



November 2011 Newsletter

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*December monthly meeting - Wed 7th
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the November Newsletter. There have been numerous visitors to the Oberon station in the past weeks, including the hundreds who came on the Spring Open Day – see below.

A special visitor was local MP Paul Toole, who was given a conducted tour of the station site and locos on Tues 1st November. A group of OTHR Committee members showed Paul around the heritage station yard and future funding needs of OTHR were discussed. Our President, Tim Arnison, managed to slip in a request for Paul to be our new Patron, and to this he readily agreed. Formal letters confirming this are yet to be exchanged, but we extend a hearty welcome to Paul Toole from all in OTHR.



President Tim Arnison and MP Paul Toole pause at one of the 73 class locos during an inspection of Oberon Station

OTHR Spring Open Day

The weather was kind to us on the open day and the boot sales, jumping castle and face painting activities were conducted under sunny skies. Also featuring were steam traction engines and vintage vehicles – backed up by the people from Hi-Top Radio - many thanks to all those involved. Visitors were able to inspect our locos, rolling stock and the historic photo display, plus the collection of memorabilia. They also enjoyed a sausage sizzle, tea and cakes, plus coffee from Fish River Roasters.

A special luncheon was provided on the day for the bus tour group from the Sydney Electric Train Society (SETS). Bob Connors acted as tour guide from Tarana to Oberon – thanks Bob. The President of SETS, Michael McGinty, presented Tim Arnison with a DVD featuring 19 class steam locos at work.

See the attached special *photo supplement* for further selection of photos of the Open Day events.

SPECIAL PURPOSE WORKING BEES **November Working Bee: 12th to 19th**

The November working bee will have a special focus, as we will be pre-fabricating the line to go into the Albion St level crossing. Council has provided the new timber sleepers and heavy rail (107lb) has been acquired from Lithgow. The intention is to have the crossing track work prepared this coming work bee and to install the line with the help of Council on a Sunday toward the end of the month (date to be fixed by Council). Please put these special events in your diary and come along to lend a hand. This will be a major step forward for OTHR and will mean the completion of the line to Hazelgrove is in sight.

Working Bee Dates for 2011

November: 12th – 19th
December: 10th – 17th

Let's make a special effort to make these next two working bees successful and we will see the crossing in place and complete before Christmas. The Oberon Men's Shed guys have agreed to make the timber level crossing gates, so we are getting excellent assistance there – thanks guys!

Other progress in the station precinct concerns the new rolling stock shed. The shed site is now levelled and compacted. The DA has now been passed by Council and work on footings is expected to start shortly.

If you can attend the working bees, please let Track Manager, Peter Culley, know as soon as possible – at least by the Thurs before the workbee. Peter's mobile is 0427 042 448 – he will be pleased to hear from you.

Fettler Accommodation Needed!

OTHR members regularly volunteer their spare accommodation for out of town members during workbee times. We need more members to assist in this regard. Would those who are able to billet workers please make contact with Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254) and let him know as soon as possible (preferably the Wed before the working bee). If you are one of our out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie.

Workbee Catering

Any OTHR member who can assist with catering for our famished fettlers is asked to contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809 prior to the working bee. Any edible donations will be greatly appreciated and these will help OTHR conserve some of our precious funds.

OTHR Xmas Picnic Lunch

The OTHR Christmas gathering will consist of a BYO picnic lunch at the Turon Technology Museum, on the Ilford Rd north of Sofala (www.hermes.net.au/turon/). The date will be Sun 11th December. This museum features live steam displays and many old items of machinery from yesteryear. By all reports it is a fascinating place to visit – there is a \$5 entry fee. We are expecting to see some of the steam machinery operating.

Bring your picnic lunch and other provisions – some of which may be bought on your way through the old historic gold mining village of Sofala. This is a good chance to swap yarns about the railway, what has been achieved and what has yet to be accomplished. By this time we may be celebrating the Albion St level crossing installation. Those who are intending to come along please let our Secretary, Kylie, know as soon as possible. Final details will be available in the next Newsletter.

Around the traps...

The operation to retrieve numerous lengths of 60lb rail and sets of points from Coolah is now a little closer to reality as drawings of the track layout have been finalised and a final submission to the appropriate authorities can be made. The logistics of transport, the equipment and the team needed to complete the operation is now in the planning stage. These points and rail have already been earmarked for our rolling stock shed project, which is about to get underway in earnest.

Over many weeks now our systems manager, Ian Davis has been toiling day and night to finalise our documentation so that our accreditation is in place to enable the two 73 class locos to be moved under their own power up to the platform at the station. This process is now expected to be finalised in the very near future so that our locos will be more accessible for inspection at Open Days and the like. We have to congratulate Ian for his dedication and perseverance in this task.

The next round of visitors to the station will be the Mt Panorama Motorcycle Club, who will spend the morning at Oberon on Sat 12th November. The station and precinct will be open for inspection as morning tea is served on the platform. Any OTHR members who can come along on the morning for a short time to chat to our visitors will be most welcome.

Xmas Hamper

Once again a hugely desirable Xmas Hamper is being prepared for raffling before Christmas. These hampers have been a great success in the past. Lots and lots of goodies will be included, so if you can donate any festive season fare (large or small) please get in touch with Jenny Cole - phone 6336 5338.

Steam & Vintage Fair

The 2012 Highlands Steam & Vintage fair will be held on 10,11&12th February. It's not too early to set these dates in your calendar. OTHR will once again be a major part of this event, with the station, locos, rolling stock and heritage carriages all available for inspection.



Vintage tractors, cars and other vehicles will feature, with live steam traction engines operating throughout the days at several venues around the town. Market and craft displays plus timberworking exhibits will also be a feature of this event.

S Truck project

The official time limit on this project has now expired, but the highly enthusiastic bunch of Conservation Volunteers has elected to continue in their own time until the wagon restoration is completed. The newly-milled hardwood timbers are now being installed in the wagon floor so this should see a finished S Truck in the Oberon station yard before Christmas. A BBQ celebration is planned to thank all our volunteers when the final nail/bolt is installed.

Spring Raffle Winner

The fabulous Spring Raffle was drawn on the Open Day and we are happy to announce that the lucky winner is Amy Perron. Congratulations, Amy - the dinner and murder mystery show have had rave reviews and we are grateful to the Mudgee Miniature Railway Society for donating this wonderful prize.

Reminder...

The minutes of the Ordinary General meetings are now available on our website. Go to the "About" tag and to "Meetings" on the drop-down menu. In addition, you can now easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc

There is an events calendar on our website, where major OTHR upcoming events and important dates are listed.

NB: Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... taranaob@activ8.net.au Please put *OTHR Newsletter* in the subject line – so your e-mail will not be deleted!