



October 2012 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
<http://othr.com.au>

Sponsors:



Apart from all the tremendous activity taking place at the station with the shed construction, an immense amount of administration paperwork has been accomplished by the “backroom” workers. Thanks go to OTHR Secretary Kylie Moorhead and Systems Manager Ian Davis for all their hard work reviewing and auditing OTHR’s documentation within the tight time deadlines specified by ITSR. This is another “milestone” in our documentation that takes us a little further along the path to actually running trains on the line.

Next Meeting
Ordinary General Meeting
7:30pm 7th November

At our November meeting we will have the opportunity to hear Michael Forbes speaking about the recent trials and tribulations of the Zig Zag Railway. It should be an informative and useful meeting – put it in your diaries.

Volunteers BBQ

A major social event will take place on Sunday, 14th October, at the start of the working bee week. This lunchtime BBQ will be to thank all our many hard working volunteers from far and wide. All OTHR and Highland Steam & Vintage Fair volunteers are welcome to come along and see the latest progress, have a chat session and enjoy the BBQ atmosphere at the station. This BBQ will perhaps give us the chance to have an unofficial “shed warming”. Food and drinks are provided, but BYO alcoholic beverages.

Our Patron Paul Toole will be present and up to 60 volunteers are expected to attend. This is a great opportunity to chat with Paul and discuss our heritage rail project and future plans.

Don't forget the “Bathurst Bullet”

The long-awaited and much-talked about daily train service from Bathurst to Sydney is due to commence running on 22nd October. The service leaves Bathurst Monday to Friday at 0548, arriving Central at 0925. In the evening it leaves the city at 1755 and arrives in Bathurst at 2138.

The train will be a two car Endeavour set. Make a point of writing to your local member to tell him how much you appreciate this service being introduced. Also suggest that it would be improved if the train could stop on request at Tarana (like the XPT).

October Working Bee:

Roll Up Roll Up
– Be Part of the
Team that
finishes the
Shed Structure

13th – 20th

The upcoming October working bee will be a special effort by all those involved. A major drive will be made to finish off the remaining tasks needed to complete the basic shed structure. *Please make special effort to come along and lend a hand.*

Once the shed structure is complete we can then begin to plan the next stages of the project – laying the track in the shed and retrieving the points from Coolah.

If you can attend this October working bee, please let Track Manager, Peter Culley, know as soon as possible – Peter’s contact details are – 0427 042448.

Historic Photo of the Month



A classic shot of Oberon station in the 1930s – provided by OTHR member John Tuckerman. Note the double-decked sheep wagon – being inspected by the local stock & station agent.

Rolling Stock Shed Progress

As can be seen in the photo below, a huge amount of progress has been achieved on the rolling stock shed over the past months. This upcoming working bee will see the east side cladding finished and many other more minor tasks attended to as the shed nears completion.

The photo below shows the east side of the shed and the southern side where the rail lines will enter. The line nearest the shed is the main line to Tarana and the next one outwards is the run-around loop. The line approaching the viewer is the crossover line onto the goods siding. The photo was taken from the loading bank at the northern end of the goods siding. In the right distance can be seen the "Down Home" signal at the northern end of the Oberon station yards. Just beyond the signal is Albion St where the level crossing is to be installed.



Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men's Shed team is now offering accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. The only cost of this overnight accommodation will be to join the Men's Shed at an annual fee of \$10.

Out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the working bee days should contact Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254) - co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

Working Bee Catering

Members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Volunteers are required to assist with the morning teas and lunches - any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can now easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc Check out the events calendar on our website, plus new historic photos.

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Around the Traps....

Thanks largely to the efforts of OTHR member Graham Williams, we now have most of the components of the Landmark signal mentioned in the last Newsletter. An example of one of these signals is shown below, which is taken from trackside near Boorowa. The decorative pinnacle is visible above the yellow triangle, as is the lamp plus the ladder at the rear to service the lamp. One of these signals once stood 2474 ft (754 metres) north of the "Home" signal at the north end of the Oberon station yard. This would place it somewhere near "Gate 6", one of the entrances to Borg Panels.



Don't Forget...

OTHR is always keen to receive railway memorabilia – old photos, documents, plans and items of equipment. We currently have quite a few items for display but are always looking for more – particularly if they relate to the Oberon-Tarana Branch Line. These donations will be gratefully acknowledged, and eventually will form part of a significant display of historical railway items related to the Branch Line.

Level Crossing Gates Restored

The Oberon Correctional Centre team has completed the restoration of the historic wooden level crossing gates which are part of the OTHR collection. These have now been returned to the Oberon station precinct for display. The photo below shows the gates sporting an impressive new coat of paint - Thanks guys!



Highlands Steam & Vintage Fair 2013

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2013 steam & Vintage Fair – to be held on 8-10th February. Planning for this event is now well underway and it looks like being a great show. As usual there will be a Classic Car & Truck road run, a Grand Main Street Rally and much more besides. OTHR will be participating by having the Oberon station precinct open and the locos and rolling stock on display.