing work.

Next Meeting
Ordinary General Meeting
7:30pm, 2nd July, 2014

Keep watching this space for updates on future working bees and their aims and focus. If you can assist at the next **JULY** working bee please contact the Assistant Track Manager, Ian Davis on 6335 6228, or by email at iansplace@brocklesby.net

Folksingers, Bush Yarns & more...

As indicated by the flyer on page four there is to be a major fundraising event this coming September. The evening will cost \$20 per head, which includes supper. Tickets will be on sale from July and more information will appear in this Newsletter.

Super Raffle Prize!!

A new fundraising raffle is now underway, with a fabulous prize donated by the Mudgee Miniature Railway Society, for whom we are much indebted. The prize consists of a weekend away for two in Gulgong, plus a railmotor trip from Gulgong to Dunedoo, with three course meal and mystery murder show. A wine tour the following day is also included. The dates are 4-5th October. Tickets have been mailed out to all members, but if you need additional tickets please contact Secretary Elaine. See the flyer on page three.

Maitland Steamfest, 2014

Elaine and John Boxer attended the Maitland Steamfest last April and comment that it's "Well worth a visit for those who have not yet been to Maitland Steam Fest".

Elaine further comments....

"One of the main features of the annual Steam Fest at Maitland is the Great Train Race. The race is between two vintage steam trains with their carriages and a Tiger Moth plane, starting at Broadmeadow and ending at Maitland Railway Station.

It is a very exciting race with the engines going as fast as the stokers can keep the coal up to the boilers. There is a great sense of competition between the two trains, with passengers exhorting the engine driver to over-take the other train, booing the opposition and much waving and cheering. The staff on the trains are also very helpful in assisting the passengers to take photographs and generally provide historical information about the trains.



The main rally ground at the steamfest also has great displays of miniature trains, traction engines, both stationary and mobile, and displays of vintage vehicles. There are also the usual stalls and fun fair rides for the younger generation".

Goulburn Roundhouse

Sunday 18th May saw Col & Glenda Bembrick pay a flying visit to the Goulburn roundhouse where we were warmly received by members of the Goulburn Loco Roundhouse Preservation Society. We were given a conducted tour by Treasurer John Proctor and met President Dale Wake plus several other members. Of prime interest to us was the condition of CPH13 which is being restored (on behalf of OTHR) by the Goodwin Alco group. Steve Preston is directing this operation.

The exterior of the rail motor needs considerable work but the interior is in surprisingly good condition (see photo). At the current time, mechanical parts are being sourced to bring the unit back into running order, but there is quite a bit of work still to do!



The Bush Telegraph

A very fine replica of the Oberon Branch Line safe working staff (or key) has been presented to OTHR by Graham Williams. This well machined item was in fact made by Mark Langdon of East Hills, so a great vote of thanks to Mark!

A thank you....

Roger and Margaret Turner have written to us to express their delight in the OTHR Xmas raffle winning prize – a week's holiday in Byron Bay. In spite of the weather they tell us a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Roger and Margaret for letting us all know of their happy experiences.

Valley Heights Centenary Celebrations

On Sunday, 22nd June the Valley Heights group will be running four steam train shuttle services from Penrith to Valley Heights as part of their celebrations this year. To see the details follow the link below....

<http://www.heritageexpress.com.au/pages/tours-events/2014-06-003-SPEV.htm>

Rolling Stock at Bathurst

President Tim is now actively chasing quotes for the removal of the three items of rolling stock from the Bathurst yards and their transport to Oberon station precinct. It is to be hoped that this matter can be finalised in the not too distant future. We are collectively all keeping our fingers crossed for this one!

Oberon VIC

Enthusiastic staff from the Oberon Visitor Information Centre are to visit Oberon Station this coming Wednesday, June 11th. Their visit will be to bring them "up to speed" on our progress with the heritage rail project and to see first hand our new Heritage Railway Display and the range of souvenirs for sale. Unfortunately your Editor/Publicity Officer cannot be there that day, so any OTHR members who are able to assist please contact Secretary Elaine. The visit commences at 10am.

Note: Editor's Absence....

Col (& Glenda) will be overseas for all of July – and also in the early part of August (riding trains in far north Queensland). David McMurray has "volunteered" to produce the July and August Newsletters – a hearty vote of thanks David !

Contacts:

Secretary, Elaine: Ph 02 6336 0441,

and by Email: admin@othr.com.au

Newsletter Editor: Col – taranaob@activ8.net.au

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



2014 Raffle

A fabulous prize consisting of

- 2 night's accommodation, for 2 people Sat 4th & Sun 5th October 2014 at *Gulgong Accommodation* self-contained apartment.
- 2 Tickets on the 620 Rail Motor from Gulgong to Dunedoo, 3 course meal at Dunedoo Bowling Club & *Murder Mystery Show*.
- 2 tickets on Sunday wine tasting bus trip to Mudgee Honey Haven & various wineries.

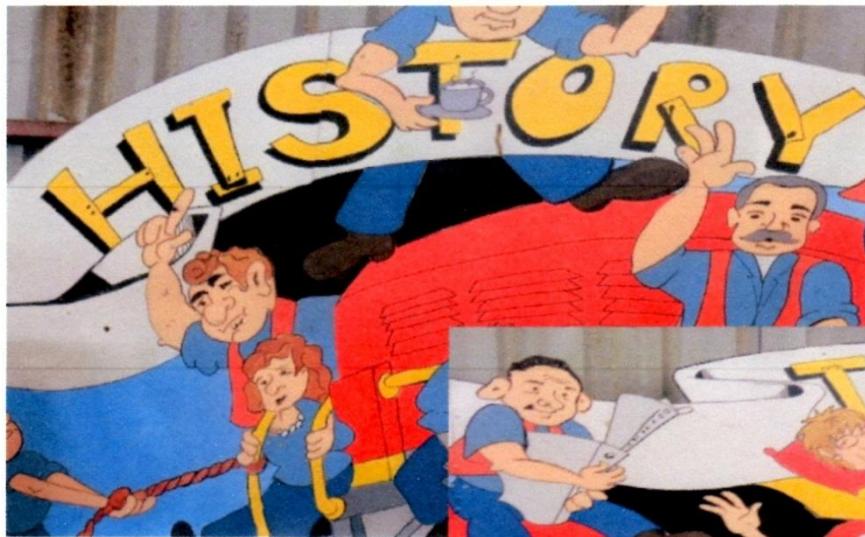
(Total value of package \$550)

Donated by Mudgee Miniature Railway)

Tickets \$5 each

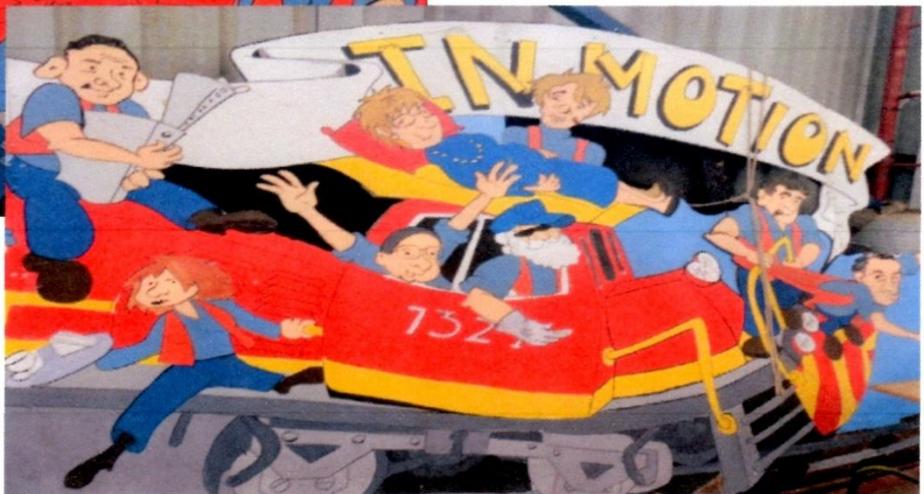
Drawn Friday 22nd August 2014.





FROM SAIL TO
STEAM & IN
BETWEEN

Mural courtesy Mike O'Kane



TRAVEL
TALES &
RAILWAY
YARNS

FOLKSINGERS

CHLOE & JASON ROWETH

& JIM LOW

SATURDAY 27TH
SEPTEMBER

6 PM - OBERON HIGH SCHOOL HALL with Supper

FUNDRAISER for OBERON TARANA HERITAGE
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