



## April 2008 Newsletter

April has seen steady progress on the line with work concentrated on restoring level crossings, preparing the infrastructure for major level crossings and pinning sleepers. Welcome to our newest fettler, Dale Adamski from Avoca Beach who enjoyed his first visit in April so much he has signed up for the May weeklong working bee.



*Track restoration work near the Albion Street road crossing with the superb, heritage-listed trucking yards in the background. The yards are one of only three intact yards remaining in NSW. Photo by Harry Shannon*

### **Weeklong Working Bee: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May**

This is a crucial working bee for OTHR as we plan to work on level crossings, lay and pin sleepers, and if time permits, start work on cleaning up the Hazelgrove Station area.

It is important to keep up the momentum, so come along, roll up your sleeves and enjoy Oberon's bracing autumn weather. There are tasks for everyone and every hour you can put in brings us closer to our completion date. If it is snowing we will provide skis for you to travel up and down the line. But remember, when skiing you are only permitted to carry 2 sleepers on your back.

Lynette Ireland and her catering team will be cooking as creatively as usual to make sure OTHR's team is the best fed group of fettlers in Australia. Contact Lynette on 6336 0565 if you can help with the catering or by donating something for morning tea.

### **Film making during the weeklong May working bee**

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> May a film crew will be in Oberon to make a documentary exploring the history of Oberon, its railway line and the exciting restoration work of a unique pioneer line.

The filmmakers plan to film our fettler teams on the line, to interview members of OTHR as well as people who have had a past connection with the line. So don't forget to put on your makeup before you come to work each day. It is planned that the film eventually will be shown on national television.

### **A Change in Leadership**

Our inaugural President, Shane Moorhead has stood down from the Presidency due to business and family commitments. During the past two and a half years, Shane's enormous drive, energy and initiative and his passion for his beloved Oberon has helped make OTHR the strong organisation it is today.

From the Committee of Management and all members, congratulations and thank you Shane for your leadership. Shane's great commitment to OTHR continues as he remains on the Board as Asset Manager and will be responsible for procuring major items of rolling stock and major buildings such as the station for Hazelgrove siding.

### **OTHR's New President**

Welcome to Bill Muldoon who was elected as President at the April Management Committee meeting. Bill has been our Vice President for the past 2 years and shares with Shane a passion for the restoration of the Oberon to Tarana heritage line. Bill and Shane have worked closely together to bring about OTHR's amazing progress, with Bill being responsible for much of the behind-the-scenes logistical work.

### **President's Profile – Bill Muldoon**

Bill grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney and went to school in Summer Hill before studying engineering at what is now UTS. He worked in his family's business for 36 years before moving permanently to Oberon nine years ago. Bill runs the Thrifty-Link Hardware store in Oberon and has had an association with the Oberon district for 19 years.

He maintains that Oberon has transformed his life as he gains pleasure from the friendships made in a small town that has so much community spirit. Community service is a passion for Bill and is exemplified through his work in Oberon Rotary Club (he is a Past President) and his strong involvement in OTHR.

When not involved with heritage railway matters Bill loves to indulge his enjoyment of art, music and simple, but fine food. He loves travelling in the

Australian outback where he appreciates the sparseness and the detail of the landscape. Bill says, "building the railway line here in Oberon is a great new adventure and I am very pleased to be part of it."



*President Bill Muldoon ponders the enormity of running the Oberon to Tarana Heritage Railway - oh that it would be so easy!*

### Membership Renewal Time

We are grateful that so many members have quickly renewed their memberships for 2008. The OTHR family is indeed a strong, dedicated group, so if you haven't renewed please send in your subscriptions which are the same as last year. The cost is \$20.00 for a family membership and \$10.00 for individuals and concession cardholders.

2008 membership forms can be downloaded from our website. All renewals should be forwarded to The Treasurer, Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc, PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787. Perhaps you can join up some new members to OTHR.

### Welcome to our New Members

Welcome to new members William Allen of Mt Pritchard, Paul Ferry from Oberon, Iain Gentle of Tarana, Sandra and Brian Harman from Oberon, Kevin Haswell from Fairfield Heights, Jim Powe of Telopea, Russell Vasey from North Turrumurra and Tina and John Philp from Black Springs. We thank you for your support and hope your involvement in our group will be rewarding.

### Sleeper Club Report

Now is the time to start thinking about tax free donations for the end of the financial year. All donations of \$2 and more to the OTHR Sleeper Club are tax deductible so if "charity begins at home" here's an opportunity to make a donation that will enable us to purchase more sleepers to complete the line to Hazelgrove and then allow us to immediately start work on the next section to Carlwood.

Remember, each sleeper costs \$20 and every member of the Sleeper Club receives a certificate and has his/her name placed in a leather bound journal for posterity.

***Stop press: Sleeper Club donations now stand at \$14,200. What great support!***

### Monthly Meetings

General meetings for members are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at the Oberon RSL Club. All members are invited to come along to hear interesting reports and activities.

### Barry Webb: A great OTHR Supporter

Barry is a quiet achiever, who like his friend Arthur Robinson, sets himself a task and carries out an enormous amount of work without fanfare for our organisation. In the last month Barry has cleaned out the trucking yards inside and outside and has also mowed the cutting from the Albion Street bypass to the old mill gate. He has mowed out to the roadside and cleaned along the line with his whipper snipper. OTHR is indebted to Barry for his dedication and determination in helping us get the line ready for our first tourist train.

### OTHR's Patron

Gerard Martin, State Member for Bathurst has kindly agreed to become OTHR's patron again for 2008. Gerard is a great supporter of our project and shows a lot of interest in all our activities.

### Mt Victoria Great Train Weekend

This exciting train fest will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> May. There will be two steam engines from Sydney, train rides, displays of railway artefacts, stalls in the main street of Mt Victoria and a train display in the public school. Under Charles Hazlewood's leadership, a team of OTHR members will again put on a display in the school. So come along, see what OTHR is up to and meet some of the "OTHR family".

### Behind the Scenes Activities

Documentation to run a tourist railway is an ongoing activity with the Management Committee members continually writing documents to fulfil our accreditation requirements for the Independent Transport Safety & Reliability Regulator. The document writing team plan to complete another 100 pages by the end of June. To gain further knowledge about Safety Management Systems, President Bill is attending a workshop at the Queanbeyan Railway Station on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### Working bee dates

- ◆ Every Friday afternoon at 4.00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> June
- ◆ Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June

Because of the weeklong working bee in May, members will be notified shortly of any additional working bee dates in May.