



March 2009 Newsletter

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***Meetings are held on the 1st
Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm
at the Oberon RSL Club*

Welcome to our March newsletter which outlines some of OTHR's recent activities and a number of our future plans. When you read it, you will gain a feel for the work of a dynamic heritage rail group. We welcome comments from all members, especially those who are unable to attend our various activities. Send us your comments, email or telephone them – our strength is in our membership and all input is valued.

From the President's Cabin



Members, we have a huge year in front of us as we attempt to finish the railway line before Christmas. The weeklong working bees have been achieving great progress and the “mini bees” organised by Harry Cole have helped to speed up the track restoration work. I look forward to our fitters working near the town in the April working bee.

I'd like to thank all members who put in the hard work at our March working bee and to everyone who is planning to come along to our April one.

Negotiations are ongoing concerning our heritage licence to occupy the rail corridor and also gaining access to Oberon Station. I have been in contact with the relevant rail authorities who are working on both matters.

We are actively pursuing rolling stock. Peter Culley, Tony Thackray, Harry Cole, Tim Arnison and I inspected some old rail carriages belonging to a metropolitan group. We will soon view rolling stock held by the Rail Transport Museum and then evaluate our options with OTHR's Committee of Management.

At the moment, we have a caretaker Operations Manager but we are looking for someone to take on this critical role on a more permanent basis. The Operations Manager will manage OTHR's rolling stock fleet and infrastructure maintenance, carry out safety certification of OTHR's operations, comply with the relevant Safety Management System provisions and will be responsible for the daily

management of train operations, including rostering train crews.

This role will become a paid position once our operations are up and running as a viable business. I see the ideal person as retired, living in Oberon or Tarana with management skills and an understanding of railway regulations enabling them to conduct the day-to-day operations of a heritage railway. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this role, please contact me. I hope to see you on the track.

Shaun Moorhead

March working bee

Track Manager Peter Culley was pleased with the progress made during the working bee. Volunteer attendance each day was the best for quite a few months with members from the central coast, Sydney, Bargo and Bathurst complementing the Oberon and Tarana volunteers. Peter cleaned up along the embankments with the excavator and fitter teams almost reached the “summit” on the way to Hazelgrove. A group of well-fed workers thank Lynette and her catering team for the “strength giving” meals that kept them on the line.

April working bee: 4th – 11th

What better way to spend Easter than working on the railway line! As I put the finishing touches to this newsletter, the working bee is in full swing. Building on the work of the “mini bee” team, we have finished all work to the “summit”. What an achievement – congratulations to all the workers. We have now replaced all sleepers from Hazelgrove to the outskirts of Oberon. Our teams are now working within sight of the timber factories. Loads of sleepers are being transported to our new work area. Peter Culley is using the excavator and grab to remove and replace sleepers and teams of fitters are pinning and gauging them.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THIS WORKING BEE- WE FINISH ON SATURDAY, 11TH APRIL.

As a wise fitter once said, “every hour spent on the line is an hour closer to project completion.”

Mini bees



What are they? No, they are not small honey-producing creatures! They are short working bees organised by member Harry Cole in between the monthly weeklong working bees. They generally take place for half a day on a Monday or Tuesday and work involves cleaning weeds from the track or gauging and pinning sleepers. Well done to Harry

and Arthur Robinson, Richard Webb and Bob Connors who have joined the Mini Bee Club. If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to join Harry on the line contact him on 6336 5338.

Membership renewals for 2009

Receipt of membership renewals has been first rate with many of last year's members already contacting us with their forms and fees.

Remember that fees remain the same as for 2008 and are \$20 per family and \$10 for individuals, concession cardholders and students. Thank you to those members who have also sent in donations to the Sleeper Club with their membership fees. Sleepers are \$20 each. If you did not receive a 2009 membership form, contact the secretary on 6336 1211. Send your forms and fees to The Treasurer, PO Box 299, Oberon 2787.



Our Easter raffle is well under way with tickets being sold in the main street of Oberon. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and can be bought on Thursday afternoon (9th) and Saturday morning (11th) until the raffle is drawn at 12.30 pm. First prize is a load of firewood and second prize is a lovely basket of Easter eggs.

A big thank you to Lorraine, Lynette, Jenny, Lyndle, Keith and Bill for organising the raffle and selling tickets.

More accommodation in Oberon

The Big Trout Motel and the McGrath family have been wonderful supporters of OTHR over the past years. The Pitt family who own the Titania Motel are also offering free accommodation for out-of-town OTHR railway workers during our working bees. Many thanks to Chris, Doreen and John Pitt for their generosity.

The same conditions apply as for the Big Trout Motel, that is, all bookings must be done through Bob Connors, booking officer, and all meals are the responsibility of the out-of-town OTHR members.

Trivia Night - 12th June 2009



OTHR will be holding a fundraising Trivia Night at the Oberon Golf Club on Friday, 12th June starting at 7.00 pm. There will be lots of prizes, so get together to book a table and let's see who is the top Oberon trivia team. Contact Jenny Cole on 6336 5338 and put the 12th of June in your diary. More details of the event will be published in the April newsletter.

Have a working holiday in Oberon

Tony McCoy has become the sixth OTHR member to take a week's holiday and spend it working on the line to assist with the progress of our exciting tourist project. Tony thoroughly enjoyed his week in Oberon, especially the post-working bee walk down the spectacular sector of the track between Hazelgrove and Carlwood. Tony hopes to return in August for another week on the line.

Many thanks Tony for your dedicated support.

Visit OTHR's Website

www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway

Our website has gained the reputation of one of the leading heritage railway websites in Australia. It is regularly updated by our web manager, Rick Fletcher. The site provides an extensive range of historical photographs of the line as well as a wide variety of current restoration photographs. Also featured is a brief history of the railway line and updates of OTHR's history, objectives and achievements.

Many other features include an aerial photograph of the line, the restoration progress map and a list of coming events. For those who want to explore the track and environs, all you have to do is download the Self-Guided Car Tour that guides visitors from Oberon, along the line into the beautiful Tarana valley to the village of Tarana and the heritage-listed Tarana railway station. The document is found in Downloads in the archive section of the website.

Thank you once again Rick for such a well-organised and comprehensive web site.

Remember the day our project was launched?



Were you in this crowd on the Tarana station platform on Father's Day 2005?

What were they waiting for?



And here it comes in all its glory!

The 3801 made a special stop for us on its trip out west. What a day it proved to be!

Dates to Remember

- ☞ Next general meeting: 6th May, 7.30 pm
- ☞ May working bee: Sat. 2nd to 9th May
- ☞ June working bee: Sat. 30th May – 6th June
- ☞ Trivia Night: 12th June, 7.00 pm