

OBERON TARANA HERITAGE RAILWAY NEWS – March 2006

Carlwood:

Last Friday a small team from Council under Engineer Leigh Robins graded and levelled the Carlwood station area. An excavator and grader removed the illegal motorcycle earthworks which have been a source of concern for the local community for some time. Serious damage had been done to the rail track in the area and in places the track was under a metre of earth. Operators Terry Bell and Keith Whittaker did a superb job in removing the earth piles and levelling the site. Areas which were previously poorly drained are now filled and graded. Original photographs of the station site were used to approximate the correct soil profiles and the remains of the station footings, platform steps and toilet area were relocated in exactly the positions marked on the original site plans.

There is now a beautifully graded car and coach parking area to the north of the station and the entry gate to the site has been re-contoured to allow easier coach entry. *OTHR congratulates Council on their initiative in this project and on the fine standard of work done by Council operators Terry and Keith.* A grant from the Catchment Management Authority will allow for re-fencing and some limited re-seeding of native grasses in the area.

Next Saturday (25th March) there will be a working bee at the Carlwood station commencing at 8.30 am to re-fence two sides of the site. We request OTHR members to attend this working bee and also ask for community volunteers to donate a few hours of their time. It will be particularly useful to have volunteers with some fencing experience and possibly some appropriate tools but ANY help on the day would be appreciated. **If you are able to help, could you please ring Shane Moorhead on 0407 935 527 so that we can arrange some catering for lunch.**

General Safety Induction Course:

Our Track Manager, Matt McMahon, will be running another general induction course for OTHR volunteers on Friday night (24th March) at the old Hazelgrove School starting at 6.30pm. This course will provide attendees with the first certificate of competency to enable volunteers to meet the safety requirements needed in working on the line. This is in line with our Accreditation policy and will facilitate volunteer workers' access to our insurance cover. Contact Matt on 6336 1359 if you wish to attend (membership can be arranged on the night).

Maitland Steamfest:

OTHR is organising a bus trip to attend the Steamfest on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd April. There are many activities including steam train excursions, "tin hare" vintage diesel train excursions, market stalls, street steam, miniature locos, children's entertainment, – and popular special activities including Kids Party Trains and the Lunch Train. The bus will leave Oberon on Saturday morning 22nd. April at 6.00 a.m. and return late on Sunday evening.

The bus cost will be \$50 per person (providing we can get 30+ passengers). Accommodation cost will be additional to that amount. If you would like to take advantage of this tremendous offer please contact President Shane Moorhead urgently on **0407 935 527**

Meeting with Australian Rail Track Corp. and the Rail Infrastructure Corp.

In February we met with representatives of ARTC (Greg Verdon) and RIC (Grant Fraser) at the Council offices. It was a productive meeting with a number of useful outcomes which could be summarised as follows:

- Oberon Council will hold an access licence to allow them to enter and operate in the Oberon to Tarana rail corridor for maintenance and construction purposes. This licence does not cover running any vehicles / trains on the rails.
- Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. will be able to apply for and hold the Heritage Licence from Oberon to Tarana as soon as the Accreditation documents arrive. This licence will cover running of trains on the rails between Oberon and the catch-points at Tarana.
- The walking/ cycling trail will only operate in the Oberon to Hazelgrove section of the corridor and the edge of the walking /cycling trail must be at least 5 metres from the centre of the rail track.
- The walking / cycling section will then be identified and subject to a separate Licence held by the Oberon Council.

Further information - contact OTHR Secretary, Margaret Connors on 6336 1211.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. normally meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at the RSL Club.