



October 2010 Newsletter

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*November monthly meeting - Wed 3rd
7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the October newsletter. Work is continuing both in the station yard and on the two diesels locos. An impressive display is also now on view in the entrance to the Oberon IGA – see photos later in this issue.

Station Signal Restored to Site



This historic signal at the entrance to the Oberon Station yard has now been re-erected by Peter Culley and his band of hard-working fettlers – with the assistance of tonnes of Shane's concrete! There are still some adjustments to be made. !!!

This signal is the "Down Home" semaphore signal, of lower quadrant type, which still needs to have various lamps, lenses and other fittings installed. This is very much a work in progress.

URGENT APPEAL: *More willing workers are needed to support the working bees so that various essential tasks can be accomplished. OTHR volunteers have made tremendous progress to date with the whole project, but there are now many tasks that need our combined attention to enable our tourist trains to commence running on the line. As the weather warms up, please seriously consider assisting on these working bees.*

October Working Bee: 16th to 23rd

Working Bee Dates for 2010

October: 16th – 23rd

November: 13th – 20th

December: 27^{Nov} - 4^{Dec}

Please note the unusual dates (above) for the December working bee.

The September working bee completed replacing sleepers on a 1 in 4 basis on both the main line and the run-around line in the station yard. Other major tasks included moving the trike to IGA, erecting the signal at the north end of the station yard and preparing the trackside ground near Albion St for the use of cranes to unload the locos as soon as the conditions allow. Also, the temporary roofing between the old toilet block and the storage container was finally installed.

Plans are now being drawn up for the Loco/rolling stock shed to be built in the NW corner of the station site. The Oberon Council will be assisting in levelling the area.

If you would like to help, please contact our Track Manager Peter Culley on 0427 042448. Free accommodation is still being generously donated by the Oberon community. Please let Laurie Evans know if you require accommodation - Ph 6336 1254. Also, if you can assist with catering or donations of food please ring Lynnette Ireland on 0428 490809.

Annual Clearance Sale

The upcoming monster Clearance Sale will be held on Sunday, 14th November at the Oberon Showground. This is the **Annual Central Tablelands Combined Clearance Sale** of the OTHR group, supported by Oberon Council. This is a charitable event and funds will be raised from the normal auction commissions and buyer premiums – there will be no gate charge. Sellers are limited to 20 lots only and will get the net proceeds. Catering will be provided by the local service clubs, Rotary and Apex. Come along and enjoy the day by supporting this worthy charitable event.

Further information is available at www.OTHR.com.au or by emailing clearingsale@othr.com.au. Alternatively, the event co-ordinator, Bill Muldoon, may be contacted on 0427 361438. Forms for submitting items are available on the website or from Visitor Information Centres in Lithgow, Oberon and Bathurst. Items of all descriptions are welcome and may be delivered up to 2 days before the event.

Historic Trike on Show

The Sheffield Trike display was recently mounted in the Oberon IGA. A board of OTHR progress photos was included, along with several placards describing the history of the trike. OTHR would like to thank the management of IGA for hosting this display.



Cinema Screenings

During the weekend 15th – 17th October, the Lithgow Valley Community Cinema will be screening historic Newsreels, train documentaries and classic train feature films. This is in conjunction with the celebrations of the Ten Tunnel Deviation, completed 100 years ago. For more information about screening times and cost, phone 6353 1897 or email lawsonco@vic.chariot.net.au

Rolling Stock Additions

The latest rolling stock acquisitions include two S trucks, one louvered or ventilated van and one cattle wagon. All of these represent wagon types which would have been used on the Oberon Line in days gone by.



They all need some TLC but considering their age, they are in fair to reasonable condition. However, the louvered van needs to be attached to a set of wheels in a permanent fashion.

Lachlan Valley Railway Dinner Train

The Lachlan Valley Railway will be running steam trains between Katoomba – Lithgow – Wallerawang on the week-end of 16-17 October to commemorate the ten tunnel deviation which closed the Zig Zag line just 100 years ago.

They are also running a diesel-hauled dinner train on the night of Sat 16th. OTHR has formed a group to take the train from Tarana to Bathurst and return, dining in Bathurst at "The Hub" in Keppel St. – a short walk from Bathurst Railway station.

The train will leave Tarana station at 1736, arriving in Bathurst at 1818. After dinner, it will depart Bathurst at 2100, arriving back at Tarana at 2128. The cost, including dinner is approx \$60 per adult, \$45 per child. Please let Margaret Connors know if you want to be included in this group – there are already a good number of OTHR members signed up - it should be a great evening! Please be *on time* at the station!!

Research by OTHR Member

Dedicated researcher and OTHR member, Greg Standen, is currently involved in a project to explore the history of NSW railway gatekeepers. These are the people often forgotten in the annals of railway history. Greg would appreciate hearing from anyone who has memories, photos or other memorabilia relating to these activities. His phone is 6332 6987 – or email standen_lrtc@yahoo.com

Vale Bob Hooper

OTHR members were greatly saddened to learn of the passing recently of Bob Hooper, former Mayor and long-time supporter of the Heritage Railway. A number of OTHR members attended the funeral service on 13th August. Our thoughts are with his wife, Helen, at this sad time.

OTHR Member Thanked for Donation

Enthusiastic OTHR member *David Mason* from Inverell has recently donated several items of interesting memorabilia to add to OTHR's growing collection. The NSW Dept of Transport water bottle and the railway workers winter coat (in pristine condition) were on display at the recent meeting and caused a great deal of interest. Many thanks, David!

Wood raffle winner

Our latest wood raffle winner was Liz Cook of Oberon. Congratulations, Liz. Also, thanks to our indefatigable ticket sellers who braved the icy winds of Oberon's main street to assist with OTHR's fund-raising activities.

NB: Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... taranaob@activ8.net.au Please put "OTHR Newsletter" in the subject line so your email will not be deleted!