



July 2008 Newsletter

STOP PRESS!

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. has won another prestigious award. President Bill Muldoon and Vice President Ross Allen attended the Office of Rail Heritage Annual Awards night at the Power House Museum on 30th July. Rob Mason, CEO of RailCorp NSW presented OTHR with an award recognising our "Community Relationship Building." The citation stated:

- "Getting started and establishing a key community relationship or engagement strategy.
- Showing evidence of building up a profile of a rail heritage within a local community and transforming this into community support for an event program, joint project or positive outcome.
- Demonstrated examples of sustainable community based relationships which have enabled members of the public to enjoy rail heritage experiences."

All members of OTHR can take a big bow because in a short few years we have surprised many, including ourselves, with our work on and off the line. More details of the presentation night and photographs will be included in the August newsletter.

The Catering Caravan

Our donated van was put to good use at the last working bee by the catering committee and was much appreciated by the hungry fettlers. Work has now begun to refit the interior to make food preparation and serving more efficient. Many thanks to Tim Arnison, Harry Cole and Peter Culley who will be carrying out the remodelling task.



Fettlers enjoy a morning tea break at the catering van

In Search of Rolling Stock

On the 22nd of July, Bill Muldoon and Peter Culley flew with our Acquisitions Manager, Shane Moorhead in his Piper Cherokee to attend an auction in Casino of old railway rolling stock. The purpose of their trip was to acquire a 200 class shunting engine

that could be used to shunt wagons or pull flat top wagons down the line when we are undertaking restoration work. Unfortunately our team was outbid for the engine.

While in Casino our OTHR members were saddened to see engine 4901 which was the last diesel engine to run on the line. This proud old engine was in a dilapidated condition and was sold for scrap. What a sad end to an illustrious and hard-working career.



Goodbye 4901!

Dogs Not Allowed at Work Sites

We haven't yet introduced a safety induction course for fettle dogs to learn how to remove sleepers and hammer in dog (!) spikes. Until that occurs, we ask all members and visitors to the working bees to leave their dogs and other pets at home as they can create safety hazards for the humans.

July working bee a great success

Volunteer members came from Maitland, Gosford, Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Moss Vale and Bathurst. We extend a big welcome to first time fettle, Kyle Rollinson from Canberra who plans to return later in the year. The out-of-town volunteers joined with local members in making steady progress on the line despite some very inclement weather. It was so cold and wet on one day that we had to cancel work but that was a rare happening for our determined fettlers. During the week we removed 1,500 old sleepers, put in and pinned 500 "new" sleepers and carried out drainage and embankment works. Track Manager Peter Culley used the Council's excavator for the first time and was very pleased with its versatility.

Track Safe Training Course Postponed

This course was set down for 19th July but was postponed due to illness in the trainer's family. It is planned to reschedule the course as soon as practicable. We urge all volunteers who work on the line and those who plan to work with us in the future

to undertake the course. Members will be notified as soon as a new date is arranged.

Another Moorhead Engineer Arrives

Congratulations to Kylie and Shane on the safe arrival of Laura Grace on the 12th of June. Big sister Ellie is already telling her baby sister about the operation of steamrollers and how to build a railway.

Get Well Allan

OTHR stalwart Allan McLennan is recuperating from a recent serious illness. All your friends in the railway wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you back at our monthly meetings very soon.

OTHR's Website a Big Hit

In June we mentioned that our website was receiving 900 hits a month. We were wrong, as the figure 900 referred to page views on one section of the website. Our web manager, Rick Fletcher tells us that we have had a lot of exposure and the hits for June were 72,000 and for July there were 73,006 hits. There has been a steady progression of interest shown in our website over the past 12 months. Congratulations to Rick for his excellent work in updating the site regularly with interesting stories and photographs.

New Members

Welcome to new members Stephen Bosanquet (Katoomba), Jan & Dietmar Torner (Oberon), Roger & Margaret Turner (Kelso), Garrick Hawkins (Oberon), Barry Webb (Oberon), John & Katrina Mellon (Bayview), David & Amy Perrin (Regentville), Craig & Lynette Gibbons (Oberon), Ashley Job (Collaroy) and David McMurray (Oberon). We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at some of OTHR's activities.

Visit of Dennis O'Brien & Jim Powe

The well-known heritage railway author Dennis O'Brien and film maker Jim Powe visited Oberon recently to check on our track's restoration. Both are train enthusiasts and OTHR members. Dennis has kindly loaned his many negatives of photos taken of train activity on the Oberon to Tarana line. We hope the photos will shortly be included on our website. Jim Powe has just written a book titled "Trains and Railways of Australia" which is due to be published in October. He told us that OTHR's great work on the line has received a mention in his book. More details about where the book can be purchased will be given later this year.

Wanted! Rail Memorabilia

We received a donation recently of the metal sign that had been originally erected at the rail crossing on Carlwood Road that said "BEWARE OF TRAINS". The sign will be displayed in our future railway memorabilia collection. We also have been given the first aid box that was used by Billy Cosgrove who

worked on the line. If you have any railway artefacts that you would like to donate to OTHR or know of the location of any that might be loaned, then please let our secretary Margaret know.

Member's Profile – Lynette Ireland

In her important role of Catering Co-ordinator, Lynette is one of our key OTHR members. She leads a skilled and innovative team of volunteers who continually provide 5-star morning and afternoon teas and lunches for the fettlees during working bees.



Lynette tries to avoid the ever-present OTHR paparazzi

Lynette goes to great lengths to find out the dietary requirements of the volunteers and no matter what the weather conditions are she always makes sure that appetising meals are ready when required.

Lynette came to Oberon 4 years ago to experience again her love of country life. She grew up at Buxton in the southern highlands and undertook her secondary education at Picton High School. An early love of trains commenced when Lynette regularly caught a rail motor from Buxton to Picton or Mittagong. Her home was located close to the railway line and trains became a part of her life.

Lynette has had varied work experiences, including working in offices, garages, restaurants, running a B & B and breeding and distributing game birds in NSW and other states. How fortunate it is for us that Lynette chose Oberon for her home. We are sure that when she rides on OTHR's rail motor, many happy memories of train travel will come flooding back.

Next working bee: 9th – 16th August

Track Manager, Peter Culley has organised a week of fun, games and exercise for this working bee. Activities include transporting sleepers stored at OTHR's Tarana "depot", building a level crossing for Clover Lane, removing 100 metres of sleepers from north of the "Summit" and laying and pinning as many sleepers as we can.

Matt McMahan, Shane Moorhead and team at Moorhead Engineering are currently working on a "sleeper grab" that will be attached to the excavator so sleepers can be quickly installed. Peter hopes that he will be able to put in at least 1,000 sleepers.

September Working Bee Dates
6th – 13th September