



May 2012
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

Sponsors:



Many things are now coming to fruition with our Heritage rail project. The check rail for the Albion St level crossing, being manufactured by Moorhead Engineering - should be ready this coming week. The first stage of the roof of the rolling stock shed is completed. A meeting has been scheduled with Oberon Council to sort out the land transfer re the Lowes Mount Rd level crossing and the walking track survey issue. Much of this activity has been going on "in the background" by your hard-working committee, to whom much thanks are due.

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 6th June

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Members are reminded that, following the March AGM, annual fees become due – but they haven't changed! No need to fill in a form if you are renewing – just post us a cheque (\$15.00) and include your up to date contact details (phone, email, etc) please. Also, it is easy to pay via our website – using paypal, direct bank transfer or credit card. We value your membership, so please continue to support our heritage rail project.

Easter Raffle Winner

Apologies to Paul Duncan, winner of the first prize – who somehow acquired an "a" on the end of his first name in the last Newsletter!

School Visit

On the 10th May we will be receiving a visit from the Oberon Infants School pupils. Anyone who may be able to help Kylie and Peter at Oberon station on that morning is asked to contact Kylie as soon as possible.

Wood Raffle Volunteers

Once again, volunteers are required to assist in the OTHR wood raffle sale – the next one is to be held on the Saturday, 2nd June at the Farmer's Markets venue. These raffles are an excellent way for OTHR to do some PR and to raise valuable funds. Please consider taking some time out to assist.

Workbee Catering

OTHR members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Volunteers are required to assist with the morning teas and lunches for our hard-working fettlers. Also, any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL PURPOSE WORKING BEE

May Working Bee:

The May working bee will be concentrating on the construction of the roof sections for the large rolling stock shed (see story over the page). The second major section of the roof will be the main focus of the working bee this time around. **If anyone has a cordless drill that could be loaned/donated to OTHR, we would very much like to hear from them.** If time permits, then some work may be undertaken on the checkrail for the Albion St crossing.

Apart from our regular volunteers, anyone with special steelworking skills is encouraged to attend the working bee to give us the benefit of their experience.

Working Bee Dates for 2012	
May	12th - 19th
June	9th - 16th
July	7th - 14th
August	4th - 11th
Sept	1st - 8th
Oct	13th - 20th

If you can attend this May working bee, please let Track Manager, Peter Culley, know as soon as possible – Peter's contact details are – 0427 042448. (Peter is welcomed back after some time lazing about on a houseboat on the Murray River).

Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men's Shed team is now offering accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. This generous offer will greatly assist OTHR during upcoming working bees. The only cost of this overnight accommodation will be to join the Men's Shed at an annual fee of \$10. You will need to bring your own blankets, swag or sleeping bag – the Men's Shed is located within the Oberon Showground. There is a toilet, but no shower on site – however, the new owners of the Jenolan Caravan Park – Bob & Sally Parrington - have generously offered their showering facilities to OTHR members staying at the Men's Shed. Members will need to show their OTHR accreditation ID to the owners to qualify for the offer of free showers.

If you are one of our out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254). He is the co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

Track Vehicle to be Donated



Through the efforts of member Layne Hardie, an electric vehicle about to be scrapped by Railcorp may well end up on the OTHR tracks.

This vehicle is an ERV 2 type trolley (Emergency Response Vehicle) – formerly of the Railcorp Emergency Response Unit. The trolley would make an excellent inspection vehicle for working down the line from Oberon Station as we progress our heritage rail project to Hazelgrove and beyond.

Historic Loco

The Oberon rolling stock shed in winter??

Before reading on, try to guess the location of this small, lovingly preserved steam loco



This is the loco “Bifrost” at Narvik station, Norway. Built in 1882, this was one of seven of the type. It was the first steam loco to arrive in Narvik in 1900 and was used in the construction of the Iron Ore railway to Kiruna. It was then used as a shunting engine on the docks until 1942. The name “Bifrost” derives from Norse mythology, describing a burning rainbow bridge between Midgard, the World, and Asgard, the realm of the Gods (remember Lord of the Rings?).

The line is now fully electrified and runs small tourist trains as well as huge ore trains daily from Kiruna (Sweden) to the port of Narvik (Norway).

Rolling Stock Shed Progress

As some of you may already know, a very willing band of OTHR volunteers has begun the construction of the first roof section for the large shed, using the materials which have been stored on site for some time – ex the mine site at Burruga.

The April working bee provided a good start with some fine Autumn weather and the loan of “Shane’s Crane” from Moorhead Engineering. Thanks to notes and diagrams compiled when the shed was dismantled the pile of steel girders and trusses were sorted out with the crane and a plan worked out for the reconstruction. The basic plan is to build the roof sections on the ground where they are easily accessible and then to lift them into place on the steel uprights and piers – the piers are already in place. The 50 tonne Moorhead’s crane will be pressed into service here.

At the last working bee the team, armed with tape measures, string lines, step ladders, spirit levels, spanners and lots of elbow grease managed to complete the first major section of the roof.



Col’s photos show the work in progress. Keep watching this space!

Reminder...

Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. Go to the “About” tag and to “Meetings” on the drop-down menu. You can now easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc Check out the events calendar on our website.

Contacts: Secretary, Kylie: Ph 02 6336 0207

Email: admin@othr.com.au

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