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## May 2007 Newsletter

### Working Bee Success

Our first long working bee was held from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May and we have now laid nearly 1,000 sleepers. Every day approximately 15 to 20 fettlers turned up to work and under the leadership of Peter Culley and Matt McMahon teams made steady progress sometimes in wet, windy and muddy conditions. What a determined group of volunteers we have – nothing is going to stop OTHR reaching Oberon.

There were many highlights during this working bee and some are listed below:

1. Great camaraderie and friendship among all the workers with “*Harry’s Diary*” being a highlight. Excerpts from the diary are published in this newsletter and the rest will follow next month.
2. Great food! Congratulations to Marjorie and Margaret and their team of helpers for supplying gourmet meals throughout the 9 days. It wasn’t the Hazelgrove Hash House but the Hazelgrove Hilton. Many thanks to the Tarana Hotel and the Royal Hotel, Oberon for their generosity in providing an evening meal for the fettlers. Also many thanks to Matt and Megan McMahon and family who provided a great night entertaining the volunteers with a barbecue and movies out at their farm.
3. Community support was unbelievable for the working bee. Our grateful thanks to Nunan Fertilisers, Highland Meats, Oberon Pies and Pastries, Barker’s Butchery, Oberon SES, Highland Meats, Oberon Trash-Pak, Thrifty-Link Hardware, Oberon Engineering, Moorhead Engineering, Caltex Oberon, S.E. Mawhood & Sons, Mayfield, Oberon Council and RailCorp.

### Working Bee Dates

Put the following dates on your calendar.

- ◆ Every Friday starting at 4.00 p.m.
- ◆ Every FIRST and THIRD SATURDAY of the month.
- ◆ Next big working bee:  
**4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August.**

Book your holidays now!

**Our Next Working Bee is on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June.** Work starts at the Hazelgrove siding end of the line on Black Bullock Road at 8.00 a.m. sharp with a toolbox meeting. Our Track Manager, Peter Culley would like some volunteers to arrive at 7.30 a.m. to help him set up for the day. If you are coming to the working bee, please let Peter know on 0427 042 448 so he can plan the day’s work and we can provide numbers for catering.

## OTHR’s Latest Raffle

### 🏆 1<sup>st</sup> Prize 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> November 2007

- Trip by bus for 2 people from Mudgee to Gulgong then travel on CPH rail motor from Gulgong to Dunedoo. Bus transfer to Dunedoo Bowling Club for a 3-course meal and a Murder Mystery Show conducted by Sydney actors on 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- After the Show, bus transfer to Dunedoo Railway Station and an evening rail motor trip to Gulgong. Bus transfer to Mudgee for a night’s accommodation for 2 people at the Cudgegong Valley Motel on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Total value \$260

### 🏆 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

Gift voucher for a meal at Oberon’s Café Savanna

Total value \$50

### Tickets only \$2 each

Contact Bob and Margaret Connors (phone 6336 1211) now to get your raffle tickets for our fund raising raffle which will be **drawn on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> August** at the working bee.

OTHR wishes to thank the Mudgee Miniature Railway Co-Operative Society Limited and OTHR members, Barbara and David Coleman of Café Savanna, Oberon for their generous raffle donations.



### Membership

The numbers are growing but we haven’t quite reached our 2007 goal yet of 200 paid up members. Keep advertising OTHR everyone!

## **Mt Victoria Great Train Weekend**

OTHR mounted an information display at Mt Victoria's Great Train Weekend on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May. Our team of Keith Jones, Arthur Robinson, Jodie Whittle, Ross Allen, Colin Bembrick and Charles Hazlewood did a great job in advertising OTHR's activities. Thanks to all the team for their enthusiasm and dedication.

## **Member's Profile – Peter Walsham**

Each month the newsletter will include a profile of one of our members. We begin this special feature with OTHR member Peter Walsham who is our most distant member, in geographical terms.

Peter lives in W.A. and works as an engineman and yard foreman for the rail division of Robe River Associates at Pannawonica which is 1429 km from Perth. This is a closed, company-owned mining town of about 1,000 people and is situated 200kms south east of Karratha. The railway joins the iron ore mine with the port of Cape Lambert where the ore is exported overseas and to the rest of Australia. The company runs trains of 207 cars with four 4400hp locomotives on the head end to pull loads of about 28,000 tonnes of ore. The trains are just over 2 kms long!



*Peter Walsham at work in Pannawonica*

Peter grew up in Sydney and travelled extensively throughout the Central West of NSW when he was young and has some knowledge of our branch line.

Peter told us, *“After following the progress of OTHR for a while, it appeared to me that you had an enthusiastic and expanding group of volunteers. This, coupled with an achievable and sustainable restoration program, prompted me to become involved, albeit remotely, with the OTHR.*

*I hope that I can coincide one of my regular visits to Sydney with one of your working bees in the future. I also look forward to travelling on the line once the restoration is complete.”*

We look forward to meeting up with Peter before too long and showing him the progress we've made in restoring our heritage line.

## **The Oberon Tarana Sleeper Club**

The Sleeper Club has begun with its goal of raising funds to purchase sleepers to replace the old damaged ones on the line. Join the Sleeper Club by paying \$20 for each sleeper and become an Oberon Tarana rail heritage supporter. Send your donations to our Treasurer, Marjorie Webb. Each Sleeper Club member will receive a certificate and have her/his name placed on an honour roll. For further details contact our Publicity Officer, Bob Conners on 6336 1211.



## **Harry's Diary**

### **Chapter 1**

Dear Diary- My wife (the dear) gave me a membership to the OTHR Health Club for my 68<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Membership rights included a week of personal training upgrading the line between Hazelgrove and Oberon. Thought it would be a good idea to give it a try. Called OTHR and made my reservation with my personal trainer, Matt. The wife was pleased with my enthusiasm to start & OTHR encouraged me to keep a diary to chart my progress.

#### Monday:

Started at 6.00 a.m. - tough getting out of bed but it was well worth it. I arrived at Hazelgrove siding to find my personal trainer waiting for me. Matt was something of a Greek God - blonde hair, dancing eyes and a dazzling white smile.

Matt took my pulse after 5 mins of carrying sleepers to the line. He was alarmed that it was so fast. I enjoyed watching the skilful way he conducted the Toolbox meeting ... very inspiring! Matt was encouraging as I carried sleepers, although my stomach muscles ached from holding them in for so long.

This is going to be a FANTASTIC WEEK!

#### Tuesday:

Drank a pot of coffee & finally made it out the door. Matt gave me a vicious pair of tongs & told me to pull heavy sleepers from under the line. My legs were a little wobbly from carrying sleepers on my own down 1 km of the line, 10 times. Matt's rewarding smile made it all worthwhile! I feel GREAT!!!! *To be continued*