



September 2012 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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The last meeting of OTHR was a Special General Meeting, which was well attended and rapidly passed the amendments to our Constitution. A lively Ordinary General Meeting followed. A highlight of this meeting was our Public Officer Graham Parker announcing that we now have a signed interface agreement with Oberon Council, which will be a model for similar agreements with landholders adjacent to the line. All of these agreements have to be in place before we can operate trains on the line. Congratulations to Graham for all his hard work and persistence.

Next Meeting

Ordinary General Meeting

7:30pm 3rd October

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of holding general meetings during the working bee weeks. Due to a number of difficulties in shifting the ordinary meetings, it was decided to leave the present arrangements in place for the time being. However, from time to time, ordinary meetings will coincide with Working Bee weeks.

Volunteers BBQ

A major event will take place on Sunday, 14th October, at the start of the working bee. 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".

ERV 2 vehicle now on site

The electric Emergency Response Vehicle mentioned in the May Newsletter is now on the tracks at Oberon station. Thanks to the efforts of OTHR member Layne



Hardie this has been donated to OTHR by Railcorp. You can see the trolley at left, braving the frigid winter weather in the yard at Oberon station. Behind

the trolley is a water gin (W313) on temporary storage from Train Movers Australia.

October Working Bee:

The September working bee will have been concluded as you receive this newsletter. I can report tremendous progress on the shed construction, with roof purlins and cladding now joining the two halves. Cladding is completed on the western and northern walls, and almost complete on the eastern wall. (see photo over page and check the website)

The October working bee will no doubt finalise the basic shed structure and we can then begin to plan the wiring up of the interior flood lights generously donated by John Borg of Borg Panels.

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.

Working Bee Dates for 2012

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| August | 4 th – 11 th |
| Sept | 1 st – 8 th |
| Oct | 13 th – 20 th |

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.

If you are one of our out-of-town volunteers requiring accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254). He is the co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

Working Bee Catering

OTHR 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 for our hard-working fettlers. Also, any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

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 if you want it to stop on request at Tarana (like the XPT).

More on Hazelgrove Station

The recent mention of Hazelgrove station has resulted in the donation of several historic photos by Peter Neve, Editor of The Railway News. Check out our website for the complete set of photos. The one below shows the



method of signalling the train to stop at Hazelgrove – hold out the green disc which was chained to a post at the station. The details of the rough and ready timber “platform” can be readily seen.

Rolling Stock Shed Progress

As can be seen in the photos below, a huge amount of progress has been achieved on the rolling stock shed.



The eastern side of the rolling stock shed with the cladding almost done.

The interior of the shed showing some of the six huge floodlights donated by John Borg and organised by OTHR member Jim Hawkes. Thanks guys.



Reminder...

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....

OTHR rolling stock at Bathurst yards (see August 2011 Newsletter) still has not made it to Oberon ... but the day may be getting closer. The Rail Transport Museum is in discussions with OTHR to swap the bogies on the refrigerated van so that they can acquire the “high speed” bogies that are presently on the van. In this process we may be able to get the wagons moved to a site in the Bathurst yard where we can access them. Once this is achieved then we can call on Australian Train Movers to transport them to Oberon station.

The Oberon Correctional Centre team has completed the restoration of the historic wooden level crossing gates which are part of the OTHR collection. These will shortly be returned to the Oberon station precinct for display. Thanks guys!

Meanwhile, in the background, Ian Davis and Laurie Evans plus others have been reviewing many OTHR documents and bringing them up to date. Among other things, a risk management review on the shed is now complete. Thanks to Ian and his team for a necessary but unexciting task!

The welded steel check rails for the Albion St level crossing have been completed by Moorhead Engineering and are now on site. They will shortly be attached to the prefab rail and sleepers before installation at the crossing site. The date for this installation has yet to be arranged with Oberon council.

The Bembricks have been doing some “industrial archaeology” at Carlwood station site. As many of you will know, it is devoid of any signs of structures such as waiting sheds and platforms - (unlike Hazelgrove, where foundations remain). However, using the old maps and plans we have measured from the half mile post back to the station and believe we have pinned down the site of the waiting shed. Further work will be undertaken at the site to confirm this and mark out the dimensions of the Pc1 structure.

The original “landmark” signal post has been located on the branch line at the approaches to Tarana station. This substantial timber post is still standing and in fair condition. Together with some old photos from the Australian Railway Historical Society, this will enable us to plan the construction and erection of a similar signal post on the approaches to Oberon station (where one once stood) in the not too distant future. We already have the triangle marker for the top of the post – in storage at Oberon station. We now need to find an appropriate lamp and other fittings.

A draft design for a large railway-related mural to be placed at Oberon station was examined at the last meeting and various funding proposal options discussed.