



April 2016
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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you first. always.

Your Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes lately, with a number of issues coming to a head.

First and foremost of these is the matter of sorting out our Heritage Rail Operator's Licence. A recent meeting of OTHR with John Holland Rail and the Oberon Council Engineer has led to clarification of who has the licence to do what and where – in the yard, on the new roads, down the line, etc.

As a result of this, better lines of communication have been established and ways of moving forwards have been put in place. Ian Davis and Tim Arnison have been continuing to work on the SMS documentation and they report that this is progressing well. Track Manager, Graham Williams has established that we need to repair/build the line to a JHR Class 5 standard to comply with the relevant authorities. A copy of this standard has now been acquired and it appears that work we have done already achieves or betters this standard.

Next Meeting

General Meeting

7:30pm, 4th May, 2016

Meantime, the dynamic duo of Tim & Ian are having a meeting with our Webmaster, Mike Lorimer, with a view to upgrading and redesigning parts of the website to make it more user friendly and informative. Your Editor has already been involved in this process and is currently sorting out old newsletters and other material for the website. *See appeal below*

Planning for an office in the rolling stock shed is also on the agenda. Now that most of the old machinery has been passed into the hands of the Valley Heights group, space is available on the concrete pad at the rear of the rolling stock shed. More on this in future Newsletters.

Appeal for old newsletters

Your Editor has been tracking down copies of old OTHR Newsletters to get these up on the website - with the help of our Webmaster, Mike Lorimer. Some progress has occurred, with the 2009 batch now up. However, there are still a few missing, and I'm appealing to all long-time members to help in this search. The issues that are required are ...

February & June 2007, plus December, 2009.

If you can help out here please contact the Editor.

Working Bee News

Discussions as to what will take place during the next working bee period will no doubt occur at the next Committee Meeting. Please make an effort to keep in touch with your local committee members over the coming weeks.

Even if we are not driving dog spikes down the track, there are plenty of opportunities for planning and preparation concerning a number of tasks on the go....

Next Working Bee

Saturday, May 7th to

Wed, May 11th

Items for discussion may include ...

- the new office for the rolling stock shed
- the tasks involved in restoring the carriages
- the final configuration we want for the partially restored bogie plough van
- the program of line inspection out to Hazelgrove

No doubt you could think of some more... see you there!

If you can join our dedicated band of hard-working volunteers and assist with the activities during the May working bee period – please contact our Track Manager, Graham Williams, on 0422 596 438. Even a few hours assisting the team can make a big difference – step up and have a go. Your input is needed!

Search for New Publicity Officer:

Your long-serving Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor is feeling in need of a break. Col has produced the Newsletter (with a few exceptions) since March 2010, nearly 65 issues. He will be stepping down from these positions as of June this year. Consequently, an appeal has now gone out to find a new Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor by that time.

An enthusiastic person with some familiarity with Word (you don't have to be an expert!) and a nodding acquaintance with Photoshop (or similar program) would fill the bill. Col can hand over all files and templates for the Newsletter and give some hints as to how to go about it.

Please give this serious consideration as we need someone to step up to the plate and fill this essential position – particularly as there are exciting times ahead for OTHR in the near future.

Historic Photo!

Believed to be a Lynette Ireland photo.



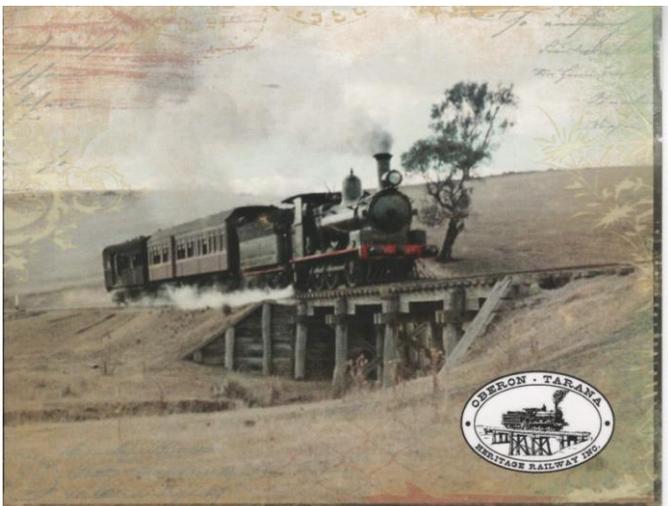
Never let it be said our hearty fettlers were afraid of a bit of cold weather. This shows them in August, 2008 hard at work in a snowstorm up near the Tip. The excavator and compressor are obviously being pressed into use that day.

Radio Star....!!!

President Tim has been treading the local airwaves of late. He recently featured in an interview with Susan Lacey of 2MCE FM. The program went to air at 11:05 last Friday in the Community Radio "Heritage Rail" spot. A fine interview - well done, Tim! Look out for this feature in the future.

Snake Valley Bridge

You've all seen the classic photo by Dennis O'Brien of the steam train approaching Carlwood from Oberon. A popular souvenir postcard in our collection. The photo was taken in 1961, but the bridge structure has changed since then! The large timber abutments in the photo (below the tender) are no more – they are now concrete foundations and timber piles. This was presumably done sometime between 1961 and 1979 when the last train ran on the line. *Can anyone shed light on this please?*



Perway Progress

Over the last few weeks Oberon Council has been beavering away putting a creek into a drainage pipe. What has this to do with OTHR?, I hear you ask. Well, the creek in question runs alongside the Borg factory just to the east of our line north of the Lowes Mount Rd crossing.



The photo is looking north with Lowes Mount Rd on the left and the cycle track and Borg factory on the right.

The last little bit of perway that needs to be re-instated between Oberon yard and Hazelgrove is here. The line will eventually run to the left of the distant pine tree in the photo and to the left of the red barriers. The recently completed Lowes Mount Rd crossing is just out of the photo to the left.

Insights Tours to visit Tarana Station

On Wednesday 11th May a group from Insights Tours <http://www.insightstours.com.au/> will be visiting Tarana Station and lunching at the Pub. They will be travelling on a vintage railmotor set 621/721. OTHR has previously hosted an Insights Tour group in October, 2014, when we gave them a bus tour of the Tarana Valley and afternoon tea in the rolling stock shed (see Newsletter Nov 2014).

This time around OTHR will have a brief opportunity to publicise our project and some preliminary discussions have already taken place to this end.

Keep this date in mind as we may need some extra volunteers to help at Tarana station and/or Tarana Pub at the luncheon.



The restored railmotor set

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Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website www.othr.com.au

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