



November 2015 Newsletter

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The OTHR's 10th birthday "bash" at the Lithgow Valley Community Cinema turned out well. About 30 people attended and a fine afternoon tea was had at interval. President Tim Arnison cut the birthday cake and the crowd tucked in to the cake and other refreshments. Tim gave a short speech outlining the aims and achievements of OTHR and its origins.

Ross Adams gave a good introduction to the films and we thank him and his organisation for the opportunity to hold our event in the cinema. Thanks to Ross and those local volunteers who made the afternoon so successful.



Working Bee News

The important November working bee will be in progress as you receive this Newsletter.

All volunteer fettlers needed on site

This November working bee - which may be an extended one - will concentrate on preparations for the rail prefab for the Lowes Mount Rd level crossing. This is a major task which we hope to have completed this year!! The Council are keen to get this done in 2015.

Next Working Bee

**Saturday, December 5th to
Wed, December 9th**

It is currently planned to use lengths of 94lb rail for this 40 metre crossing, including the check rail, and this is expected to be delivered to Oberon station from the Zig Zag yard on Friday 6th Nov.

A swap will take place with Zig Zag taking some of the lighter rail from OTHR. Many thanks to our friends and colleagues at Zig Zag for this co-operation.

If you can join our dedicated band of hard-working volunteers and assist with the work during the *November* and *December* working bees – please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams, on 0422 596 438. Graham is always keen to hear from members who are prepared to step up and have a go! Even a few hours assisting the team can make a big difference.

Next Meeting

General Meeting

7:30pm, 2nd December, 2015

Christmas Party

The OTHR Xmas party this year will be held on Dec 19th Saturday. Mark this in your calendars!! Venue to be decided as yet, so watch this space! It will most probably be a in a local hotel in Oberon, where meals are available at modest cost. Tell other members and your friends – come along and enjoy the festive spirit. All welcome – contact our Secretary, Elaine Boxer.

Lowes Mount Rd Crossing

As a follow-up to the plans mentioned on page 1 we can now report that work started on this level crossing on Friday, 6th Nov. Sleepers have been laid out near the crossing over a 40m length and most of the heavy rail has been sorted and joined. The pre-fabrication is going well, with rail boring and check rail assembly to take place over the next 4 or 5 days.



A progress photo can be seen here.

OTHR 10th Anniversary Dinner

In celebration of completing 10 years of effort on our restoration project for the heritage railway, OTHR is holding an *Anniversary Dinner* – date 12th Feb 2016. Note this is the weekend of the Steam and Vintage Fair. Exact details are still in the planning, but a spit roast may be involved. Tickets will be available from our Secretary. For more details watch our website and the next Newsletter issue in December.

Historic Snow Photos

John Watters has provided – via Arthur Robinson – a set



of remarkable photos of Oberon station under deep snow on 16th July 1965. As can be seen, the snow in places is up to the level of the platform. The full set of photos we hope to upload to the website in the near future. Note the goods shed (long since demolished) in the photo, with the crane at the side.

Contacts:

Secretary, Elaine: Ph 02 6336 0441,

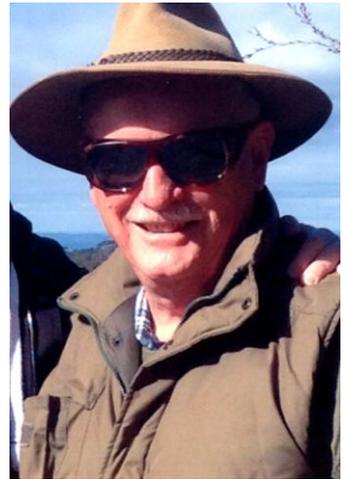
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Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can also easily find us on Facebook at... www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc

Profile – John Brotchie

Our Treasurer, John Brotchie, was born in Randwick and grew up in the suburb of Botany. When John was only 6 years old his father died and the family moved to Pymble, where he attended Gordon Public School and later North Sydney Boy's High. Straight out of High School, John joined the Bank of NSW and worked for them for 21 years, during which time they became Westpac. He also managed to squeeze in 6 years with the CMF.



Marrying in 1967, John and his wife Elizabeth raised a family and then bought a bookshop in Springwood, which they ran for 11 years. After he retired from full-time work they moved to Oberon and John became a casual Guide at Jenolan Caves. He says he has conducted over 4000 cave tours and it was “the best job I ever had”. He retired as a cave guide only in 2015.

Both John and Elizabeth joined OTHR in about 2007 but John managed to keep in the background until being elected as Treasurer in 2014.

OTHR to Host Heritage Carriage

An agreement is being entered into with a private owner in Orange which will enable OTHR to have a heritage carriage on display in the Oberon yard. This end-platform carriage will probably be housed near the loading bank at no cost to OTHR.

It will form another attractive display for our open days and Steam & Vintage Fair weekends. The delivery of this carriage in the near future will also see the yellow water gin removed from the yard

Steam and Vintage Fair, 2016

The Highland Steam & Vintage Fair for 2016 will be on Sat 13th Feb. All the usual events will be on the programme and we hope Oberon turns on appropriate weather for the weekend. It's not too early to put this on your calendars or planners for next year.



OTHR will be participating as usual, with the station, heritage rolling stock & locos open for inspection. Also this coming year the Bathurst Miniature Railway team will again have their ride-on miniature trains operating in the Oberon Station yard.