



PO Box 299, Oberon 2787  
[www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway](http://www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway)  
Secretary: phone: 6336 1211  
email: [conners@activ8.net.au](mailto:conners@activ8.net.au)

## March 2008 Newsletter

March has been another busy month for OTHR with continued work on the line and publicity displays in the main street of Oberon and at the opening of the Oberon to Hazelgrove walking/cycling track. Members have represented our group at Oberon Council-sponsored meetings, at a joint Independent Transport Safety & Reliability Regulator and Office of Rail Heritage Meeting in Sydney and at a Museum & Galleries Grants and Funding seminar hosted by Wollongong City Council.

### Time to renew your Annual OTHR Membership

Annual memberships are now due and subscriptions 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 or use the attached form if you receive your newsletter by mail. All renewals should be forwarded to The Treasurer, Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc, PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787.

### Welcome to the new Committee of Management members

A hearty welcome to new Committee members Tim Arnison, Harry Shannon and Chris Stott who were elected to the Committee at our recent AGM. Tim will be assisting our Track Manager, Peter Culley, Harry takes up the position of minute secretary and Chris will be our fund-raising co-ordinator.

### Welcome to our new members

OTHR's membership continues to grow. Welcome to new members Hamish Haugh of Brighton, Victoria, John and Gladys Fahey of Oberon, Michael Forbes of Wentworth Falls, Rohen Conners from Petersham and Jan and John Austin of Tarana. We thank you for your support and hope your involvement in our group will be rewarding.

### Easter Raffle Results

The winner of the first prize in OTHR's Easter Raffle was Kerry Tomlinson who won a dinner for two and an overnight stay at the Comet Inn in Hartley Vale. Our grateful thanks go to Kathy and Greg Noble for their generous donation to the cause. Robyn Townsend won the second prize of a load of firewood and the lucky winner of the basket of Easter eggs was Kim Minto.

The raffle raised over \$1,200 and demonstrates the great support we continue to receive from the Oberon community. Many thanks to Keith Jones and his ticket selling team of Lorraine Fielding, Christine Culley, Elizabeth Brochie, Lynette Ireland, Lyndle Hawkes, Kevin Hoffman, Marjorie Webb and Margaret Conners for their sterling efforts.

### Sleeper Club Report

Donations keep rolling in for the Sleeper Club with over \$13,300 being raised so far. We are aiming to raise \$25,000 to help purchase sleepers for the track restoration project to go further down the line. Every member of the Sleeper Club receives a certificate and his or her name will be recorded in a leather-bound journal for posterity.

### Historic Tarana Station and Yard

The photo below of the heritage-listed Tarana Station ([www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au)) and yard is our ultimate destination, but we will need thousands of sleepers and a lot of help before we reach this point where our branch line meets the main western line. A visit to Tarana station with your camera is a worthwhile experience. While standing on the pedestrian bridge, close your eyes and try to imagine the 1919 steam engine with its carriages ready to carry lots of tourists up the steep line to Oberon.



Photo taken by member John Dean of Mosman in March 2008

Admire the fine brick station/residence building extended in 1916, the 1916 timber signal box, the lighting and signs, the steel pedestrian bridge, the jib crane and the cast iron water tank dating from c. 1906. The goods shed is the only significant element missing. The NSW Heritage listing states, "It contains a fine example of a station/residence in combination with a range of interesting supportive structures. The station group forms one of the best station complexes surviving from the early period of railway construction."

## A Generous Donation

OTHR has many generous members and this month we thank Jan and Charles Hazlewood for the donation of a photocopier which will get plenty of work in OTHR's "office".

## Working Bees – an important notice\*

The weeklong working bee set down for 19<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> April has been deferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May inclusive. Our apologies for the change of date but arrangements are being finalised for a documentary film to be shot during the May working bee. The film will focus on the track's history, our volunteer reconstruction work and our plans for the future.

Remember there is a working bee held EVERY FRIDAY commencing at 4.00 pm and working bees are set down for the FIRST and THIRD SATURDAYS of each month.

Recent working bees saw more sleepers pinned and the final touches provided to the cattle stops at the Tip Road. A big welcome to OTHR working bees to Lois and Peter King who travelled from Mudgee and thank you to Arthur Robinson, the Rembrandt of OTHR who has finished painting the cattle stops.

### April Working Bees

Starting at 8.00 am

- ◆ Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April
- ◆ Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April

Let's really push the work along so we have a train running on the line by the end of the year.

## Fundraising Co-ordinator's report

Chris Stott recently attended an informative seminar hosted by Wollongong City Council in Corrimal to learn about Museum and Galleries grants and funding. He found the day of great benefit as he gathered ideas from the speakers on successful fundraising avenues that might be followed up by OTHR. Chris is looking forward to working with our fundraising sub-committee in making 2008 the biggest fundraising year so far.

## ITSRR/Office of Rail Heritage forum

Our Special Projects Officer and website manager, Rick Fletcher, represented OTHR at the Powerhouse Museum last week for a forum which was jointly organised by the Office of Rail Heritage (ORH) and the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR).

Rick reported that ITSRR personnel outlined how the organisation would be assisting rail heritage

operators like OTHR to fulfil the substantial legal requirements for their Safety Management Systems. It will be conducting workshops, providing guiding documentation and investigating potential funding frameworks for heritage railways.

The ORH session concentrated on its asset management approach to rail heritage and the speakers discussed the dispersal of surplus rolling stock and also its 2008 Volunteer Awards.

## Member's Profile – Clive Payne



*Clive does the preliminary tightening of a fishplate with a socket*

Clive is one of the regular volunteers at all our working bees and his tireless fletcher work has contributed greatly to OTHR's progress on the line. Clive and his wife Irene live in Tarana and have become involved in all of our activities.

Clive grew up in the Mt Pritchard – Liverpool area and has had a long involvement with the railways in NSW. At the age of 15 years and three months Clive joined the railways and became a shop boy, an acting fireman and then a fireman. At the age of 26 Clive became the youngest train driver in the State.

Clive drove steam and diesel engines as well as electric trains. During his 42 years on the railways Clive was also a driver trainer and acting loco inspector. Clive loves to see the restoration of the Oberon to Tarana line because, as he said, "It puts pride back into one's life's work and it's great to see a line opening up again."

We are certain that through the work of OTHR's volunteers, Clive will see his dream come true.

### Watch this space!

OTHR is currently carrying out negotiations which are well advanced for:

1. a pre-cast concrete station that will be an authentic replacement at Hazelgrove siding, and
2. suitable heritage rolling stock.