



March 2013
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

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you first. always.

Well, the March working bee has come and gone, with some progress on the shed completion – see over page. However, as Peter's March report shows, the tasks that could be accomplished have been seriously curtailed by the minimal number of volunteers turning up. Peter and his small band of regulars are now getting weary of being the only guys with a shoulder to the wheel as it were. This is **YOUR** project and we need **YOUR** participation to make it happen.

Next Meeting

Ordinary General Meeting

7:30pm 3rd April, 2013

As Peter points out in his report "Some of the tasks that we as volunteers carry out on our rail project are not a lot of fun and some are just hard work". It is getting to the stage that "the same few people are always left to do the things that are not much fun".

While Peter's report is too long to reproduce here, the thrust of it can be summarised (in verse) below...

The Track Manager's Beef

Are you an active member?
The kind that Peter likes,
or are you just content
to sit back and listen to his gripes?

Do you turn up for working bees
And help to make a difference,
Or leave the work to just a few
And mutter comments from a distance?

There's some exciting work to do
Roll up and strike a blow
Don't stand on the sidelines
Pitch in and have a go!

Col Bembrick, March, 2013

Easter Raffle

Currently in progress, this raffle will be drawn on Easter Saturday. Exciting prizes include a huge hamper, \$100 fuel vouchers and a pile of firewood. Contact the secretary for tickets or see our sellers on the main street of Oberon over the next few weekends. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Help support our heritage rail project.

Upcoming Working Bees:

Sat 30th Mar - Fri 5th Apr

Sat 27th Apr – Fri 3rd May

Sat 8th Jun – Fri 14th Jun

Sat 6th Jul – Fri 12th Jul

Please note that the next working bee at end of March and early April straddles the Easter weekend. This will be a critical working bee as the shed will by then have (probably) had its Council inspection and we will be laying rail line in the shed for the rolling stock.

For this to happen **YOU NEED TO TURN UP** for a few days or even a few hours over the period of this working bee. Don't let just a few of the "regulars" do all the work - pitch in and have a go!! Your Editor has put his hand up for at least a couple of days – but Track Manager Peter Culley needs a minimum of 4 people (ideally 6) to make the working bee a viable proposition.

If you can attend this *April* working bee, please let Peter Culley, know as soon as possible
– Peter's contact details are – 0427 042448.

Member Profile... Elaine Boxer

You will remember that last month we welcomed new OTHR Secretary, Elaine Boxer. Elaine recently retired to Oberon from Sydney with her husband John and decided to become involved in local Community projects. As John is a keen steam train enthusiast it made sense for both of them to become members of the OTHR. Although her



background is in health care she has also had many years experience in administrative roles, so when this opportunity presented itself she rose to the challenge. Elaine is looking forward to helping the OTHR move forward to the stage where the trains are running again from Oberon. Once again we thank Elaine for stepping up to the plate and filling this important and essential position.

Vale Phillip de Baun

A loyal and long-term supporter of OTHR, Phillip passed away on 9th February, aged 75. As an old boy of St Ignatius College, his funeral service was held in their chapel at Riverview on 20th February. Although unable to participate to the extent he would have liked in the OTHR working bees due to some serious medical problems, Phillip always had a few pertinent comments and ideas to contribute at meetings, which he attended whenever he could. He and his valuable support will be sorely missed.

OTHR Business Plan

At the March meeting David McMurray gave a very useful presentation to members outlining the requirements for compiling our business plan. David has volunteered to assist and guide us in the exercise, for which we are grateful.

The next meeting in April will include a brainstorming session on ideas to incorporate in the draft business plan. Please come along as we want your input, ideas and expertise.

The Bush Telegraph

The Borg Panels people have agreed to re-instate the level crossing at "Gate 6", providing we supply the plans and specifications on exactly what is required. This is now in hand. Many thanks to our negotiator, Jim Hawkes.

Our thanks to Oberon Shire Council for connecting the water mains to our fire hoses in the rolling stock shed.

Oberon will hold its 150 years celebration on Saturday, 6th July this year. OTHR will participate by having the station precinct open for inspection. There is also the possibility of a float in the procession to be held down the main street. Ideas and suggestions welcome as to how OTHR could mount a float of some sort.

The next Committee Meeting will be discussing the training options for our section car drivers. Watch this space for updates on this topic.

OTHR Patron and Member for Bathurst Paul Toole has now signed off on a grant to enable us to have a toilet installed at the station. Our thanks to Paul for this action on a much needed addition.

Using the newly acquired surveyor's notes Col & Glenda have started an investigation of the Carlwood station site to establish exactly where the various bits of infrastructure were located. Virtually nothing remains visible above the ground at Carlwood, although the drain from the toilet has been located previously. A map and report will be prepared eventually – similar to the exercise carried out for Hazelgrove.

Rolling Stock Shed Progress



The March Working Bee saw some progress on the final tasks needed to complete the Rolling Stock shed. As can be seen in the photo above, the guttering and downpiping is all but complete. The Council has connected the water to the recently installed fire hoses, so these are now operational. We expect that the inspection by Oberon Council will take place shortly and our "Certificate of Occupancy" will be granted.

Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men's Shed team is now offering accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. The only cost of this overnight accommodation will be to join the Men's Shed at an annual fee of \$10 – an absolute bargain! Out-of-town 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.

Membership reminder.... Not Yet Due!!

Our financial year now runs to 30th June, so your membership is not due until 30th June, 2013. 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 Check out the events calendar on our website, plus new historic photos.

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