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oberonrailway

## April 2007 Newsletter

### Big Membership Drive

We have had a huge response to the 2007 Membership forms that were sent to members with our March newsletter. If you haven't received your form, contact the Secretary, Margaret Conners on 6336 1211 or download it from OTHR's website. We are well on the way to reaching our target of 200 family memberships by the end of the year.

Membership fees and donations (*tax deductible for donations over \$2*) to the gift fund are used by OTHR to pay for such items as tools, sleepers, brochure printing, food and drinks for workers on the line, various annual registration fees and insurance coverage. Many members kindly donate their time, machinery and services free of charge in numerous ways to help keep costs down. A big thank you to everyone!

### Progress on the Line

The 2 Saturdays in April and the Friday afternoon working bees have seen steady progress on sleeper laying with workers gaining such expertise that I am sure RailCorp would happily snap them up!

It is great to have members travelling from Sydney, Bargo, Thirlmere, Lithgow and Bathurst to join our local stalwarts as they wrestle with sleepers.

Work is continuing on the cattle stops and without a doubt, our line will have the most authentic-looking cattle stops in the State. Many thanks to Kathy Segart, Marjorie Webb and Margaret

Conners for providing delicious morning and afternoon teas and sandwiches for lunches.

### Donations of Machinery and Tools

More and more companies and OTHR members are helping us with donations of machinery and tools for the track restoration project.

Our sincere thanks goes to Peter Murphy of Prime Industrial Rental for the donation of a 120 cfm air compressor and an air driven drill, to Barry Richard of Jenolan Cabins for donating a water tanker and to Rudi Morauf for his donation of an enclosed trailer and sundry materials and to Oberon Pharmacy for donations to our first aid kit. Also thank you to OTHR members who have kindly given us crockery, cutlery, folding chairs, eskies and tools for our shipping container "home."

### Return of our Wandering President

Shane recently visited China but sadly didn't bring a train back for us. Last weekend he took his beloved, ancient steamroller to the Maitland Steamfest and shortly he leaves for a business visit to Germany. It's hard to keep up with our peripatetic President but let's hope he brings back a train from Germany for OTHR!

### Great Train Weekend at Mt Victoria

Steam train enthusiasts will be in their element when this event returns to Mt Victoria on the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May. This is an important opportunity for OTHR to publicise its existence to a large audience so we will have an information stand set up for the weekend in the Mt Victoria Public School with other exhibits.

We need volunteers to help look after the stand for a couple of hours on either day. Exhibition hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me (6336 1211) if you can assist us with this project.

### Working Bees

A reminder that there is a Saturday working bee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May and our FIRST WEEK LONG WORKING BEE runs from the 12<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May inc.

This is our big test as an organisation. We have to lay a minimum of ¾ of a kilometre of sleepers during this session to meet our February 2008 deadline. Remember, you don't have to attend for all 9 days. We also need help from the less physical members with catering for lunch and morning and afternoon teas so there will be a job for everyone. Come along and join the fun whether it is just for a day, two days or nine days.

Peter Culley, our Track Manager is setting up a "fettlers' camp" at Hazelgrove Siding for those tough workers who won't be bothered by the temperatures of an Oberon autumn evening. Are there any other brave souls out there who want to join Peter at the fettlers' camp?

On Saturday night, of the 19<sup>th</sup> May we will hold a party to celebrate our work on the track, so come along and enjoy a gourmet barbecue dinner with us.

### Critical Organisation for 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May

To allow OTHR to cater for the weeklong working bee and to plan work activities, it is essential that all members complete the enclosed working bee registration form and return it to Margaret by email ([conners@ix.net.au](mailto:conners@ix.net.au)) or mail it to OTHR's post box as soon as possible.

We need to know your accommodation requirements in particular so that we can organise our Oberon hosts if volunteers would prefer not to tough it out at the fettlers' camp. *We hope to see you at the big working bee in May!*

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30 pm in the Oberon RSL Club function room.

*Bob Conners* - Publicity Officer