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August 2007 Newsletter

Prestigious Award for the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway group



Track Manager Peter Culley accepting the Volunteer Award for 2007 from RailCorp CEO, Vince Graham.

OTHR has received state wide recognition from the Office of Rail Heritage for all its efforts during the past year. At a glittering ceremony at the Power House Museum, Sydney on 31st July, OTHR won the award for -

- "A high standard of technical rail heritage knowledge or skill applied to a conservation, restoration or reconstruction project, and
- Demonstrated experience in the preparation of conservation management documents or tools to support a project."

Congratulations to all OTHR members whose important contributions in so many ways during the year led to our recognition.

August Long Working Bee Report

What an outstanding success the working bee was in August! Every day teams of between 12 and 15 volunteers battled freezing temperatures and icy winds and at the end of the week looked back with pride on their achievements.

During the working bee our members removed 1,049 old sleepers, installed 453 new sleepers, repositioned 36 original sleepers, installed 1,812 new dog spikes and tightened 144 dog spikes in old sleepers. We have passed Rutters Ridge Road now and are heading towards town.

Matt McMahon proved to be OTHR's inhouse naturalist when he awoke four sleepy copper head snakes from hibernation under the sleepers and

relocated them to nearby bushland. Two female funnel web spiders were also discovered near the line. Perhaps we'll be organising a wildlife exhibition at the next Oberon Show!

Successful working bees don't happen without a lot of planning behind the scenes. Many thanks are due to Peter Culley and Matt McMahon for their organisational skills and to Lynette Ireland and her many, many helpers who contributed food items and time to ensure that the hard working volunteers were well fed. Bistro OTHR surely has the best food in the district! More than 600 cups of tea and coffee were consumed during the working bee and all in all, the OTHR Family had a great time.

Please contact the Secretary if you have not received your plates or food containers since the working bee.

Thank you A note of OTHR's appreciation must go to Oberon Pies & Pastries, Barker's Butchery, Café Savanna, Oberon SES, the Big Trout Motel, Oberon Trash Pak, Nunan Fertilisers, Moorhead Engineering, Thrifty-Link Hardware Oberon and Oberon Council for their assistance during the week long working bee.

If you have not seen OTHR's Roll of Honour on the railway line near Albion Street, please stop and have a look at the list of our numerous supporters.

Come and spend your Spring holidays in Oberon on the heritage railway line!

Working Bee Dates

- ✂ Every Friday starting at 4.00 p.m.
- ✂ **Saturday, 1st September 2007** starting at 7.30 a.m.
- ✂ Next weeklong working bee:
Saturday 22nd – Saturday 29th September

Contact the Secretary if you would like us to organise accommodation for you.

Phone our Track Manager, Peter Culley on 0427 042 448 if you need a local weather report before setting out for a work session.

OTHR's Raffle winners are:

🏆 1st Toni Petch, Duckmaloi Rd. Oberon

🏆 2nd Connie Cooke, Oberon

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all of our supporters and ticket sellers.

OTHR's second wood raffle winner was David Stock of Shooters' Hill.

Future Working Bees

HELP! HELP! HELP! We are making enormous progress on the line but need more members to assist at our working bees. They are a lot of fun and the "OTHR Family" makes certain that everyone enjoys themselves. There is a job for everyone, irrespective of their physical capabilities. Besides sleeper laying there are many light tasks that must be done, such as painting, measuring line gauges, cleaning dog spikes or helping with the catering.

Please contact the Secretary for more information or if you would like to help with the catering please phone co-ordinator Lynette Ireland on 6336 0565.

Member's Profile – Shane Moorhead

When you want a job done, ask a busy man. OTHR's President, Shane Moorhead fits that description perfectly.

Shane was born and raised on a farm in Oberon. In the mid 1980's he set up Moorhead Engineering which employs 15 people and specialises in lathes and metalwork. Shane designs and manufactures machines for the timber industry and has exported his Moorhead Perfect Rounder to New Zealand and New Caledonia.



Shane with his daughter Ellie on his beloved steamroller

Eighteen months ago he branched out into hydraulics and pneumatics and opened up a hydraulics business in Bathurst.

Apart from his keen interest in restoring our railway track and steam trains, Shane's other passions include sailing his 18ft catamaran and driving his imported Aveling and Porter 10 ton steamroller in steam exhibitions and country shows. The steamroller was originally imported from England in 1928 by the Randwick Council and is in good working order.

Shane is a volunteer for the Angel Flight organisation and flies his Piper Cherokee 6 plane to pick up sick people in outback NSW and take them to Sydney for medical treatment. He has been an active member of the Oberon Apex Club for 15 years. In 2006 Shane was honoured with the Oberon Citizen of the Year award.

Get Well Arthur Volunteer worker Arthur Robinson has recently undergone a hand operation. Get well soon Arthur or we will end up months behind schedule without your presence on the line.



Harry's Diary
or How to Survive a Week
Laying Sleepers in Oberon
Chapter 3 (final)

Friday- The OTHR Health Club Manager (aka The Boot Camp Commander by the workers) wants me to work on my triceps! What triceps? I don't have any, and I can't move without suffering unbearable pain. Why would he hand me the *@#&-ing jackhammer and tell me that it's mine for the day? The OTHR Health Club members are doing their best to keep out of his way. Some are hiding behind a pile of sleepers, others are asleep down in the cattle stop with the snakes and spiders.

Saturday:

The final day! I am a shadow of my former self. The truck has arrived to transport me to the railway line and I stumble out in a daze, groaning and dragging my weary limbs. I've discovered I have muscles that I never knew I had before. Just as the Commander allocates me my share of sleepers and dog spikes for the day the TV crew arrives to film us swinging our hammers, dragging sleepers and happily singing "We've been working on the railway!" What great actors we've suddenly become, but it's only Matt's non-stop humorous comments and the great food at the fettlers' camp that have stopped me from totally losing the plot.

What a birthday present!! *Note to my dear wife:* Birthday gift for 2008 - a root canal please!