



September 2010 Newsletter

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*October monthly meeting - Wed 6th
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the September newsletter. Both the local Oberon Review and the Lithgow Mercury have featured articles recently about the railway, so keep watching these local papers. OTHR also recently mounted a display at "Country Week" in Sydney. Meanwhile, the locos are receiving attention and the carriages also..... Read on ...

OTHR Diesel Locos in Oberon!

The two 73 class diesels are now safely stored at a secure location in Oberon and are receiving some well-deserved attention after their arrival via the Hazelgrove Rd from Tarana Station last July 24th. Peter Culley and a team of enthusiastic volunteers have re-installed the drive shafts and charged the batteries - see Janean Sharp's great photo below. Both the diesels have had their engines fired up and are running satisfactorily. Some "new" seats have been acquired for one of the driver's cabs and a brace of new air filters for the engines. These and lots of other minor "running repairs" have been keeping the OTHR team busy over the last few weeks. As soon as the weather allows heavy machinery to access the track at Oberon Station, they will be transferred to the track at Albion St and driven into the station yard. Please, everyone, keep your fingers crossed for an end to the big wet!



September Working Bee: 18th to 25th

Working Bee Dates for 2010	
September:	18th - 25th
October:	16th - 23rd
November:	13th - 20th
December:	TBA

The August working bee replaced sleepers on a 1 in 4 basis on both the main line and the run-around line in the station yard. The September workbee will concentrate on completing this re-sleeping. Other tasks will involve the temporary roofing between the old toilet block and the container, plus installation of a signal post in the station yard. The October workbee will be at the Hazelgrove site.

URGENT APPEAL: *More workers are needed to support the working bees so that all these 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 at these monthly workbees.*

If you can help, please contact Track Manager Peter Culley on 0427 042 448 as soon as possible. Free accommodation is still being generously donated by the Big Trout Motel and the Titania Motel. Please let Laurie Evans know as soon as possible if you require accommodation- Ph 6336 1254.

Workbee Catering

Any OTHR member who can donate food items for the hungry and hard-working fitters of the working bee crew is asked to contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809, prior to the working bee. Any donations will be greatly appreciated and will help OTHR conserve some of our precious funds.

Spring Raffle Winners

The Spring Raffle has now been drawn. The fabulous first prize, donated by the Mudgee Miniature Railway Co-op Society, was won by Alan McLennan of Oberon. Second prize went to Amy Perrin of Regentville and the third prize was won by Tony Thackray of Oberon. Also, the recent wood raffle winner was Keith Sullivan. Congratulations to all our winners. Once again we have to thank Permanent Press Printers for the raffle tickets.

Carriage Repairs

The heritage carriages have recently received some TLC from two master craftsmen who have spent a large part of their working life at Eveleigh and other places, repairing and re-building carriages. OTHR owes a vote of thanks to David Farr and Wayne Dempsey, who have now put in many hours making the interior of our carriages look 100 percent. Apart from their valuable time, they have also donated various items and fixtures for reinstallation in the carriage interiors.



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 Sat night – with the option of dinner at Tarana or Bathurst. It has been proposed that OTHR form a group to take the train from Tarana to Bathurst and return, dining in Bathurst (location to be advised).

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 – it should be a great evening!

Systems Manager

A hearty welcome to Ian Davis, OTHR member from Gingkin, who has bravely taken on the important task of Systems Manager, recently relinquished by Rick Fletcher. We wish him well in his new position and hope he will not be too rapidly snowed under with documents!

More Carriage History (part 3)

The third and final instalment by *Russell Merriman* –

While set 21 was in Newcastle it was broken up into 3 x 2 car sets being....

Set 19 HLF 790 CBA811

Set 20 HLF 847 CBA 720

Set 21 HLF 850 CBA 854

These sets were used as rail motor relief sets at Dubbo (21), Cootamundra & Narrandera (19 &20). With the cancellation of most country passenger services in 1974 sets 19, 20 &21 were condemned but set 21 was transferred to the Illawarra region again as a rail motor relief set. Because of the, hopefully, infrequent requirement for Set 21 to be used, it was only used each Saturday for one return Wollongong-Sydney-Wollongong. This was effectively a 100 mile trip to recharge the batteries. Although condemned in 1974 Set 21 remained in service until the end of 1977 when it was sold to Australian Iron and Steel at Port Kembla. The set remained at Port Kembla under the control of the Rail Transport Museum until transferred to Oberon in May 2010 .

Open end wooden framed American passenger cars were built between 1877 and 1910 with a total of 659 entering service.

Manufacturer	Origin	Sleeping Cars	Sitting Cars
Jackson & Sharp	USA	1	2
Gilbert Bush & Co	USA	1	2
Clyde Engineering	AUST		270
Ritchie Bros	AUST		133
Hudson Bros	AUST	15	141
C.G. Hudson	AUST		18
John Morrison	AUST		68
Australian Engineering and Rolling Stock Co	AUST		20
Carriage works Eveleigh	AUST		5
		17	659

In 1913 another 195 steel framed American cars were built but all of these were widened to 10'".6' for use as electric trailers in the 1920s.

Reference: "Coaching Stock of NSW Railways" by David Cooke, Don Estall, Keith Seckhold and John Bechaus. Volume 2, Eveleigh Press, 2003.

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!