



**May 2016**  
**Newsletter**  
 PO Box 299 Oberon 2787  
 www.othr.com.au

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 you first. always.

A highly successful and productive planning meeting was held in the rolling stock shed on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> April. Your whole Committee was present and we also had the valued input from OTHR members Charles Hazelwood, Russell Merriman, Richard Webb and Martyn Salmon. Thanks to all those members who turned up and gave us the benefit of your ideas.

Secretary Elaine provided the much appreciated morning tea and also took extensive minutes of the meeting. A large number of project tasks were outlined, discussed at length and allocated to Project Leaders.

These Leaders/Co-ordinators will be calling on various members for additional information, work commitment and general help. Please give them your support as it is your heritage rail project that is at a critical stage.

The list in the next column is a summary of the tasks on our plate which can be accomplished while we are in the process of sorting out the Heritage Operator's Licence.



*The members relax after the planning meeting*

**Search for New Publicity Officer:**

Your long-serving Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor will be stepping down from these positions as of June this year – ie after the next Newsletter. Consequently, an appeal has now gone out to find a new Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor by that time.

An enthusiastic person with some familiarity with Word (you don't have to be an expert!) and a nodding acquaintance with Photoshop (or similar program) would fill the bill. Col can hand over all files and templates for the Newsletter and give some hints as to how to go about it.

Please give this serious consideration as we need someone to step up to the plate and fill this essential position – particularly as there are exciting times ahead for OTHR in the near future.

**Working Bee News**

The upcoming working bee in June will be tackling some of the projects outlined in the table below. Your input is needed – please consider where you can assist and make a difference.

**Projects identified at the planning meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Project	Project leader
Repair and paint door on Lockup	John Brotchie (Men's Shed)
Erect a white board in shed	Tim Arnison
Repair and paint end-platform cars.	Tim Arnison & Graham Williams
Construct an office in the rolling stock shed	Ian Davis
Repair rolling stock shed roof	Tim Arnison
Make station precinct plan with additional services, roads, etc	Col Bembrick
Repair and maintenance on station building	Peter Culley
Repaint the S wagon	Martyn Salmon

Mount restored water cooler in shed	Peter Culley
Build a permanent miniature rail track on site in 7 ¼" and 5" gauge	Russell Merriman
Renovate the plough van	David McMurray
Move the ladder on the signal	Graham Williams
Survey track to Hazelgrove for scope of work	Graham Williams
Restore Carlwood sign	Col Bembrick
Conclude the Heritage Operators Licence with JHR	Elaine Boxer

If you can join our band of hard-working volunteers and assist with the project activities during the June working bee period – please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams, on 0422 596 438. Even a few hours assisting the team can make a big difference – step up and have a go. Your input is needed!

**Next Working Bee**

**Saturday, June 4th to**

**Wed, June 8th**

## Next Meeting

### General Meeting

7:30pm, 1st June, 2016

### Mini-rail Plans for Oberon Yard



Elaine Boxer (above) leading an active discussion re the siting of the mini-rail tracks in the Oberon yard precinct. Both 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 5" gauge are planned, with the track to be laid out in a loop which takes in part of the area outside the yard. Russell Merriman is now the Project Leader for this new project.

### Another Heritage Carriage on Display



An agreement has been entered into with Louis Krieger from Orange to store her 1905 heritage carriage and have it on display. The carriage is FO 1209 and is called a "tourist car". Some work is required to make it weatherproof and presentable.

### Membership Reminder

Membership fees are about to fall due and we remind members that there is an increase which has been approved by the Committee. The fee will now be \$20 per annum to compensate for the large increase in postal charges which occurred earlier this year.

### Hunter Valley Steamfest 2016

OTHR members Elaine and John Boxer attended the 2016 steamfest at Maitland on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> April – the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this event.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the appearance of steam loco 3642, in magnificent condition (below). This 4-6-0 vintage (1926) loco has been restored since ceasing service in 1969 and has been a regular feature at the Steamfest over a number of years.



### Funding

David McMurray, the prime mover of our Business Plan, has now put forward a major funding initiative. This is a "gofundme" account, which is aimed at raising the money we need to complete Stage 1 of our Heritage Rail Project.

The details are summarised on page three of this Newsletter, together with the link to the web page where all the options are explained in detail.

We ask all members, friends and supporters to take the time to look at the various alternatives outlined in this proposal and consider how they may be able to donate to assist us in achieving our goal of running a tourist train to Hazelgrove.

Remember, all donations are tax deductible and will be fully acknowledged on our website.

### Appeal for old newsletters

Your Editor has been tracking down copies of old OTHR Newsletters to get these up on the website - with the help of our Webmaster, Mike Lorimer. Some progress has been achieved, with the 2008 and 2007 batches now up.

However, there are still a few missing, and I'm appealing to all long-time members to help in this search. The issues that are required are January and February, 2007. A digital copy is desirable, but a paper copy in good condition that could be scanned would also fill the bill.

**Contacts:** *Secretary*, Elaine: Ph 02 6336 0441, and by Email: [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)

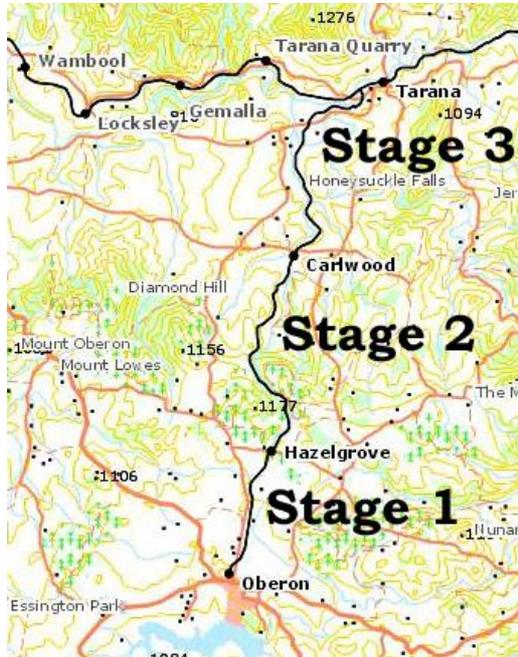
*Newsletter Editor*: Col – [taranaob@activ8.net.au](mailto:taranaob@activ8.net.au)

Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website [www.othr.com.au](http://www.othr.com.au)

You can also easily find us on Facebook at... [www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc](http://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc)

## Major Funding Initiative

The target funding of \$600,000 will provide the means to complete Stage One, get our tourism operation up and running and that will provide cash flow to commence and complete Stages Two and Three in time.



The target funding will be spent in the following ways:

- Complete rail at Hazlegrove site and sundry rail line materials - approx. \$135K
- Plant and equipment - approx. \$75K
- Professional restoration of two 1897 heritage carriages - approx. \$200K
- Recommission two diesel locomotives - approx. \$20K
- Entrance Pavilion - approx \$50K
- Startup costs - approx \$120K

If all train enthusiasts support us to the point that we exceed our target then any surplus funds will be employed in starting restoration of Stage Two of the heritage line.

Although OTHR needs the target funding as quickly as possible we would envisage all funds would be raised within twelve months. Initially OTHR plans to operate weekends with two tours daily. Special restaurant tours and music tours would operate monthly and group tours at other times would be by appointment.

OTHR has a Business Plan forecasting our operations for the next ten years and that indicates what we propose is feasible and will be self funding. The volunteers at OTHR are very keen to see the target of \$600,000 raised to allow us to fulfil our vision of ten years past.

The benefits of this project will provide direct and indirect employment for many locals and will help the town of Oberon NSW, Australia to continue to prosper.

It goes without saying that OTHR will be extremely grateful to receive the financial support of all train enthusiasts worldwide.

OTHR is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible.

As a mark of appreciation to all generous supporters we intend to reward you in the following way: On the webpage you may select a reward level:-

### Membership

\$250

Donate \$250 and receive  
one years free  
membership.



### Membership

\$500

Donate \$500 and receive  
two years free  
membership.



### Membership

\$750

Donate \$750 and receive  
three years free  
membership.



## Gold Membership

\$1,000

Donate \$1000 and  
receive four years  
membership plus a  
lifetime gold OTHR Travel Pass \*

(\* valid as soon as we have trains running)



The link to the gofundme webpage is...

<https://www.gofundme.com/2mhftk44>

Tell your friends and colleagues, ask them to pass it on, share it on Facebook, etc.