



May 2014
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

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The OTHR management committee continues to work hard at the many and various tasks that are seldom visible but are necessary and vital to the establishment of our heritage railway.

Recently an audit of OTHR's SMS documentation was conducted at the station by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR). A number of deficiencies were pointed out by ONRSR and your committee is working hard to rectify these problems. As a result, some time was taken at the last general meeting to review several of our SMS documents and reach a consensus on the changes required. Thanks to Kylie for all her efforts and to Jim Hawkes for his valuable input.

Next Meeting
Ordinary General Meeting
7:30pm. 4th June. 2014

Looking ahead to the time OTHR will be running heritage trains, plans are now in place to engage the services of Peter Evans to assist with the preparation of the SMS documentation. Peter has extensive experience in the railway industry and with QA requirements.

On the rolling stock shed scene, there has been some welcome news. OTHR has received approval from John Holland Rail (JHR) to lay additional tracks in the shed. These two roads will complement the single road already installed where our heritage carriages are stabled. The additional two roads will be used for the locos and some of the heritage rolling stock currently alongside the loading bank. It now remains for us to gain the approval of the Independent Transport Safety Regulator (ITSR) before tracklaying can commence.

Katoomba Winter Magic Festival

June 21 will see a steam train excursion to the Blue Mountains as part of this festival. The "Blue Mountains Flyer" will depart Central at 0804 and depart Katoomba for the return journey at 1545. There are multiple fare options – for more details see

<http://www.heritageexpress.com.au/pages/tours-events/2014-06-001-TEOS.htm>

Note: Editor's Absence....

Col (& Glenda) will be overseas in July for most of the month – and in the early part of August riding trains in far north Queensland. Consequently, we are looking for a volunteer (or two?) to compile the Newsletter for those months. Any takers??....

Next Working Bee

**Saturday, June 7th. to
Wednesday, June 11th**

Working Bee News

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the current *May* working bee will be underway. Work will commence on a large number of tasks, including a detailed survey of the carriages to determine the extent of restoration work that needs to be done over the coming months. Now these 1897 carriages are under cover further restoration work can be done without being hampered by the weather. Also slated for attention this current working bee is the Albion St level crossing rail prefab task. The present prefab assembly needs further work to extend the overall length. Other tasks on the books include some more concreting in and around the rolling stock shed, further work in the new station toilet, plus the stacking and strapping of sleepers.

Keep watching this space for updates on future working bees and their aims and focus. If you can assist at the next **JUNE** working bee please contact the Assistant Track Manager, Ian Davis on 6335 6228, or by email at iansplace@gmail.com

Mystery Photo of the month

Where is this fine example of the steam era in NSW being restored? One clue.... It is in the company of many other locos and items of rolling stock

This loco is 2-8-0 wheel configuration, and was built by the well-known firm of Clyde Engineering and entered NSW Government railway service on 7th August, 1914. It was finally retired from service in 1972 having travelled 2174613 km during its long working life. The loco is not currently operational.



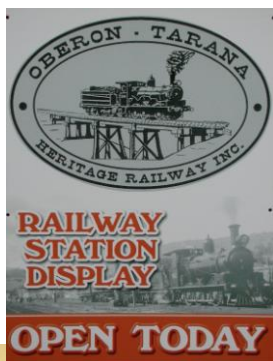
OTHR Rail Heritage Display

OTHR is happy to announce that our railway heritage display in the old parcels room was open “officially” for the first time on Saturday 3rd May. The weather on the day was slightly inclement, with blowing snow and temperatures in the 2 to 3 degree range. However, we did get two intrepid customers who braved the wintry blasts, having travelled all the way from Gosford.

In future the displays will be open on the first Saturday of each month – usually from 10am till 1pm (or 2pm if warranted). The opening times will be publicised on our website in the very near future.

A fine collection of historic photos relating to the Oberon Branch Line are on display, together with numerous items of railway memorabilia. Small souvenirs of various kinds are also available for purchase.

A roster of volunteers is being drawn up - any of our members



who could spare a few hours on a Saturday morning are urged to put their names forward. Marjorie Webb and Ian Davis have already put their hands up – heaps of thanks to these two hard-working members!

First Aid Certificate

The Oberon Wellness Centre is currently offering a one-day First Aid Course on 22nd June for a fee of \$135 per person. The course will be offered to OTHR members at cost, or if the member is unable to meet the full cost, OTHR will pay half the fee. If you are interested in attending this course, please contact Secretary Elaine by phone or email as soon as possible.

Reminder...

OTHR news now appears from time to time in the Oberon and Villages Community Newsletter. If you have access to this publication check it out to see the latest happenings on the Heritage Railway. See the Council website..... <http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/>

Grant Application...

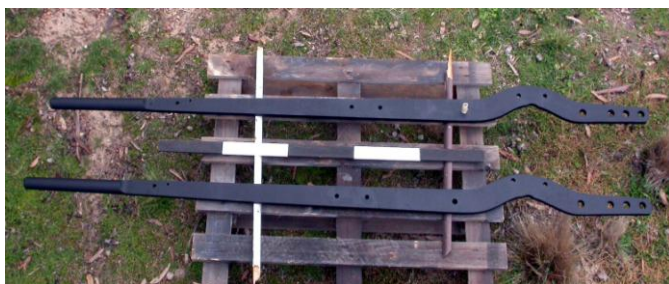
As mentioned previously, OTHR has recently applied for a VIM grant from Museums and Galleries NSW. We have applied for funds to purchase some museum cataloguing software and the training of two people in its use. The deadline for the application was Fri 4th April and we now have to await the outcome of this application – expected by end of May.

The Bush Telegraph

A very fine replica of the Oberon Branch Line safe working staff (or key) has been presented to OTHR by Graham Williams. This well machined item may well feature in our displays in the near future. Thanks Graham!

OTHR has recently purchased a brand new brushcutter for Barry Webb in acknowledgment of the extensive maintenance and beautification work he does in the Station precinct and surrounding grounds. Once again, our thanks to Barry for all his efforts

The restoration by your Editor of Frame A from Leadville continues to progress. The two large points levers are now de-rusted, cleaned and painted. The many small parts of the mechanism are now in the process of being de-rusted so the whole ground frame can finally be re-assembled.



The size of the two levers can be seen in the photo above – the scale bar is one metre. In the cleaning process some of the original blue paint on the points lock lever was uncovered.

Over the summer December-January period this year the “Bathurst Bullet” carried 2773 passengers. Since the twice daily service was introduced with an Endeavour two-car set in October, 2012 the response has exceeded all expectations. This augers well for the future of this popular service. Give it 12 months and then start lobbying for a “stop on request” service for Tarana.

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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