



PO Box 299, Oberon 2787

<http://othr.com.au>

Secretary: phone: 02 6336 0207

email: admin@othr.com.au

March 2011 Newsletter

*April monthly meeting - Wed 6th
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the March newsletter. The Steam and Vintage Fair weekend of 12th & 13th February was a major success – in spite of the deluge on the Saturday afternoon – see later story.

OTHR AGM – News

The Annual General Meeting of OTHR was held on Wed 2nd March in the Oberon RSL Club. The new office bearers and committee are:-

President: Tim Arnison

Vice President: Graham Parker

Secretary: Kylie Moorhead

Treasurer: Marjorie Webb

Public Officer: Graham Parker

Committee: Bill Muldoon, Ian Davis, Peter Culley.

Note that we now have a new secretary, Kylie Moorhead – for her contact email and phone number see the newsletter masthead. Congratulations to all new office bearers and committee members.

Membership **FEES** are now due – they remain at **\$15** per person and may be paid by cheque, EFT or by credit card/PayPal via the website.

Locos hit the tracks at the station



Some very happy and relieved OTHR members pose in front of one of the locos now on the tracks at Oberon Station. The two locos were transferred to the station on Friday, February 11th with the help of two major Lithgow businesses - Turner & Central Cranes and Henry Plant & Equipment. Their contribution to this memorable day is hugely appreciated. For more photos of this eventful day see the Special Photo Supplement page. Also see the collection of photos on our website.

April Working Bee: 2nd to 9th

The March workbee will be just concluded as you receive this newsletter and the April workbee will be soon upon us. 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	
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 no longer being donated by the Big Trout Motel and the Titania Motel. However, some local OTHR members may have some accommodation available. Please let Laurie Evans know as soon as possible (preferably the Wed before the working bee) 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 receives IGA Cheque

The continued support of the Oberon IGA is much appreciated by all OTHR members. Friday, Feb 11th, saw manager Warwick Mawhood presenting our President Shane Moorhead with the latest cheque for more than \$6000 from the IGA Community Chest. The presentation took place in front of the newly arrived locos, keenly watched by an appreciative group of OTHR members, who gave a solid round of applause. The great support of IGA and other business people in Oberon was acknowledged by Shane in receiving the donation. IGA Oberon is currently hosting a display of the historic Sheffield trike in their store.



Steam & Vintage Fair Open Days

The big weekend of the Steam and Vintage Fair is now over and was pronounced a roaring success. A feature of the weekend was the two open days at Oberon Station where OTHR mounted a major display of our Heritage Rail project. The two diesel locos, two 1897 heritage passenger carriages, the Quadricycle and Wickham section car were all on display. A good collection of railway memorabilia and historic photos were to be seen at the station. The station building sported a new clock, new signs and a noticeboard for the weekend.

One of the locos had its engine running and horns working – competing with the steam whistles of the traction engines parading down the streets of Oberon. The other loco had a set of steps to allow easy access for visitors to inspect the loco cab. Lots of photos are on the website and more in the attached photo supplement.

All members who assisted over the two days are to be heartily thanked for their efforts in making the weekend a great success for OTHR.

Vintage Quadricycle for OTHR

This 1957 vintage rail vehicle was recently acquired on

long-term loan from the Office of Rail Heritage. The “trike” is being added to the loan agreement that covers our 1897 heritage carriages. It is a Standard Villiers Mark 8E Quadricycle –



being admired in the above photo by a happy crowd of OTHR fettlers. Our thanks go to Graham Williams for negotiating the transfer with Allan Leaver of the Rail Transport Museum, Thirlmere. Thanks are also due to Lynette Ireland for transporting the vehicle from Thirlmere to Oberon. The unit usually had a small headlight on the operator’s handlebars - we’ll have to find one to complete the restoration.

OTHR hosts Rotary dinner at station



Oberon Rotarians and friends enjoyed a dinner with a difference at the Oberon station on Wed 16th Feb. After an inspection of our two diesel locos and the photo display in the station the guests gathered in the 1897 carriages for an enjoyable laptop dinner. Tim Arnison and his helpers from OTHR are to be congratulated for organising this event.

Wayne Dempsey Presentation



In preparation for the open days at the station OTHR member Wayne Dempsey was seen hard at work on our two heritage carriages. Wayne has spent a large part of his career repairing railway carriages and is very knowledgeable in this field. His hard work and dedication to getting our two 1897 carriages into tip-top condition was recognised by the award of a mounted metal OTHR badge – seen here being displayed after the

presentation by our President, Shane Moorhead.

Conservation Volunteers

Funded by the Office of Rail Heritage, Conservation Volunteers Australia are currently organising a group to assist OTHR in restoring S truck 14201. This is one of the better condition S trucks now stored on the goods siding at Oberon Station. The intention is to have a group of volunteers - supervised by OTHR – spend two days per week for 26 weeks on this project. For details see the website - or contact the project coordinator, Eveline Dingley on 0428 533 081. The volunteers will be provided with training and assistance with transport.

Donation acknowledged

A generous donation of \$3000 has just been received from John Giblin who owns a property near Hazelgrove. This is not the first time John has made a donation to OTHR and his continued support is gratefully acknowledged.

Oberon Visitor’s Centre

The visitor’s centre now hosts a semi-permanent display of OTHR photos, which were first shown at the Steam and Vintage Fair weekend. These displays will be updated as time permits and as new material comes to hand. Drop in to the visitor’s centre from time to time and see the progress of our heritage rail project.

Additions to OTHR’s website –

Our website is slowly evolving as more features are added. The site now has more historic documents and photos, as well as photos of recent events. If you have not visited for a while, please check it out.

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!