



May 2010 Newsletter

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*June monthly meeting - Wednesday, 2nd at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.
May working bee: 15th - 22nd incl.*

Welcome to the May newsletter. Keep watching the local papers for reports of OTHR events as we plan to continue with our policy of featuring OTHR as much as possible in the local media. We have several exciting events to report in this issue... **READ ON**

Public Open Day

Our next big event is a Public Open Day to be held this coming Saturday – 15th May. All members and friends are welcome as well as members of the public. The event runs from 12 Noon to 2pm on the day. A gold coin donation will be appreciated. Please come along and inspect our two newly acquired 113-year old carriages and admire their condition. The photo below gives an idea of the delicate operation of unloading one of these carriages last April 22nd.

NEW Members

We extend our warm welcome to new members in this spot, and this month we are welcoming Malcolm Currey from Springwood, George Clark of Rockley, David Mason from Inverell and Alan Wood of Queanbeyan.

NB: Would any member or members who have paid a subscription via bank transfer but not indentified themselves in the transaction please contact the Treasurer – that way you will receive a receipt and our membership records will be kept up to date.

May Working Bee: 15th to 22nd

Working Bee Dates for 2010	
May:	15th - 22nd
June:	12th - 19th
July:	10th - 17th
August:	7th - 14th
September:	18th - 25th
October:	16th - 23rd
November:	13th - 20th
December:	TBA

At the May working bee we will be concentrating on the section of track further to the south of gate 6, from the pine tree towards the concrete culvert. Alternatively, if the sheds at Burruga are ready to move then this will become a priority to enable our two carriages to be placed under cover out of the weather.

If you can help at the working bee, please contact Track Manager Peter Culley on 6336 0228 or 0427 042 448 by Thursday, 13th May. Free accommodation for out-of-town members is still being generously donated by the Big Trout Motel and the Titania Motel. Please let Peter know as soon as possible if you require accommodation.

CARRIAGE

ARRIVAL !!!



Social Outings

A change of pace is in hand for these social gatherings after the monthly working Bees. It is now proposed to have a luncheon at the Tarana Pub on the Saturday one week after the end of the working bee. The Pub has excellent food and a beer garden near the railway line – for those who can't give up train spotting! Other social events are being planned for the coming spring – keep watching for further announcements.

New Station Access

Members and fettlers are reminded that, other than special events such as Open Days, our regular access to the Oberon Station is now via a dirt track off Albion St. On-site parking is just west of the line near the northern boundary fence. This means workers and visitors don't have to cross the line to access the station.

Wood Raffle Winner

Congratulations to our lucky wood raffle winner, Lorraine Hotham from Oberon. Thanks also to all those hard-working OTHR members who organised the wood and sold tickets. Well done!

Some Carriage History

The Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway has acquired these two end-platform carriages on loan from the Rail Transport Museum (RTM) and they represent the first units of a complete passenger carrying tourist train, which we will be operating out of Oberon Station in the not too distant future.

The carriages were built in 1897, so they are now around 113 years old. They last were in service in 1977 on the Illawarra Line. They have centre isles and reversible seating and each carriage has two toilets in the centre of the car. They originally had gas lighting, but were probably converted to electricity about 1930. They were purchased by the RTM in 1977 and transferred to Thirlmere where some restoration work was carried out. In the mid 1990s they were loaned to BHP at Port Kembla where they were used for an internal site tour of the steelworks area. This continued until 2006 when Bluescope Steel took over the site. Since that time they have been stored under cover at Port Kembla, until they were transferred to OTHR. They are in remarkably good condition with only a few minor repairs and cleaning needed. Harry Cole has this well in hand.

STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS !!

OTHR is now the proud owner of not one, but TWO, 73 class diesel locomotives – recently (very recently!) purchased from Patrick Corp. More on this great achievement - with photos – next issue.

Sheffield Trike



An historic three-wheeled “trike” was delivered to the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway on the morning of Friday, 16th April. Known as a Sheffield Velocipede, the hand powered vehicle was generously donated by James Morrison who has over the years restored the vehicle and adapted it to the NSW standard gauge. The trike was built for the South Australian Railways - probably about 1910 - based on a design by George Sheffield of Michigan, USA.

The original design dates back to 1882, and was taken up by many railway systems around the world. These machines were in constant use by railway workers for track inspections and other fettler's tasks. Surprising as it may seem, the vehicle can attain 20km/hr on flat terrain, making track inspections relatively quick and efficient. From about 1905 onward these machines increasingly became motorised – using small two-stroke engines.

The donor, James Morrison of Thornleigh, was made an honorary member of OTHR for one year in a ceremony at Oberon Station on the day and heartily thanked for his generosity. James has also supplied OTHR with engineering scale drawings, spare parts and a CD of photos and articles on historic hand-powered rail vehicles. A most valuable resource for our organisation

OTHR's website –

The article on the history of the Line is now available for downloading (as a pdf file) from our website. Our hard-working website manager, Rick Fletcher, has now incorporated the latest photos of the Sheffield Trike on the web pages plus many fine photos of the two carriages being delivered to the Oberon Station in late April. (See also the Oberon Review of 29th April).

NB: Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... bembrick@ix.net.au