



November 2009 Newsletter

PO Box 299, Oberon 2787
www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway

Secretary: phone: 6336 1211
email: conners@activ8.net.au

****December monthly meeting - Wednesday,
2nd at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.
** December working bee: 10th-13th Dec.**

Welcome to the second last newsletter for 2009 from a hot and very dry Oberon. If this weather continues, one of the first jobs for our tourist railway will be to haul water into Oberon. There are many exciting happenings presented in this Newsletter and we welcome your feedback and any suggestions for future topics. Happy reading!

Donation of Rail Heritage Items

During our November working bee, OTHR members Stephen Preston and David Matthews came bearing some wonderful Christmas gifts for us. They donated heritage signs for the ladies' and men's toilets and the ticket office. The signs were supplied by Goodwin Alco who researched and sourced authentic materials and engaged craftsman Dave Matthews from Blueridge Woodworks and Car Builders to carry out the machining and assembly of the final product. The signs will be erected at the station in due course.

Goodwin Alco also donated a whole host of other heritage railway items including a hand cranked wooden box telephone which has been installed at the station where the original was located, an old railway stretcher, an antique first aid box, station master's flags and their wall hanging bracket, an old fuel container for a section car, oil pots and much more.

These items will be used in the heritage restoration of the station. Thank you Stephen, David and Goodwin Alco. Your generosity is helping to bring Oberon station alive.



"Is this the right height Peter?" Our fettlers admire the new ticket office sign donated to us by Goodwin Alco.

Rolling stock news

A week ago our first S truck arrived and more wagons are slated to arrive in the next few weeks, depending on the availability of transport. The S trucks will eventually be used to transport work materials down the line during track restoration from Hazelgrove siding. The final details of the terms of the lease of the CPH13 railmotor will be negotiated with the ARHS (ACT) heritage group very shortly.

2009 Clearance Sale Report



Auctioneers Pat Bird and Brian Harman take bids from the crowd for the large items at Oberon Showground.

Well, what a day it was at Oberon Showground on Sunday, 15th November when OTHR held its second annual Central Tablelands Clearance Sale. Over 500 visitors from the central west, Sydney and Wollongong travelled to Oberon to hunt for bargains.

There were more than 700 items on sale that included many large ones such as trucks, cars, tractors, boats, quad bikes and a variety of farm machinery. Inside the showground hall were many household goods including an organ, refrigerators, beds, lounge suites and hundreds of smaller items. Grandparents had fun purchasing toys and play equipment for their grandchildren, young mothers bid for strollers and baby equipment while the dads eagerly bid for the big ticket items displayed in the grounds.

The clearance sale proved to be a social event too with Oberon Rotary Club providing a range of barbecued food, Fish River Roasters selling their delicious coffee and OTHR members did a great trade in soft drinks and raffle tickets in our attractive Christmas hamper.

The event was a pleasing financial success for OTHR and it could not have happened without vast assistance from many organisations and individuals. Oberon Council provided support by donating \$2,000 towards the extensive advertising costs, Ripple Spring Water donated bottles of water and Moorhead Engineering loaned its crane. The office staff of Ray White Oberon again provided wonderful help behind the scenes and Pat Bird demonstrated his auctioneering skills on the day. Our grateful thanks also go to Brian Harman whose fast moving and quick-witted performance showed that his auctioneering skills were up there with the best. The sale office was staffed by Mary David, Alison Allen and Zsuzsanna Handelsmann who worked tirelessly to ensure the paper work was completed on time.

Finally, we acknowledge with grateful thanks the tremendous effort of Tim Arnison, convenor and his team who put in many hours of work to stage a very professional fund-raising event.

November working bee report

This working bee was held from Monday 16th to Friday 20th and there was a good attendance of members every day. The track bed behind the trucking yards was smoothed out and sleepers were installed in more than 100 metres of track.

A big thank you goes to the fitters who worked determinedly through 30°C+ heat. The support of our out-of-town volunteers is outstanding- thank you to Jodie, Rick, Graham, Bob, Steve, Dave and Col who travelled to Oberon to attend the working bee. And also, thank you to Stella and Kevin McGrath of the Big Trout Motel for providing free accommodation for our visiting members – your support of OTHR has been most appreciated.



OTHR Christmas Party

Don't forget the big evening! Our Christmas Party will be held at Oberon Railway Station on **Sunday, 13th December starting at 6.00 p.m.** Meat and drinks will be provided by OTHR and members are asked to please bring a salad or dessert as a contribution to the barbecue. During the evening our "official" photographer, Doug Booker will present a montage of our work and achievements during the past 3 years. Rumour has it that President Shane is going to entertain us by singing Christmas carols.

For catering purposes, contact our Catering Manager, Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809 if you will be attending.

Office of Rail Heritage Forum

On 19th November OTHR's secretary and publicity officer attended the forum held at the Powerhouse Museum for heritage rail operators. It gave members a good opportunity to network and share ideas.

The program started with an update of developments at the Office of Rail Heritage and then covered topics which included asbestos awareness, cataloguing heritage collections and the assistance that can be provided to groups by the Conservation Volunteers Australia. Speakers from Cooma Monaro Railway, Zig Zag Railway, the Puffing Billy Railway and Ffestiniog Railway conducted a very useful interactive session on attracting and keeping younger volunteers.

We came away with many valuable ideas that can be applied to OTHR's restoration project.

Membership News

A big welcome to new members Keith Downton (Ballimore), Phil Buckley (Pennant Hills), Danny Baldwin (Oberon) and Roy Smith (Oberon). We hope you can join in our many activities and if you don't live in Oberon, that you can occasionally visit us to see our progress.

5th December – Barbecue duties

OTHR volunteers will be conducting a sausage sizzle outside Mawhood Bros. IGA Supermarket Oberon on Saturday, 5th December. This will be a gala day celebrating the official opening of the new supermarket store. The food has been donated by Mawhood Bros. and a sausage sandwich will cost a gold coin donation which will go to OTHR's funds.

We thank Mawhood Bros. for their continued generous support of OTHR. They have been wonderful supporters right from the commencement of our restoration project.

Vale Jim Hagan

OTHR has recently lost a distinguished member in Dr Jim Hagan who was a retired Professor of History from the University of Wollongong. Jim had a lifetime love of railways and all of the heritage associated with them. We extend our sincere condolences to Jim's family.

Donations for our Christmas hamper

We are now selling tickets for our Christmas raffle and there are 3 prizes of delightful hampers full of Christmas goodies. Thank you to everyone who has already donated items for the hampers. Donations for the raffle are still being accepted and these can be left at Bill Muldoon's Oberon Mowers & Outdoors hardware store.

We are asking for members to help sell raffle tickets in the main street. If you can help us with this task please phone our raffle organiser, Lorraine Fielding on 0425 289 245.

The raffle will be drawn at **4.00 pm on Saturday, 19th December.**

December working bee

This will be a short working bee to conclude the year. It takes place from 8.00 a.m. Thursday, 10th to noon on Sunday, 13th December. For members who don't wish to lay sleepers, our Track Manager is looking for volunteers to carry out a stock take of our possessions that are growing almost daily.

REMEMBER: Phone Peter Culley (Track Manager) before the 10th December on 0427 042 448 to let him know what day(s) you will be able to attend the working bee.

Note: This is our last chance to meet the "Big End of Year Challenge" to complete all sleeper restoration work to Hazelgrove siding.

Final Working Bee Date for 2009

December: Thurs. 10th – Sunday 13th

Note: Our Christmas Party will be held on the evening of the 13th December commencing at 6.00 p.m.