



February 2011 Newsletter

PO Box 299, Oberon 2787

<http://othr.com.au>

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*March monthly meeting - Wed 2nd
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the February newsletter. The Steam and Vintage Fair weekend of 12th & 13th February is almost upon us and this weekend will see OTHR hosting two open days at the Oberon Station. We will need all hands on deck to make this a great OTHR showcase. A number of volunteers have already put their hands up (Thankyou!) to help out on these two days, but more is always better as they say. Please contact our Secretary Margaret if you can help OTHR even for a few hours on the Saturday (between 9am and 3pm) and Sunday (between 9am and 2pm). The old adage of “many hands make light work” applies here and we need people to assist in showing our visitors the station buildings, carriages and loco. Information sheets will be provided to the volunteers on the day, so you don't need to be a “Railway guru” to be an OTHR guide on the day.

Locos moving date changed !!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the locos will now be moved to the Station yard at approx 8:30am Wednesday – 9th Feb. Locals who get hard copy by post should receive this about 24hrs beforehand.

New acquisition for OTHR



A very happy crowd of OTHR fettlers admires our new acquisition – a four-wheeled, motorised “trike”. This vehicle was surplus to the requirements of the Rail Transport Museum at Thirlmere and was spotted by Graham Williams as it was about to be scrapped. Some TLC by Arthur Robinson saw the engine fired up and tested. It appears that only a few minor repairs will be required to restore the machine to good running order. The unit is about 60 years old and probably has not been run for at least 35 years.

February Working Bee: 5th to 13th

The February workbee will be in full swing as you receive this Newsletter. If you can help, even for a day, please contact Track Manager Peter Culley on 0427 042 448 as soon as possible.

Working Bee Dates for 2011

January	10th – 15th
February	5th – 13th
March	5th – 12th
April	2nd – 9th
Apr/May	30th – 7th
June	11th – 18th
July:	9th – 16th
August:	6th – 13th
September:	3rd – 10th
October:	1st – 8th
November:	12th – 19th
December:	10th – 17th

Workbee Accommodation

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 fettlers 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 precious funds.

OTHR AGM – next meeting

The Annual General Meeting of OTHR will be held next month – on Wed 2nd March in the Oberon RSL Club. This will follow the ordinary monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm.

All management committee positions will become vacant and we urge all members who would like to contribute to OTHR's management to nominate. The nomination forms are available from the Secretary and must be returned to her by 23rd February.

In past years OTHR has been most fortunate in having a team of extremely hardworking people on the committee. If you would like to be part of this team and contribute to the progress of our exciting Heritage project, please consider nominating for a position. All members are urged to make a special effort to attend the AGM to elect the new committee.

Steam & Vintage Fair

The big weekend of the Steam and Vintage Fair is almost here. Friday 11th Feb will be a registration day for participants, plus the entrants' road run to Mayfield Gardens at 11:30am. Saturday will feature the tree felling demonstration at 9:00am, with the Grand Rally at 10am, followed by a "Show 'n' Shine" session at 11am. In the evening the Fair dinner and awards will be held at Oberon RSL. Sunday will be the chance for a leisurely look at all the displays until early afternoon. For more details see the website www.HighlandsSteam.org.au

A feature of this weekend will be the open days at Oberon Station where OTHR will mount a major display of our Heritage Rail project. The two diesel locos, two 1897 heritage passenger carriages, railway memorabilia and historic photos will be proudly displayed by OTHR members who will be on hand to answer questions and talk about our future plans for the Oberon-Tarana line. Come along and inspect the heritage listed Oberon station and hear about future plans for its refurbishment.

Cleanup Australia Day – Scrap metal

OTHR is participating in Cleanup Australia Day by organising a scrap metal drive. On Sunday, 6th March you may deliver your Ferrous scrap metal to the Oberon station gates in North St. This will assist OTHR in their fund-raising and you will be making a significant contribution to the success of Cleanup Australia Day. Note that Ferrous metal only is accepted – no old appliances (white goods).

Chifley Loco restored

The Ben Chifley steam loco has at last been restored and returned to its place of display outside the Bathurst Railway Station. The engine is now housed in a brand new purpose-designed open shelter with railing and pathway surrounds. It appears that the site is still to be

finished with landscaping and signage to be added, but the new shiny paint job on the loco can be viewed from a fairly close distance through the remaining builder's fences. It's just a pity that this remains a static display as the historic engine has not been restored to running condition.



Lachlan Valley Railway Trains

On the last weekend in February, the LVR will be running a number of railmotor trips from Bathurst to Newbridge and to Tarana. These trips will run on the Friday and the Sunday, costing \$25 return per adult and \$15 per child. Bookings can be made at Bathurst Countrylink (cash only) or on the platform on the day. On the Friday and the Sunday the first trip departs for Tarana at 9:30am. Alternating trips are to Newbridge, the first one departing at 11:30am.

On the Saturday evening, 26th Feb there will be a dinner train (railmotor) departing Bathurst at 5:15pm and returning at 12:30am. Dinner in Orange is at Mary Jane's in the Kellys Hotel. Cost \$60.0 per person. For all enquiries contact Luke Bingham of the LVR on 6366 3316.



LVR Photo

Additions to OTHR's website –

Recent additions to the OTHR website include historic documents in the form of an 1897 paper by engineer J.W. Roberts on the "Pioneer Railways in NSW". This is a fascinating piece of history relating to the "standards" under which the Oberon Line was constructed. It even includes some scale diagrams.

Note from the Editor

The March issue of this Newsletter will be approximately one week late due to the editor's absence on a brief holiday in Tasmania. The hard copy should be posted out on Monday, 14th March and the email version despatched the previous night. Note that this will be *after* the March workbee. Apologies for any inconvenience.

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!