



September 2014 Newsletter

PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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As our AGM approaches, - on 1st October - OTHR is looking to the membership for volunteers for committee and `management` positions in the coming year. At present the committee is somewhat understaffed and we are looking for some new faces to help us along. Specifically, we are in need of a new Treasurer (Marjorie has indicated she is eager to retire from this position), a systems manager (to speed up the accreditation/documentation process), a Public Officer and a Vice President. There may also be three vacant general committee member positions up for grabs.

It is not essential for a committee member to be a resident of Oberon, but computer literacy would be essential. Experience in writing, reviewing and managing SMS documentation would be desirable as this is crucial to our continuing operation.

If you would like to contribute to our ongoing heritage rail project, the nominations need to be received before the AGM on 1st October. Please contact President Tim Arnison on 0428 250 402.

Remember... to cast your vote at the AGM you must be financial!! Check that your membership is up to date and exercise your voting rights at the upcoming AGM – your participation is encouraged. Come and hear OTHR's progress reports on the previous 12 months.

Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting
7:30pm. 1st October. 2014

Super Raffle Prize!!

The OTHR raffle was drawn on Saturday 23rd August, by Warwick Mawhood of Mawhood's Super IGA – ably assisted by Tim Arnison. The prize – donated by the

Mudgee Miniature Railway Society – was won by Dennis and Lyn O'Brien of Denistone. Photo shows Warwick drawing the winning ticket.



Working Bee News

We are fortunate in being able to welcome new Track Manager, Graham Williams, who has been one of our regulars on working bees for many years. He brings to the job considerable skill and expertise.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the current **September** working bee will be underway. Work will involve a number of tasks, including laying out rail and sleepers for the new points in the yard, replacing selected sleepers as required and levelling the site for new roads into the rolling stock shed.

Next Working Bees

Saturday, Sept 6th. to

Wednesday, Sept 10th

Saturday, Oct 4th to

Wed, Oct 8th

Saturday, Nov 1st to

Wed, Nov 5th

New Track Manager, Graham Williams, reports that over the last month or so considerable progress has been made in the Oberon station precinct. Two sets of points – retrieved from Coolah – have been laid out and positioned on some sleepers, rail has been straightened in various places and extra rail pinned to sleepers for the Albion St level crossing. See other news in the "Bush Telegraph" and photo over page.

Keep watching this space for updates on future working bees and their aims and focus. If you can assist at the next **SEPT or OCTOBER** working bee please contact the Track Manager, Graham Williams on 0422 596 438.

Folksingers, Bush Yarns & more...

Please note the change of venue – the event will now be held at the Robert Hooper Community Centre, Fleming St, Oberon – adjacent to the Library – see flyer.

Thanks Doug

The slides of the Illinois Rail Museum presented by Doug Booker at the last meeting were much appreciated by all the members present.

Madagascar Railways

Col & Glenda recently had the experience of travelling on several sections of the Madagascar railway network. One memorable journey was by the rubber-tyred Michelin railmotor from the village of Sahambavy to the town of Fianantsoa, a journey of approx. 30km. The whole trip took about one hour and was a bit like a “time-warp” with passengers reclining on the 18 cloth-covered wicker chairs while gazing at the rice paddy scenery. This railmotor was one of 7 sent to Madagascar, the first one arriving in 1932; and appears to be the only one now operational.



OTHR Heritage Display

The recent general meeting saw considerable discussion on the subject of opening our rail heritage display on two days per months rather than one. So far the one day per month system has been a success, with considerable interest taken in our souvenirs. Opening two days per month will depend on a sufficient number of OTHR volunteers putting their hands up. If you have an opinion on this topic, or would like to volunteer, please contact Secretary Elaine – preferably before the next committee meeting on 17th Sept. where the issue will be further discussed. It has also been decided that in the near future some more permanent signage will be erected to publicise the display.

Photo showing layout of new turnout in Oberon yard.



Carlwood

The original precast concrete sign from Carlwood station – lovingly preserved by Richard Webb for many years – is now under restoration in the OTHR rolling stock shed workshop. Overall the sign is in fairly good condition,



but a few of the letters will need replacing.

The Bush Telegraph



A very fine example of a stationmaster's desk lamp has been acquired by OTHR member Wayne Dempsey. He has generously donated this item to us and this will feature in our rail heritage displays in the future – many thanks Wayne! Other useful items of railway hardware have been located and acquired by Wayne, including some windows for the CPH which currently awaits full restoration in the roundhouse at Goulburn (see the June Newsletter). Keep up the good work Wayne, your efforts certainly seem to be paying off!

Oberon Home Signal Functioning

With the help of three members of the Signals Branch of the Rail Transport Museum at Thirlmere, Graham Williams has now made the Oberon home signal operational. Our thanks go to Neil Finey, Wayne Harrison and Jack Wallace, who have agreed to help out on future occasions, particularly with regard to restoring Frame C and the points near the north end of the yard. The photo at the right is taken from the north (near Albion St) and shows the signal set to “clear”.



Our friend Greg Noble – who first introduced us to the art of sleeper replacement down at Hazelgrove – has visited the Oberon yard and made an inspection of the trackwork. He has generously agreed to assist us with our future trackwork and certification inspections.

Vintage Rolling Stock at Bathurst

President Tim Arnison now reports that the tentative date for the removal of the three items of rolling stock from the Bathurst yards and their transport to Oberon is Monday 13th September. We will be indebted to John Holland Rail for their assistance with this exercise. We all hope that this matter can be finalised in the not too distant future and are collectively keeping our fingers crossed for this one!

Contacts:

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Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can also easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc



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Mural courtesy Mike O'Kane

From **SAIL TO RAIL** with **FOLKSINGERS**

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SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

6 PM – Oberon Community Centre

SHOW & SUPPER TICKET \$20, UNDER 18 yrs \$5 BOOKINGS:

KATHY (FOOLs) 0419231525

TIM ARNISON (OTHR)

0428-250402

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