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November-December '07 Newsletter

Invitation to our Christmas Party

Dear

You and your family are invited to join us for our celebration of Christmas and our magnificent achievements in 2007 at a function to be held on Saturday, 15th December commencing at 6 p.m. at the Hazelgrove Siding, Black Bullock Road, Hazelgrove.

There will be a spit roast, outstanding country & western singers and a bush poet to entertain you during the evening. It is a BYO function and members are asked to bring a salad or dessert to assist with the catering.

To assist with catering arrangements we need to know numbers who will be attending. Please contact our secretary, Margaret Connors (see details above) if you plan to join us.

Great Achievements during 2007

What a wonderful year we've had. To summarise:

- ς OTHR has gone from strength to strength and our membership is now 219 and still growing.
- ς OTHR won an award from the Office of Rail Heritage for the quality of our restoration work on the track.
- ς Our dedicated board under the leadership of President Shane Moorhead has worked professionally throughout the year on a great variety of projects.
- ς Monthly meetings have been very well attended.
- ς Above all, our incredibly dedicated and skilled workers have made amazing progress on restoring the line.
- ς The last long working bee on 3rd-10th November is a good example of the grit and determination of our group. Every day 12-15 volunteers worked non-stop in cold, wet or windy weather. The team concentrated on pinning sleepers that had been previously laid with over 4,000 dog spikes and in addition, 400 damaged sleepers were removed and replaced. Drainage and earthworks have been completed at the Hazelgrove end of the line so hopefully the SWAMP has gone! Many thanks to our Track Manager, Peter Culley for his tireless work and organisation.
- ς Continued wonderful catering efforts from our enthusiastic catering team has been a feature of all working bees.

ς Finally, our grateful thanks must go to all of those local businesses, organisations and individuals who have donated time, machinery and food items for our working bees.

The Sleeper Club



*Now this is a genuine, but anonymous **railway sleeper** taking a well-deserved break during the recent weeklong working bee!*

We continue to receive donations to the Sleeper Club but approximately 3,500 sleepers are still needed to complete the Hazelgrove to Oberon section of our project.

Christmas Gift Idea

Just think what a unique Christmas gift you could give to friends or family members by donating \$20 for a sleeper. You will receive a handsome certificate which can be framed and you will have the pleasure of knowing that you have made a lasting contribution to restoring the historic Oberon

to Tarana pioneer railway. All donors' names will be recorded in a leather-bound journal for posterity. Contact our secretary for more details or check out our website.

Member's Profile – Graham Williams

Graham is one of OTHR's most enthusiastic volunteers and travels from his home in the Southern Tablelands for all of our weeklong working bees.

PHOTO MISSING

Graham pauses for a moment before lifting the replacement sleepers into place on the line.

He organises his work schedule as the rural merchandise manager at Bowral Co-op to ensure that he can spend at least 3 days on the track restoration work during the working bees.

Graham's fascination with steam trains and heritage railways began at an early age when he lived in Richmond. He recalls riding on the footplate of P class locos and in the cab of a 31-class tank loco. Graham first joined OTHR about 12 months ago and says that he fell in love with the district and having an old railway line in Oberon made it even more irresistible. He admits that the challenge of restoring a piece of railway history has become an obsession and he strives at every opportunity to give as much assistance as he can to our organisation.






Graham has often said, *"The one thing that stays in my mind about OTHR is the warmth and friendship of the people who work on the track. Sometimes the challenge in front of us seems daunting, but you get inspiration from others around you."*

Graham has helped OTHR in many ways and he has become a very valued member of the track restoration team. We always look forward to his visits during the long working bees.



Christmas Raffle with a Difference

Our Christmas raffle has 5 wonderful and very different prizes and the lucky winners will be given a choice of prizes from the following:

-  Trees
-  Queen-sized ecru lace bedspread
-  14" Pyrod TV and DVD player
-  45 litre Ice King Esky on wheels
-  Load of firewood.


We are grateful to our generous prize donors Kay Robinson, Graham Williams, Patti Orofino and Elizabeth and Allan Ross from Ross Conifers.

Tickets are only \$2 each and the raffle will be drawn in the main street of Oberon on Saturday, 22nd December at 12 noon.

We have included a book of 5 tickets with this newsletter. Ticket stubs and money must be received by our Treasurer, Marjorie Webb at PO Box 299, Oberon 2787 before 22nd December. If you would like more tickets, please contact our secretary, Margaret Conners (6336 1211).

Working Bee Dates

Please put the following dates in your diary:

 **Every Friday** starting at 4.00 p.m.

 **Saturday, 1st December** starting at 7.30 p.m.

 **Weeklong working bee, 12th – 19th January 2008** (inclusive).

Contact Peter Culley, Track Manager on 0427 042 448 for further information.

There is still much work to be completed on the track before OTHR can run a train between Hazelgrove and Oberon in 2008. Every hour contributed to a working bee helps – so roll up your sleeves and join the friendliest and happiest heritage railway gang in Australia!

STOP PRESS!!!

There will be a working bee on Saturday, 15th December from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. to clean up the Hazelgrove Siding area and prepare for our Christmas party.

OTHR's Board wishes everyone a merry Christmas, safe holidays and a happy, healthy new year!
Shane Moorhead - President