

OBERON TARANA HERITAGE RAILWAY INC.
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2016



.....bringing your rail heritage back to life.

PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787

Website: www.othr.com.au

Email: admin@othr.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc

GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/2mhftk44>

Proudly sponsored by



Committee:

President: Tim Arnison

Vice President: Peter Culley

Secretary: Elaine Boxer

Treasurer: John Brotchie

Track Manager: Graham Williams

Public Officer: Elaine Boxer

General Committee:

David McMurray: Fundraiser, Acting Newsletter Editor/Publicity

Ian Davis: Document Writer

Martyn Salman

Editor's thoughts

Looking forward, looking back.....so go the lyrics to the iconic Slim Dusty song.

With that phrase in mind my thoughts turned to collectors, historians, enthusiasts, bibliophiles, hoarders, antiquarians, accumulators or even fanciers. All have a common interest in life - saving or restoring things from the past for future generations.

Classic cars, trucks, engines, tractors, sewing machines, china plates, coins, books, farm machinery, photographs or even humble cash register docket; over 75% of our population collect things from the past for future generations.

So many people want to collect or restore items from their youth and generations past to relive and remember the past. And so it goes for Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. for whose members it's all about railway lines and trains.

Here in Oberon our members have been painstakingly assembling and restoring all things related to the Oberon to Tarana line during the past ten years. They are trying to give the Oberon to Tarana line and the Oberon Station precinct an authentic representation of the period from 1923 to 1979. All this to give future generations a glimpse of what a working line from the last century would look like.

But for this great work to continue we do need constant funding. All readers are asked to contribute something towards the future and this can be done via our "GoFundMe" platform or by an exciting new give-away programme described later in the newsletter.

For ten years so many committee members and volunteers have dedicated time and effort to develop our vision. Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. certainly has been looking forward while looking back and we've definitely come a long way down the track.

Let's keep the momentum going in every possible way!



*Generous donation of MDF
Borg Panels Oberon*

Know Graham Williams.

It seems that Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is blessed with good committee men able to apply the fruits of past employment.

In Graham we have a retired railway worker who is very well qualified to be OTHR's Track Manager.

Graham is answerable to our President and amongst other tasks has responsibility for all of OTHR's railway tracks, cuttings, drainage work, track support earthworks and level crossings. Graham is responsible for organising our working bees and controlling volunteer labour at the working bees.

His position is reasonably complex and next to the Secretary is one of the more important positions on the committee.

Under Graham's influence, OTHR has made exceptional progress in the past twelve months.

OTHR is indeed fortunate to have Graham on board.

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting

7th December 2016

7.30PM

Some Oberon Facts.....

Oberon is situated very near some of the world's greatest natural and manmade treasures.

- Jenolan Caves is a short 25 min. drive to the South East of Oberon.
- Kanangra Walls is a 35 min drive to the South East of Oberon.
- Evans Crown , located near the village of Tarana is 25 min to Oberon's North
- Abercrombie Caves are located to Oberon's South West near the village of Trunkey Creek.
- There are five very distinct national parks located within the Oberon Shire
- Mayfield Garden is just 10 mins to the west.

- Oberon has a very tight community that is fiercely fighting to retain our independence.
- Two Aboriginal tribes lived in the area, the Wiradjuri and the Gundungutta.
- Earliest contact with white men was around 1802.
- Many focal points around Oberon bear Aboriginal names: Buckemal, Bummaroo, Querungaa, Bindook, Jaunter, Tuglow, Murruin and Kanangra to name a few.
- Contrary to taught history the first white people to explore the Oberon district were Francis Barrillier and five men with two aboriginal men in 1802.
- The earliest white people to take up land in the area were William Lawson and William Cox in 1815
- The Oberon to Tarana branch line was built at minimal cost. The line could only support a maximum load of 245 tons for mixed goods and passenger trains.
- The branch line had 1 in 25 gradients and many sharp curves. A trip to Oberon took 85 minutes whilst the return trip took 95 minutes.

Historical facts attributed to Philippa Gemmell-Smith



Oberon's extraordinarily beautiful countryside

Why Market Position matters.

When managing any business it is imperative to position that company at or as near to the top of your field as possible.

Marketing position really does matter if a business is going to strive to be the best in its field.

At Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. your committee decided that rather than define ourselves purely as a heritage railway attraction and therefore compete with other likeminded associations, we would look to the wider tourism market.

With that in mind your committee:

- Decided that our operation would be positioned equally with other major attractions within in the Central Tablelands.

- Assessed that we have the potential to attract tourists and visitors who have visited other attractions in the Blue Mountains, Central Tablelands and Central West area as we would complement those attractions rather than compete with them.
- We assumed that other world renowned attractions in the Central Tablelands attracted visitors who would be interested in our operations as well.

Next issue we will discuss how our unique selling position helps us achieve our market position.

By now your committee hopes that you are getting the idea that building a heritage railway is not all laying tracks and restoring stuff.

There is so much more to this business of building that heritage railway and making it sustainable for future generations.



Regular volunteers from left Tim Arnison, John Boxer, Greg Bourne, Ian Davis and Peter Culley unload donated sheets of MDF from Borg Panels.

**Next Working Bee
Saturday December 3rd
To
Wednesday December 7th**

Working Bee News

Graham Williams, OTHR Track Manager advises that materials have finally arrived at the railway precinct after some delay.

The next working bee will now be commencement of the construction of the storage facility within the rolling stock shed.

Remember the conditions of offering up your labour for a day or two:

- Morning and Afternoon tea.
- A great lunch
- Accommodation for out of towners at Oberon Men's Shed
- Hot showers at the caravan park.

Come on, be a part of it; you won't regret it.



*Donated chip board from CHH Structaflor, Oberon
Framework for storage facility in foreground.*

General Meeting

Don't forget the next General Meeting is on 7th December 2016 at 7.30 PM.

Bill Harrison from the Glenreagh Mountain Railway is the guest speaker this month. Bill and his group of merry volunteers have been very helpful in their support for OTHR and it's with great anticipation that we look forward to his words of wisdom.

Underline the date in your diaries as attendance at this general meeting will certainly be worthwhile.



Lowanna Station, part of Glenreagh Mountain Railway.

Membership fees due now...

November is your second last opportunity to pay your membership fees for 2016/17.

Treasurer John Brotchie advises that non-payment of any outstanding membership fees for 2016/17 will invalidate OTHR membership.

If you haven't paid your 2016/17 dues please attend before it's too late. Payment of fees after 31st December will incur a new joining fee.

There are two ways to renew:

1. Send a cheque to Treasurer, John Brotchie via our postal address.
2. Use Direct Debit – don't forget your name, to BSB 062 – 032 Account No. 1004 – 9851.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the OTHR website.



*This train is on the line between Rutters Ridge and the Tip Road.
Bob Winch Collection.*

Welcome New Members

Welcome Phil James of Wyongah, NSW.

OTHR issues a very warm welcome to all new members.

Say Whaaat???

I'll do Algebra,

I'll do Trig,

And I'll even do statistics,

But Graphing is where I draw the line!

Donations assist OTHR.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. has recently received some generous donations that will allow the storage facility in the rolling stock shed to be built.

Borg Panels donated panels of MDF that will clad and line the walls; CHH Structaflor donated chipboard panels for the roof, Dark Red Frames and Trusses constructed frames at cost and Lex Azzopardi drew the plan.

OTHR is very thankful to these local companies and individual who gave so generously of materials and time.

New General Meeting a success!

October saw the newly formatted bi-monthly meeting herald a new era in meetings for OTHR.

The new format consists of a minimum of formal information and plenty of laid back casual entertainment. As a result numbers at the meeting almost trebled!

Guest speaker was Tim Elderton General Manager of the Lithgow State Mine Museum Limited and also General Manager of Elderton Engineering Pty Ltd specialising in rail maintenance and servicing. A few years ago Tim re-established his business at the Lithgow State Mine Museum site. He has extensive expertise in the railway industry.

Tim addressed the General Meeting for about an hour outlining the building of the Lithgow State Mine Museum, its operations and its future plans. He also discussed the importance of his group and OTHR working together for the future. Overall his talk, ending with a Q & A, was inspirational and the OTHR committee and members extended a very sincere thank you.



Activity inside the Lithgow State Mine Museum Railway Workshop.

Steady as she goes at OTHR.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. held its Annual General Meeting on 5th October last.

All committee members were re-elected to their old positions with the exception of Col Bembrick who retired and Martyn Salmon was elected as a general committee member in his place. All positions were unopposed.

Thanks Col for your devoted committee work over the years and for your input into the smooth operation of the Association. Col now becomes a general member for the time being or until the management bug strikes again. We should also recognise Col's partner Glenda who has allowed him to participate in the association. Glenda has been an unsung volunteer behind the scenes and we wish them well.



Volunteers on Working Bees don't consider the weather.

Has OTHR actually done anything in 2015/16?

Well, according to our President, Tim Arnison, OTHR has made great progress.

Tim delivered his annual account of the workings of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. thus:

“This year has been one where OTHR has seen progress and in other ways not seen as much activity as many of us would have wished.

Part of the way through the year we were told by John Holland Rail, the managing agents for the line between Tarana and Oberon, that the licence and agreements that we had been operating under were not valid. We had to cease work on the infrastructure until this was corrected. We have now applied to become the Heritage Rail Operator for the Oberon Station precinct and this has been approved by TfNSW, the owners of the railway, and the paperwork is being processed by John Holland Rail. Let’s hope that when this is completed, the weather is kinder and we are able to work outside again.

But apart from this we have still achieved many things in the last twelve months such as:

- An exchange of rail with Zig Zag railway made possible by the transport provided by Oberon Council.
- The installation of the road crossing of Lowes Mount Road.
- Signage on the rolling stock shed.
- Swapping with Valley Heights Loco Museum of some heavy 3 phase workshop machinery for some display cabinets for our heritage displays.
- A 10th birthday celebration and film afternoon with the Lithgow Film Society.
- We also had a manned display at the Bathurst Gem and Mineral Fair at the Bathurst showgrounds.
- A group of us met at Tarana Station a group from Insight Tours who were travelling through the district by Rail Motor.
- We received delivery of rail memorabilia, equipment and a large miniature rail layout from Mr. Ross Tighe.

Behind the scenes the work has carried on continuously.

Fund raising has progressed. We produced the OTHR business plan which clearly states where we are at and where we are aiming to go. This was part of the appeal we pushed to several corporations seeking their interest and some funding. Also we have launched a “GoFundMe” account where we have received to date almost \$5000.

The review and rewriting of our SMS documents has been continuous. The documents under review are placed on the SMS webpage, part of the OTHR web page, and we are very glad for the comments that have continued to come in as part of this review.

A planning meeting was held to identify and prioritise the works that have to be undertaken.

We had an induction afternoon where many current members and some new members undertook their induction or update.

Some of the materials are now on site for the building of a new storage shed inside the rolling stock shed. It is planned that when finished much of the office equipment, records and excess memorabilia will be moved from the station to there.”

President Tim’s report was very comprehensive and indicated what has been achieved whilst we have been negotiating to become the Heritage Rail Operator of the Oberon Station precinct.



Nostalgia photos.

Here are some of our present and past volunteers. Can you recognise any of them?

Stop Press

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. has secured a Heritage Rail Operator licence (in principle) for the Oberon Station precinct.

We await the paperwork.

Highlands Steam and Vintage Fair.

Save the dates Friday 10th and Saturday 11th February 2017, come to Oberon and immerse yourself in a couple of days living “the good ol’ days”

OTHR plays a major role on Saturday 11th February, throwing open its doors for a fantastic day of displays and activities. This day is one of our major fund raising days.

Our good friends over at the Oberon Heritage & Collectors Club Inc. put on a couple of wonderful days activities that are second to none and are a major draw for visitors to Oberon NSW.

Not been to Oberon before? Here’s your opportunity to come along, have a look and be a part of the heritage spirit of the day.

Oberon is an easy two hour drive from Western Sydney, two and a half hours from Canberra an hour and a half from Orange and two hours from Mudgee.

Get to Oberon early to marvel at the Grand Parade, then view the exhibits and take the HS&VF free bus for a trip about town. You can hop off at any point.

Oberon’s a great place to be!



Enjoy the fun of the Highlands Steam & Vintage Fair!

We want to lighten your wallet just a little.....

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. has many ways you can contribute to our project or even contribute to the smooth administration of our operation.

- Gunzels take note; Christmas is a few short weeks away and an unusual and inexpensive gift for family and friends is a donation to our longstanding Sleeper Club. Donations are \$20.00 each and for your money you or your nominated donor becomes a member of the Sleeper Club, your donation is tax deductible and you will be remembered in the Sleeper Club Register on permanent display at the Oberon Station.
- Another way is by a general donation to OTHR. Once again the donation is tax deductible and this helps in the general operations of the association.
- Don't forget a donation to the **GoFundMe** campaign where all funds raised go towards the completion of Stage 1 of our ambitious project – the Oberon to Hazelgrove part of the line and get a train running on that piece of track.
- A new offline fundraising draw detailed later in this newsletter.

Remember, your generosity will get us across the line. Share the word amongst your network of friends and family.



Been to our open days lately?

Did you know that Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway opens its gates every 1st Saturday monthly?

Here's a fantastic idea; go along to Oberon Farmer's Market in the grounds of the historic St Barnabas Church and purchase some local veggies, cakes or pastries and a handmade piece of craft work, move further up the main street and grab a coffee at any one of our great cafes, then move on to the Oberon Heritage Station for a leisurely look at all of OTHR volunteers handiwork.

Remember there is no entry fee but we do encourage a donation to assist in running our operations.

Oberon is an easy two hour drive from Western Sydney.

She's a Beauty!



Seen this painting before?

Of course; it's the one featured in the last post of GoFundMe and portrays an image of the type of loco that used to ply the Oberon Tarana branch line between Oberon and Tarana.

The painting is an image of the train about to cross the Snakes Gully bridge north of Oberon, heading towards Oberon. It depicts a period around the 1930's.

Mike O'Kane, a local artist, is the painter.

And it could be yours!

OTHR has launched an offline draw as part of our fund raising programme to get Stage 1, Oberon to Hazelgrove finished and a train running.

To enter the draw we need you to post by snail mail donations to our mail address:

- PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787.

We need:

- your name,
- address,
- email and
- phone number.
- Your donation needs to be clearly marked "fundraiser".

Your name and donation will be listed on the GoFundMe platform as an offline donation.

One ticket in the draw will be issued for each \$5.00 donation. Tickets will be mailed as soon as possible.

Cut off will be 25th January 2017 and the draw will take place at Oberon Station by President, Tim Arnison or his nominee on 31st January 2017.

The draw came about as a result of a member suggestion and, if successful, we plan this form of fundraising to be ongoing.

What's this thing called luv?



Hands up if you recognise the sign?

Leave them up if you admit to being old enough to remember them adorning railway lines as mile posts.

In 1873 English grocer, James Griffith migrated to Australia with his wife and a cousin to set up a tea merchandising business.

By 1875, Griffith Brothers Teas were fantastically successful supplying tea, coffee, cocoa and chocolate across Australia.

In an inspired advertising campaign, a series of these blue and white signs were set up along railway lines counting down the miles to incoming passenger arrivals at Capital cities supposedly to rush to Griffith Brothers headquarters to partake in tea, coffee, cocoa or chocolate.

These days the company no longer exists and the little blue and white signs are highly sought after by collectors.

What's your favourite story about these signs? Send your recollections to our Secretary and we'll give them a run in the December Newsletter.

Contacts
For all enquiries

Secretary: Elaine Ph. 02 6336-0441

Email admin@othr.com.au

Highlands Steam & Vintage Fair

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th February 2017

Main event Saturday, open 'till noon Sunday

Rally ground at Oberon Rugby Leagues Club, Lowes Mount Road,

Oberon NSW

- Friday, road run for cars and trucks, plus the famous Oberon tractor trek
- Saturday 10am - Oberon Street parade sponsored by Oberon Council
- Saturday 10:30am - All the action at the Fair Ground.

Admission: Adults \$10, children and concession holders \$5, families \$25.

Featuring historic machinery, vintage & classic car display, steam traction engines, steam portables & stationary engines, vintage trucks & lots of tractors. Market stalls, timber working, working blacksmiths, military display by the Lithgow Living History Group. Heritage railway display

CONTACT DETAILS:

Jim Hawkes 02 63361934 after 6pm
Mail: PO Box 313 Oberon NSW 2787
Email: hawkesjim54@gmail.com
Web: www.oberonsteamfair.com.au

Plus:

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway (OTHR)
Oberon RSL Sub Branch Museum
The Barry Hughes tractor collection
Tractor Trek and Road Runs on Friday 12th

Major sponsors:



Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Offline Draw

Win this:



Complete this entry form for your chance to win this fabulous painting.

Donation: \$

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Each \$5.00 of your donation receives one entry in the draw, i.e. \$30.00 donation = 6 entries. Entries close 25th January 2017 and draw conducted on 31st January 2017.

Entry tickets forwarded as soon as practicable. All donors acknowledged on "Gofundme" platform as an offline donor.

Post entry and donation to OTHR, PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787 clearly marked "Fundraiser".