



# October 2015 Newsletter

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The recent two day BATHEX exhibition at Bathurst showground saw a small but dedicated group of OTHR members mount an impressive display of our wares. Included were the Sheffield Velocipede and the "Ross' Rocket" section car, plus numerous historic photos and memorabilia. The "History in Motion" backdrop was a great success.



A satisfying number of visitors to our stand kept most of our volunteers busy over the two days. Thanks go to all who made this possible, including Tim, John, Graham, Arthur, Paul, Lynette and Glenda.



It was a great opportunity to publicise our efforts and future plans and our display received a number of favourable comments.

## **Working Bee News**

The October working bee will have concluded as you receive this Newsletter.

Track Manager, Graham Williams, reports that the goods siding has had 75 sleepers replaced and points have been made operational.

Elsewhere, much sleeper deplating has taken place, with 102 made ready for the Lowes Mount Road crossing. The extra working days that have been happening on

**Next Working Bee**  
**Saturday, November 7th to**  
**Wed, November 11th**

Thursdays will enable the entire yard to be finished by years end. A special thanks must be made of our Thursday crew (the A team) of Arthur Robinson, Martyn Salmon and Lynette Ireland who have helped out in making Thursdays an outstanding success.

Also good to see that Michael Merrett has been working during October on the task of getting the other section car back up and running.

If you can join our dedicated band of hard-working volunteers and assist with the work during the *November* working bee – please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams, on 0422 596 438. Graham is always keen to hear from members who are prepared to step up and have a go! Even a few hours assisting the team can make a big difference.

## **Tickets Still Available!!**

In October – on the Sunday 25th – OTHR will be holding a film afternoon at the Lithgow Valley Film Society cinema in Lithgow – time 1:30pm. This event will be in the nature of an OTHR fundraiser and a 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday bash.

The films to be shown are "Ghost Trains" which includes the history of the Wolgan Valley railway, plus "Man from Cox's River", an excellent story about brumbies in the Burragorang Valley. An afternoon tea will be served at interval. Tickets are \$15 each and are available from the Cobweb Craft shop in Oberon and from the Secretary – no tickets are on sale at the door on the day – send your order to PO Box 299 and tickets will be mailed to you.

Come along and make this a memorable social event to mark OTHR's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday year!

### \*\*\* Reminder - Membership Renewal \*\*\*

At this time of year we need to remind our members that fees are due for the coming 12 months. In spite of postal charges increasing recently, our fees have remained the same this year at \$15 per person.

This represents very good value for our members and we can assure them that every last cent will be applied to getting this heritage railway up and running.

### **Next Meeting**

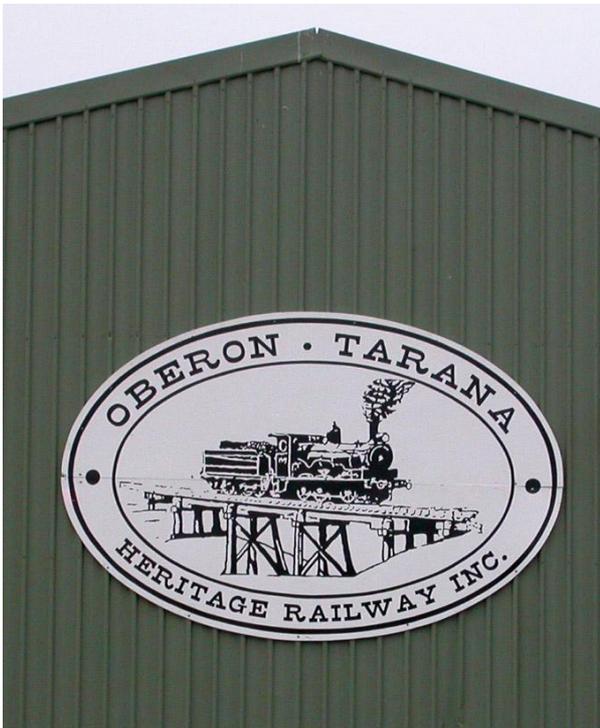
### **General Meeting**

**7:30pm, 4th November, 2015**

You may pay by sending a cheque to our Treasurer John Brotchie at the address on the masthead. Alternatively, you may pay by direct debit - please remember to include your name. The bank details are:- BSB 062 632, Account: 1004 9851. A membership form can be downloaded from our website.

### **New Signage Erected**

As you know, the manufacture of the new OTHR signage for the rolling stock shed has been completed, and during the last few working bees these have been erected on the eastern and northern walls of the rolling stock shed. These are now highly visible and give us a good deal of publicity in the Oberon township.



No, this is not a photoshopped image, this is the real thing! – the north end of the rolling stock shed – facing the Albion St level crossing. The other sign is on the east side of the shed, facing North Street.

### **Vale Tony Thackray**

Long time OTHR member Tony Thackray passed away on Sunday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, aged 81. His funeral was held at Rookwood on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Tony is survived by his two sons, his wife Pat having passed away about 20 years ago.

Tony was well known for his mechanical expertise, which he learned while in the family business with his grandfather, in the UK. Early on he joined the RAF and became an airframe fitter, which eventually led to him being involved with the British atomic testing at Maralinga in South Australia.

On returning to the UK, undeterred by the heat and dust, Tony promptly emigrated to Australia. He worked on large outback cattle stations for a time until joining Wabco where he was chief mechanic for many years.

On retiring to Oberon about 10 years ago, Tony became involved with many projects and helped out in all manner of tasks – including Matt McMahon's tank engines and the motor in the OTHR section car.

In his well-equipped home workshop in Oberon he was involved in building model steam engines and was working on a large horizontal engine at the time of his sudden death.

He will be sadly missed by many friends in and around Oberon, not the least of which by his OTHR colleagues.

[Many thanks to Matt for supplying details of Tony's life and career]

### **Mystery Photo Identified**

Last month's mystery NSW rail photo has been correctly identified by Dennis O'Brien. Congratulations Dennis!

He writes..."The photo, I believe, is taken looking north in the up direction at the big cutting near Gundagai station" – spot on!

This photo had some other rail enthusiasts scratching their heads for quite some time!

Any readers who have their own NSW rail mystery photo are quite welcome to submit it to the editor for publication. Photos of historical interest, particularly those with dates and details, are always keenly sought after for the OTHR Newsletter.

### **In the Journals...**

In the August issue of "Australian Railway History" there is an article on "Central West Memories" which shows an excellent colour photo of diesel loco 4909 with a rake of freight wagons about to depart Oberon Station for Tarana on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1965.

## Around the Traps



Recently, four OTHR members were invited to visit the Lithgow State Mines Railway – Tim Arnison reports.... “Their president Michael Wilson made us very welcome and explained to us about their railway which runs from the main yard at Lithgow up their siding approx. 3.5 km. This volunteer historical rail operation is run alongside and in the same building as a commercial service operation for mainline rail locos.

OTHR members were shown through the various items of rolling stock that had been refurbished. Some were stripped back to be restored and others were almost complete. There was even a two car rail set that was soon due to be road tested (see photo above).

It was most impressive how many young volunteers there were on site. The quality of the restoration work being done is superb.

The Lithgow Mine Museum is also at the same site and we were fortunate to be given a brief tour there.

Thanks to the members of Lithgow State Mine Rail who showed us around”.

## Swiss Insights

Glenda and Col have recently had the pleasure of an 18 day trip in Switzerland with Insights Tours. Travelling by train, ferry, cable car, funicular, coach and steam tram(!) – see photo below....



## Steam and Vintage Fair, 2016

The Highland Steam & Vintage Fair for 2016 will be on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. All the usual events will be on the programme and we hope Oberon turns on appropriate weather for the weekend. It's not too early to put this on your calendars or planners for next year. OTHR will be participating as usual, with the station and heritage rolling stock & locos open for inspection.



## A Few Votes of Thanks.....

To Lyndle Hawkes for her long stint as Minutes Secretary, where she performed with considerable flair and humour.

To Bob and Sally Parrington who continue to support OTHR by offering showering facilities at the Jenolan Caravan Park for our “out of town” fettlers, during the monthly working bees.

To Julie Stott for the many years of her support as our hard-working webmaster.

## And a Welcome...

To Mike Lorimer, who has agreed to be our new webmaster and is now getting up to speed concerning the tasks required. Welcome aboard, Mike!

## Elections at AGM.

The annual election of office bearers was held at the AGM on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October. There are many names here you will recognise – all keen to take OTHR into 2016 with even greater enthusiasm than before!

Executive officers:

President: Tim Arnison

Vice-President: Peter Culley

Treasurer: John Brotchie

Secretary: Elaine Boxer

Public Officer: Elaine Boxer

Ordinary Committee of Management Members:

Track Manager: Graham Williams

Website/SMS documentation: Ian Davis

Publicity Officer/Editor: Col Bembrick

OTHR Public Profile: David McMurray

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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](http://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc)