



October 2011 Newsletter

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*November monthly meeting - Wed 2nd
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the October Newsletter. There will be numerous visitors to the Oberon station in the coming weeks, including the Sydney Electric Train Society, the Panorama Motorcycle Club, the Open Day visitors and MP Paul Toole. Consequently, there will be a special clean up day at the station on 25th October – please come along and lend a hand. Our heritage station will be on display and we want to make a good impression.

Open Day

OTHR will throw open the buildings and grounds of Oberon station for a Spring Open Day event on Sunday, 30th October as part of the Oberon Spring Festival. See www.oberonfestivals.com.au



Live steam traction engines will be operating - provided by the Oberon Heritage and Collectors Club. The two OTHR 73 Class diesel locos and other rolling stock will be available for inspection. Historic photos and railway memorabilia will feature at the station where some souvenir items will be for sale. A sausage sizzle will be in progress and there will be plenty to amuse the children – face painting, jumping castle, etc. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available at the station.

Also, a car boot sale will take place on the day, with car sites being available for \$15 per site. Secretary Kylie can provide more details. This is a great opportunity to get rid of all your favourite “junk”. Roll up and participate in this fun event.

Spring Raffle

Tickets for the fabulous Spring Raffle will still be on sale at the Open Day on 30th October. Tickets are \$5 ea and the prize consists of two tickets on the CPH railmotor trip from Gulgong to Dunedoo on Saturday, 19th November. This prize has been provided by courtesy of the Mudgee Miniature Railway Society to whom we extend our thanks. The night will include a dinner and murder mystery show, plus accommodation for two in a two-bedroom self-contained unit in Gulgong on the Saturday night. From all reports of previous events this is an evening not to be missed. Make sure you get your raffle tickets on the Open Day or by contacting our secretary, Kylie.

November Working Bee: 12th to 19th

The October working bee was cancelled due to the long weekend and people being away on holidays. Let's make a special effort to compensate for these missed work days at the upcoming November working bee - the dates for the working bees until the end of the year are shown below. As the weather warms up and we move into spring, now may be a good time to commit to spending a couple of days on the working bees.

At the station, the site for the large rolling stock shed has now been levelled and compacted. The DA is expected to be passed by council as you read this. Sleepers donated by Railcorp have been delivered from Lithgow – these will be used in the prefab construction of the rail lines for the level crossings. Also, the Conservation Volunteers are expecting the timbers for the S truck to appear in the next few days which will enable the completion of the S Truck restoration.

Working Bee Dates for 2011

November:	12th – 19th
December:	10th – 17th

If you can attend the working bees, please let Track Manager, Peter Culley, know as soon as possible – at least by the Thurs before the workbee. Peter's mobile is 0427 042 448 – he will be pleased to hear from you.

Remember, even one day spent on the workbee helps. Come along and see the progress in and around the station precinct – lend a hand and see what difference you can make. There are many tasks – large and small – that need to be accomplished before we can run our heritage trains by the end of this year.

Fettler Accommodation Needed!

OTHR members regularly volunteer their spare accommodation for out of town members during workbee times. We need more members to assist in this regard. Would those who are able to billet workers please make contact with Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254) and let him know as soon as possible (preferably the Wed before the working bee). If you are one of our out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie.

Workbee Catering

Any OTHR member who can assist with catering for our famished fettlers is asked to contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809 prior to the working bee. Any edible donations will be greatly appreciated and these will help OTHR conserve some of our precious funds.

The Oberon Explorer Tour

In collaboration with the OTHR Spring Open Day, the Sydney Electric Train Society (SETS) is running a tour to Oberon from Mt Victoria. The tour bus will leave Mt Victoria station at 10am, 30th October and proceed via the mainline station of Tarana to Oberon for lunch, visiting the station sites of Carlwood and Hazelgrove along the way. The costs for this tour are – Adults:\$50, Concession:\$40, Children:\$30, Family:\$80. People may also join the tour at either Lithgow or Tarana.

A BBQ lunch at Oberon station is included in the cost of the tour. Those participating will be returned to either Lithgow (5:36pm) or Mt Victoria stations (6:05pm) to make their own way back home. To book for this exciting tour, please contact SETS on 02 9526 1864 or visit their website at www.sets.org.au

Car Club Visit

Saturday, 17th September saw a large and enthusiastic group of people arrive at Oberon station. The MG Car Restorers were visiting our heritage station for morning tea on their way to Taralga for lunch. Scones, jam and cream were consumed on the platform amidst much friendly chat while people had the opportunity to inspect our locos and the photo display in the station buildings. The photo below shows some of the fine vehicles arrayed in front of an OTHR 73 class loco at the station. Thanks to all our volunteers who provided food and catering for this event. From comments offered on the day many of the visitors were much impressed with the work done in restoring the railway in preparation for running heritage trains.



OTHR Xmas Picnic Lunch

This year the OTHR Xmas gathering will consist of a picnic lunch at the Turon Technology Museum, on the Ilford Rd north of Sofala. This museum features live steam displays and many old items of machinery from yesteryear. By all reports it is a fascinating place to visit. See their website at www.hermes.net.au/turon/

Bring your picnic lunch and other provisions – some of which may be bought on your way through the old historic gold mining village of Sofala. This is a good chance to swap yarns about the railway, what has been achieved and what has yet to be accomplished. More details in the next Newsletter.

Richmond Vale Railway

Some of our members have recently visited the Richmond Vale Railway Museum, near Kurri Kurri.



“Marjorie” – a 0-4-0 saddle tank loco by Clyde Eng. 1938
Lyndle and Jim Hawkes visited on 17th Sept for the Family Fun Fest Day, which featured steam locos and donkeys! The museum is located in the grounds of the old Richmond Vale Colliery, long since defunct. Many of the old mine buildings are derelict, but the main building houses an interesting historical display of the past mining efforts in the area. The grounds contain many examples of old rolling stock, mine machinery and derelict locos. However, the Museum group has restored and maintained the steam engine and some passenger rolling stock and runs steam hauled tours out to another old colliery, Pelaw Main. The round trip takes about 50mins and is well worth the effort in making the trip to Kurri Kurri. See their website at www.richmondvalerailwaymuseum.org

Oberon Men’s Shed Opening

OTHR mounted a photo display at the opening by Tim Mathieson on 5th October. Federal member John Cobb was also present and both showed an interest in our heritage railway display.

Reminder....

The full minutes of the Ordinary General meetings are now available on our website. Go to the “About” tag and to “Meetings” on the drop-down menu. They will normally be posted one week after the meeting. In addition, you can now easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc
Also, there is now an events calendar on our website, where all major OTHR upcoming events and important dates are listed.

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 e-mail will not be deleted!