



January 2011 Newsletter

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

Welcome to the January newsletter. Please take special note of the workbees planned between now and the Steam and Vintage Fair on the weekend of 12th & 13th February. We will need all hands on deck to achieve our goals of making this a great OTHR showcase. This year should be a highly significant one for OTHR and the Heritage rail project.

Special January Workbee - 4th & 5th "Brainstorming" Session

A working bee with a difference will be held at the station on 4th & 5th January. Bring your thinking caps rather than hard hats as this will be a "brainstorming session". We need the combined input of all experienced fettlers to toss around ideas and suggestions re the Safety Management Systems that need to be in place before we transfer the locos to the station and run locos on the line. An ideas session will take place so that topics such as risk assessment, public safety and safe working can all be discussed and documented.

Govt Grant to OTHR

As announced in the Oberon Review in December, OTHR will be receiving a grant of \$50 000 to be put towards the construction of the storage and workshop shed at the NW end of the Oberon station site. This grant comes from the NSW Govt Community Building Partnership program and was announced by local member (and OTHR Patron) Gerard Martin.

This is a very significant boost to OTHR for 2011 and will ensure our two diesel locos, two heritage carriages and other rolling stock will have under-cover storage in the long term. This will also provide a good working environment - protected from the Oberon weather - for repairs and restoration work on the collection of heritage rolling stock.

Our neighbours the Oberon and District Museum Society have also benefitted by way of a grant to erect a large shed to display and protect their collection of heritage machinery.



January Working Bee: 10th to 15th

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.

Xmas Hampers Raffle Winners

On Saturday 18th Dec the OTHR Raffle of three Xmas hampers was drawn by Stella Cotton, wife of the late Squadron Leader Monty Cotton. First prize went to Mrs Mary Young of Oberon, second prize to Harry and Jenny Cole, while third prize was won by Kath Cunynghame of Bathurst. The organiser of this event was Lorraine Fielding, assisted by a willing team of OTHR members (see photo opposite), including John & Helen Brotchie, Lyndle Hawkes, Bob & Margaret Connors, Jenny Cole, Lynette Ireland and Arthur Robinson. A tidy sum was raised for the Heritage Rail project by their efforts and all are to be congratulated. A special thanks to those who donated items for the hampers including meat from Wayne Barker, voucher from "Flair Hair" and a Xmas cake from Marjorie Webb. Finally, a very special vote of thanks to Stella Cotton for agreeing to draw the raffle.

Special Thanks to OTHR Member

A special vote of thanks is due to long-standing OTHR member Harry Shannon. Last November at the Clearance Sale Harry sold his caravan and donated a large proportion of the proceeds to OTHR. For this very generous deed OTHR members owe Harry a hearty "Thank you". In the working bees of early days Harry was noted for his prompt production of a CD of photos recording all the efforts. Although he and Elizabeth now live in Moss Vale, it is obvious that Harry still has OTHR's success very much in mind.

Powerhouse Open Day

The Powerhouse Museum is opening their collection stores at Castle Hill on Saturday, 12th February. The theme on this day will be "Rail transport in the Collection". This will celebrate the railway and tram heritage of NSW with a series of talks, tours, special exhibitions and displays. The date marks the 50th anniversary of the last tram to run on Sydney streets. One of the displays will feature a detailed model of a Z19 class steam locomotive, No. 1948. Unfortunately for OTHR members this date conflicts with the Steam and Vintage Fair weekend, so some hard decisions will have to be made. For further information see ...

www.castlehill.powerhousemuseum.com



Not 1948, but loco 1942 at Tarana -

© Dennis O'Brien collection.

Happy Raffle Winners

We are pleased to report some positive comments from the winners of the OTHR Easter Raffle, Ben and Louise Davis. Their 1st Prize was 7 nights accommodation at Byron Retreat, run by Melissa Burgess.

Ben and Louise comment that the Internet photos of the place do not do justice to the beautifully manicured garden, rustic charm of the pole framed house and swimming pool with tropical surrounds. They say "It really is a retreat, a tranquil place where you can relax and listen to the birds, read a book, laze beside the pool or stroll the quiet local streets – all within 5 minutes of Byron Bay". Check out the website at

<http://www.byronretreat.com.au/index.htm>

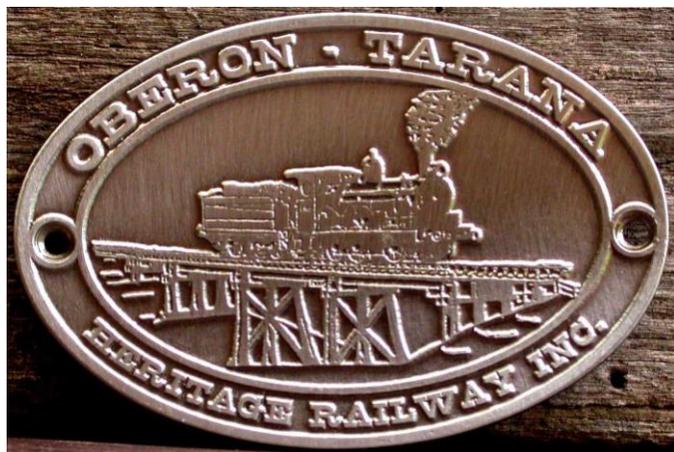
Steam & Vintage Fair

The big weekend of the Steam and Vintage Fair is rapidly approaching. Friday 11th Feb will be a registration and set-up day for participants, plus the entrants' road run to Mayfield Gardens. Saturday will feature the Grand Rally at 10am, followed by a "Show 'n' Shine" session and public entry to the fair 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 diesel locos, heritage 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.

Souvenir OTHR Badges

Don't forget that a number of these superb metallic badges are still available. They are the first of a long line of quality OTHR souvenirs. For \$50 plus postage they come complete with screws for mounting on the wall or mantle shelf. These are sure to become collectors' items, so please contact our Secretary Margaret Connors (Ph 6336 1211) to secure one of the first 50 badges produced. At the Xmas party these were selling like the proverbial "hot cakes" – so don't miss out!



Additions to OTHR's website –

Recent additions to the OTHR website include historic documents in the form of the original Weekly Notices announcing the opening of the Oberon Line. You will also find there a number of photos of the Xmas Hamper Raffle draw, plus the article featuring OTHR that recently appeared in Australian Rail Magazine.

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!