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## October 2007 Newsletter

### Weeklong Working Bee in November!

Our last long working bee for 2007 takes place from **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November** inclusive. It is planned to lay sleepers, clean rubbish off the track and paint signs, etc.

Our aim is to replace all unsuitable sleepers right up to the historic cattle yards near the Albion Street crossing. What a wonderful achievement it will be if we can reach this goal!!

Remember, there are jobs for everyone who can attend. Whether you can make it for half a day, one day or three or four days, your assistance will be much appreciated.

The OTHR catering committee has been working hard planning for the working bee and as usual, morning and afternoon tea and lunch will be provided to our volunteers.

Donations of cakes, slices or biscuits would be very helpful. Please contact our Secretary, Margaret Connors (6336 1211) if you would like to assist.

### Loan of an Excavator

The NSW Office of Rail Heritage has loaned OTHR an excavator for a month to assist with our track restoration work. Many thanks go to the NSW Rail Transport Museum at Thirlmere for its co-operation with the loan of this useful item of equipment.



Col Maloney operating the Office of Rail Heritage excavator near a newly restored culvert.

Thank you to Bill Muldoon and his staff who transported the machine from Thirlmere to Oberon.

### OTHR's Membership Numbers

At the time of writing this newsletter, we are excited to tell you that OTHR's membership has reached 215! While the majority live in the Central West, we are thrilled to know that we have supporters from as far away as Western Australia and Tasmania.

### Future Working Bees!

We must keep up our great momentum if we are to complete the line from Oberon to Hazelgrove by the end of February 2008.

Put these dates in your diaries –

### Working Bee Dates

- ✂ Every Friday starting at 4.00 p.m.
- ✂ **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December** starting at 7.30 a.m.
- ✂ There will be weeklong working bees in January and February 2008. Summer in Oberon is generally mild compared to the coast so how about spending some holiday time on the line.

Full details of these working bees will be published in the November Newsletter.

*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 further information.

### Dog Spikes

OTHR can always use extra dog spikes to secure the rails to the replacement sleepers. If you know where spare spikes are available, contact our Track Manager, Peter Culley on 0427 042 448.

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

This month we say hello to our enthusiastic and hard-working Track Manager, Peter Culley.

Peter was born in Bathurst but at a young age his family moved to the Jenolan Caves where he attended primary school there before going to boarding school in Bathurst. Peter had the good fortune to spend 10 years of his working life at the Caves as a Guide and reckons he spent more time underground than above during that period. Later he became a Senior Ranger at the Caves.



*Peter in the foreground, warms up on an Oberon winter's morning before heading out to the track with some of our workers.*

Peter was involved in the Rural Fire Service at the Caves for more than 25 years and received the National Medal for Service to the Community for his dedicated work with that group. He could write a book about the countless search and rescue dramas he was involved in around the Jenolan Caves while he was living in that area.

Through his interest in history, Peter became a foundation member of the Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society. It was due to his interest in preserving our rail history that drew Peter and his wife Christine to join our organisation. To quote him, Peter said recently, "If we can save and restore heritage items like the Oberon to Tarana railway line, we can pass on a little bit of history of this great country of ours to the generations who follow us."

Peter toils away constantly on the track restoration tasks and comes up with lots of new ideas to make the job quicker and easier for our volunteers. He sets a cracking pace with his early morning starts during the working bees and it isn't unusual to see him working out on the line or at the shipping container on any day of the week.

Many thanks to Peter for his good humour, dedication to the cause and willingness to put in the long hours to get the job done.

## **Next Monthly Meeting in November**

**PLEASE NOTE** that this will be a meeting with a difference to give our out-of-town volunteers an opportunity to join us!

The November monthly meeting will take place as scheduled on **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November** but will be held at **1.00 p.m. at the shipping container just north of the Garbage Tip Road**. So come along and see the progress which we have made and catch up with the latest news. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

Show your support for our workers who will appreciate your presence at this meeting.

## **Christmas Party- 15<sup>th</sup> December, 6 p.m.**

Our Christmas party will be held on **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 6 p.m.** and will be located at the **Hazelgrove siding**.

We have organised a spit roast and musical entertainment for the evening. It is a BYO function and members are asked to bring a contribution of a salad or a sweet for dessert.

Please let secretary Margaret Conners (6336 1211) know if you will be attending so that we have an idea of the numbers to expect.

## **Christmas Raffle**

OTHR will be holding a Christmas Raffle that provides winners with a choice of at least five wonderful prizes. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle, please contact our secretary, Margaret Conners.

Tickets will be available to all members in the next two weeks. The raffle will be drawn on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

## **The Sleeper Club**

Money is still being received from members and supporters to buy sleepers at \$20 per sleeper. Have you thought of giving sleepers to your friends or relatives as a Christmas Gift? Every Sleeper Club member will receive a beautiful certificate in their name and it will also be recorded for posterity in our leather-bound journal to recognise their contribution to this restoration project.

We are grateful to the Oberon Plateau Tourism Association for its recent generous donation of \$500 to our Sleeper Club.