



September 2011 Newsletter

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*October monthly meeting - Wed 5th
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the September Newsletter. The site preparation for the large rolling stock shed has received a major boost – see story over the page.

OTHR will throw open the heritage Oberon station for a Spring Open Day as part of the Oberon Spring Festival. See www.oberonfestivals.com.au



There will be live steam traction engines provided by the Oberon Heritage and Collectors Club, plus our two 73 Class diesels locos and heritage carriages will be available for inspection. Historic photos and railway memorabilia will feature at the Oberon station where a sausage sizzle will be in progress. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

It's not too early to start thinking of the **Highland Steam and Vintage Fair** – to be held in Oberon on 10th, 11th & 12th Feb, 2012. Put these dates in your calendars as this upcoming event promises to be even bigger and better than the previous years. OTHR will again be part of this three-day event with two working diesel locos and passenger carriages on display at the heritage listed Oberon station. Other displays will include historic photos, railway memorabilia and restored rolling stock. For details see... www.highlandssteam.org.au

Car Club Visit

Saturday, 17th September will see a large group of classic MG cars on display at Oberon station. The MG Car Club is visiting our heritage station, so there will be plenty of photo opportunities – cars plus locos. Come along and enjoy the day – starting at 10 am – talk with the car enthusiasts, inspect the station and the diesel locos. This promises to be a very entertaining day – and the forerunner of many other similar events to be held at in the station precinct.



October Working Bee: 1st to 8th

The September working bee will have been completed by the time you receive this newsletter. 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. Remember, a good hearty lunch is always provided to hungry fettlers by our hard working catering volunteers.

Working Bee Dates for 2011

October:	1st – 8th
November:	12th – 19th
December:	10th – 17th

Many and varied tasks have been undertaken in and around the station. The home signal has received more attention as has the site for the rolling stock shed (see story over page). The Conservation Volunteers have been doing some interior painting of the station buildings as they wait for the timbers to enable them to complete the S Truck restoration.

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.

Rolling Stock Shed Site



Progress on the rolling stock shed site had received a huge boost with the work done by Saul's Grading Services P/L of Oberon. OTHR gives a huge vote of thanks for this excellent work by Saul's Grading Services. Grading and compacting of the site has been largely achieved (see photo) and the whole area looks very much more under control compared to the jumble of earth mounds – the remains of a BMX bike track – that were there previously.

Some more fill and further compacting will be required, but the bulk of the work has now been done. A contract has been let to Moorhead Engineering of Oberon to erect the shed as soon as the DA (now with the Council) is passed. (Photo by P.Culley)

Around the Traps

Starting this month and running until end March 2012, the Office of Rail Heritage has an exhibition on the main concourse of Central Station. The free exhibition is open from 8:30am to 4:40pm on weekdays. The display is entitled "Food to Go" and is all about the history of railway dining, buffet car food and the hungry travelling public. Check it out – it has some interesting displays by all reports.

A grant application has recently been made to the Mulwaree Trust to enable OTHR to acquire some mobile scaffolding. This will no doubt come in very useful for those working on the Home signal, the rolling stock shed and the painting of the station buildings.

There have been some unforeseen delays in acquiring the rail from Lithgow for the level crossings to be built at Albion St and Lowes Mount Rd. However, it is expected that this rail will be transported to Oberon very shortly, where it will join the timber sleepers already on site, enabling our keen team of fettlers to begin the much-anticipated prefabrication of the level crossings. There will be celebrations all round on completion!

Wood Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our recent lucky wood raffle winners Carmel Hanrahan of Black Springs and also Joe Crncec of Oberon. Thanks for all our hardy ticket sellers who braved the winter winds of Oberon's main street to entice the locals to buy a ticket – or two!

Upcoming Raffle

Raffle books will shortly be coming your way! We have once again had a superb prize donated by the Mudgee Miniature Railway Society. This consists of two tickets on their railmotor ride and murder mystery tour from Gulgong to Dunedoo and return. This includes dinner at Dunedoo and accommodation in Gulgong on Saturday, 19th November.

We extend our thanks to the Society and urge members to assist in selling as many tickets as they can. From all reports, the evening is a great experience, with an excellent dinner and show, plus the added attraction of travelling in a CPH railmotor to and from the venue.

Conservation Volunteers & the S Truck

Some of our hard-working CVA bods pose below with Track Manager Peter Culley, beside the S truck, while it was undergoing grit-blasting. The very fine result is shown in the lower photo where the steel framework now sports a coat of black epoxy as it awaits the new timbers – now being milled. Our congratulations and welcome to all those CVA volunteers who have become members of OTHR as a result of this project.



While awaiting the new timbers, the CVA bods have not been idle, but have been doing the preparation and undercoating of the interior of the station buildings.

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

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!