

OBERON TARANA HERITAGE RAILWAY INC.
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2016



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

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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

Col Bembrick.

Editor's thoughts

Heritage.....

One of the meanings of heritage is a tradition, something that can be passed down from preceding generations.

Oberon is a small rural town with a very proud history. As the years progress more of the town's heritage disappears. Buildings crumble, machinery is sold for scrap and mostly people don't care. But there are small groups of people dedicated to saving what's left whether they are land owners, Oberon Council heritage committee or enthusiastic historians.

Our heritage is our history; none of us should allow our history to just disappear.

"Bringing your rail heritage back to life" is the sole reason for the existence of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

The potential loss of Oberon's railway, its life line for 56 years was very real until the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. group was formed in 2006 to save it and bring it back to life. The Oberon – Tarana line was suspended in 1979 but not closed. For 27 years the infrastructure quietly rotted away or in some cases stolen or repurposed by local farmers.

Now in OTHR, the line and all infrastructures has a very real chance of being revived to something closely resembling a part of Oberon village life from 1923 to 1979.

How do we do this? We do this as a focussed group intent on restoration and refurbishment of the Oberon – Tarana line and Oberon Station precinct; we need funding and lots of it and we need to make the project viable by introducing a very big tourism element. To date approximately \$2.5 million in cash and kind has been spent on the project.

As members of OTHR you all have a vital part to play. Your committee is asking you to do two things: volunteer some time at our regular working bees and find a way to help give us a constant cash flow. Ask yourself can you give a dollar or two, or can you help us spread the word amongst your network of family, friends and work colleagues to find people willing to help out.

Our project is your project and we need each and every one of you to do a little in one form or another. This is your railway heritage and Oberon's single biggest project to bring its heritage back to life for everyone to enjoy.

It's up to you! Let's do it!



Historic Ramsgate House in Oberon Street

Know Elaine Boxer

To know Elaine is to know a busy woman!

Prior to retirement Elaine held very senior teaching positions in nursing both at hospital and tertiary levels. Elaine retired to Oberon with husband John, eventually seeking to put her energy into the local community.

Locally Elaine is also Chair of Oberon Health Council, Volunteer and Relief Co-Ordinator of Oberon Neighbourhood Centre, Volunteers for Oberon Heritage & Collectors Club and the Highlands Steam & Vintage Fair, member of Friends of Oberon Library and is a past Secretary of Oberon Garden Club.

As Secretary of OTHR, Elaine is charged with carrying out all duties as directed by the President and is generally responsible for the day to day administration of OTHR. The position is extremely busy and Elaine is required to have a working knowledge of all aspects of OTHR.

The association is indeed lucky to have Elaine as Secretary.



Elaine...so many talents!

NEXT MEETING

GENERAL MEETING

5TH OCTOBER 2016

7.30PM

Some Oberon Facts.....

- Oberon is approximately 1200M above sea level.
- The population of Oberon village, its surrounding villages and shire is approximately 5700.
- Being an Alpine climate Oberon is subject to frequent snow falls in winter.
- The Oberon – Tarana branch line was opened on 3rd October 1923.
- The opening was celebrated by the entire Oberon community with a picnic at the Showground and a free return trip to Hazelgrove for all school children.
- In 1908 the Oberon Railway League was formed to lobby the State Government to forge a branch line from Tarana to Oberon.
- State Labour Member for Bathurst, Valentine Carlisle Ross Wood (Carl) Johnson supported the push for the branch line between 1917 and 1923.
- The unmanned station Carlwood at Keirstone was named in honour of his strong support.

Historical facts attributed to Philippa Gemmell-Smith



Ross Tighe's model railway sits in the main display area at Oberon Station

So, what's the Business Plan all about?

Every enterprise large or small, every sole trader and every association needs a business plan.

It's a history, a current view and a future vision snapshot at a given time that will allow that enterprise to meet goals, achieve tasks and tells that enterprise the likelihood of success or failure.

We have spoken about our identified funding target and how it is to be achieved and the importance of having a continuous cash flow.

Your committee has also identified the obvious; that we need to be profitable. We are a heritage group involved in restoring and refurbishing a heritage railway in all its forms but that won't give OTHR a future cash flow so we have to introduce an element of tourism.

So the next step is to produce a potential cash flow using conservative assumptions to forecast five years ahead. That forecast indicates that OTHR should be a profitable tourism operation almost from week one.

Forecast profits generated will be reinvested into infrastructure and rolling stock, maintenance and renewal and thus we will become self-funding.

Every member will benefit in due course if we all actively participate in one form or another to secure our future.

Next time we'll investigate how OTHR proposes to make that profit.



Malachi Gilmore Hall, a Fine Art Deco Building.

*Opened in 1937 it has had a varied history, once being a 310 seat cinema, a dance venue and lately is used as a wool store and business with a craft shop on the ground floor.
Another rare remaining example of Oberon's rich heritage.*

**Next Working Bee
Saturday October 1st
To
Wednesday October 5th**

WORKING BEE NEWS

Track Manager Graham Williams has a couple of interesting projects lined up for the October working bee taking place from 1st October to 5th October.

It will be a case of either or, depending on circumstances. The either will be the completion of C3 road into the rolling stock shed or the completion of the storage shed in the rolling stock shed. There are also many other small tasks to be completed.

Remember that every volunteer gets a free lunch and morning and afternoon teas. Oberon Men's Shed also provides shelter for anyone coming from out of town. It's not The Ritz but its comfortable and warm and hot showers are available at the caravan park.

Your volunteering makes such a difference to your project.

All enquiries should be made via the contact number listed below.



*Put yourself in the picture by volunteering from October 1st
Interesting tasks are always at hand.*

GENERAL MEETING

Don't miss Oberon Tarana Heritage Railways Inc.'s next General Meeting scheduled for 5th October next commencing 7.30 PM. If you want to know what's going on, come along!

Guest speaker this month will be Tim Elderton from the Lithgow State Mine Railway Museum.

The Lithgow State Mine Railway Museum already runs restored trains on the mainline and elsewhere and its OTHR's intention to work closely in partnership with this group to further develop both organisations.

Your effort in attending this meeting will be rewarded with plenty of information and ideas about how successful our partnership will be.

See the Poster elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.



*Here's a reminder that winter is never far away in the Central Tablelands.
This photo is of a rail platform located in the State Mine Rail precinct in Lithgow NSW.
A similar rail platform is also located at the Lithgow Blast Furnace park heritage site.
Submitted by our chief gunzel, Col Bembrick.*

Membership fees due now...

Treasurer Brotchie wants you to know that membership Fees for 2016/17 are now overdue. Late payment disrupts the smooth administration of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. Renewal fee is a very modest \$20.00 or .385 cents weekly. A bargain when you consider the benefits that can be available to you.

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.



Originally opened as the Australian Joint Stock Bank in 1882, becoming the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney in 1918, now the National Australia Bank, Oberon Branch.

Skoda & Tatra Register

The Skoda & Tatra Register is patiently waiting for formal approval of their lease.

Historically, the Register had been looking for a block of dirt in Oberon for a couple of years to establish a Skoda & Tatra museum. Skodas and Tatras are Czechoslovakian motor vehicles are amongst the oldest marques in the world. When established the museum in Oberon will be one of about five in the world. A very rare occurrence and a real bonus for OTHR.

About twelve months ago their committee approached your committee to discuss the possibility of OTHR ceding a small piece of ground near the station precinct. Your committee could see benefits for both organisations to work hand in hand. The proposal transcended both rail and motor cars and both organisations have agreed to work together to further the future of the railway precinct and develop a complete heritage precinct over time.

OTHR committed to ceding a small piece of land and the lease is now being transferred. The Skoda group and OTHR are entering into a memorandum of understanding for the benefit of both groups in all respects. It is to be hoped that the professional quality museum, now named "The John Hebblewhite Museum", will be up and running sooner than later.



This very rare Tatra 603 rear engine V8 will form part of the exhibits in the Skoda & Tatra Museum.

Welcome New Members

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. always welcomes new members.

- The Barker Family of Wahroonga NSW
- Lisa Murphy of Orange
- Chris Smith of Orange

have recently become members.

Welcome to the Association!

Say Whaat???

Ah, **Synonym** rolls.....

Just like **grammar** used to make!

Stop Press.

President Tim and members of Oberon Council met on 29th August last at the Albion Street level crossing to view and discuss safety arrangements for pedestrians.

As safety is paramount in our association it was decided that Council would construct a concrete pathway on either side of Albion Street across the level crossing with the area between the proposed path and road back filled with road base. The concrete path will be constructed in such a way that sections can be easily lifted for maintenance.

Pedestrian and vehicular traffic will flow in a safer manner upon completion of this vital work.

Meanwhile in other Council matters, Oberon Council has made a substantial “in kind” donation to OTHR as part of its annual donation programme to community associations.

That donation will provide the use of heavy machinery to be loaned by council for our use as necessary during the 2016/17 period.



*Council equipment used during the laying of the Albion Street level crossing.
It neatly frames some of our volunteer fettlers who are discussing the next phase of the job at hand.*

What do Louise Krieger and Oberon have in Common?



Louise has a carriage in storage at Oberon. It is currently being refurbished and will then be placed on loan to OTHR as part of their permanent heritage display.

The photo above was taken in 1966 and shows the Dept. Works Manager, Steve Tier, on his last working day due to his retirement. He is standing alongside of American Suburban Set LUB 60. This was the first American Set with blocked out frames and clad in marine ply which improved the body work. This method was introduced by Steve Tier. Louise's carriage is the third car along and is identified as FO 1209.

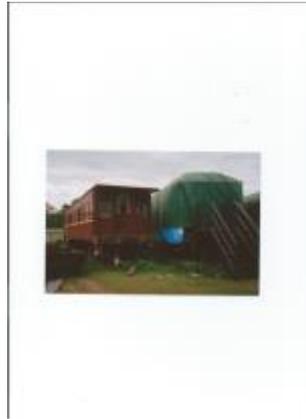
"American Suburban Car 1209 was built during 1907 by Clyde Engineering Co, Sydney. Carriage 1209 was one of 955 American cars, the first of which was imported from the USA in 1877 and then built in Australia 'til 1916. These cars were the most numerous group of cars built for any Australian rail system, the backbone of the NSW fleet for 70 years dominating the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong suburban systems 'til the 1970's.

Carriage 1209 was built as a first class Independent Car code BB, first run from December 1907. In September 1931 it was converted to 2nd class, code FA and joined car set 42. In April 1935 it was again converted to tourist type and in March 1941 its code was changed to FO. In April 1958 it left 42 set and joined 60 set where in 1966 it received an A1 overhaul where the original cedar body panels were removed and the car sheeted with marine ply. 60 set and 1209 were condemned in December 1974 and six cars including 1209 were sold to Forbes Vintage Village in NSW. When the Village went bust, 60 set was sold off after many years and 1209 ended up on a property at Cessnock NSW. It was then sold to a proposed railway group at Rothbury. From there 1209 was

purchased by Train Movers located in Richmond NSW. Louise Krieger purchased car 1209 and it was transported for storage and refurbishment at Oberon NSW."

History of Car 1209 was supplied by Wayne Dempsey ex Carriage Works and a long-time volunteer to OTHR.

You may view Louise's historic carriage in the Oberon Railway precinct during our open days being the first Saturday each month held in conjunction with the Oberon Farmers Market.



This photo shows carriage FO 1209 in the Train Movers yard at Richmond NSW prior to its purchase by Louise

What's this thing called luv?



Some sort of weird wheeled monster you say?

This contraption is a Sheffield Velocipede.

It was built around 1910 for the South Australian Railway. Powered by fettlers using the central tiller in a rocking motion the Velocipede could be surprisingly quick reaching speeds of up to 20 KPH on flat terrain. It made track inspections quick and efficient in the day.

From around 1905 Velocipedes became increasingly motorised using a small 2 stroke engine.

This fine example of a three wheeled trike was restored by James Morrison of Thornleigh.

It forms part of the OTHR heritage collection of historic rail vehicles.

Contacts
For all enquiries

Secretary: Elaine Ph. 02 6336-0441

Email admin@othr.com.au



October General meeting

Guest Speaker- Tim Elderton, Lithgow State Mine Railway.

Tim will talk a little about the history of LSMR, the issues they have faced, their successes and the latest activity of Railmotor trips from Lithgow to Tarana.



The railmotor from LSMR webpage.

The Date: 5th October

The venue: RSL Club Old Dining Room

Time: 7.30pm.

Please come along, bring your friends and make this a successful evening.