



November/December 2008 Newsletter

PO Box 299, Oberon 2787
www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway

Secretary: phone: 6336 1211
email: conners@activ8.net.au

***Meetings are held on the 1st
Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm
at the Oberon RSL Club*

Summer has arrived in Oberon and it's just the time to work on the line with no humidity to bother us. Join us among the gum trees and have fun restoring one of the most picturesque lines in the state.

Welcome New Members

Our membership is now well over 300 and continues to grow. A very warm welcome to Barry and Mary Ferguson (Tarana), Ewen & Jennifer Stewart (Medlow Bath), Margaret Zuber (Picnic Point) and Owen Zuber from faraway Vancouver, Canada. OTHR appreciates your support and we hope you can visit the line and participate in our activities.

November's Achievements

For a change, the weather was kind to us for our working bee. We placed nearly 600 sleepers under the line ready for pinning, all the old sleepers were retrieved from north of the summit to Black Bullock Road and placed at the container ready for sale. The area at the container was cleaned up and weed spraying took place along the line. Well done to all the volunteers who helped during the week.

December working bee: 13th – 20th

Track Manager Peter Culley and Assistant Manager Tim Arnison have worked hard in planning a varied program of work for our final working bee for 2008. There will be jobs for every member who can spend some time on the line. *Tasks include:* Weed control, building a concrete and timber cattle stop at Black Bullock Road, painting identity marks on culverts and crossings, pinning and gauging sleepers and cleaning up the Hazelgrove siding precinct.

Christmas Barbecue



All members are invited to join our celebration of another wonderful year of achievements that will be held at our base camp (the container) on Saturday, 20th December starting at 6.00 p.m.

OTHR will provide the meat and drinks and members are requested to bring a salad or dessert.

Success with sleepers

OTHR has successfully tendered for 9,740 sleepers with the Australian Rail Track Corporation. Thank you Marjorie Webb and Shane Moorhead for all your hard work in gaining the sleepers and organising their transport to Oberon. These sleepers will allow us to finish the line between Oberon and Hazelgrove and have some left over for the next section between Hazelgrove and Carlwood.



Steam enthusiasts watch the special tour train proceed through a cutting between Carlwood and Hazelgrove on 14th May 1961. Special thanks to Dennis O'Brien[©] for sharing this photo with us.

Heritage Trusses

We have been successful in gaining 23 heritage trusses from Arts NSW. They were constructed in 1880, were forged and bolted and formed part of the carriage workshops at Eveleigh Rail Yards. The trusses are 18 metres wide and stand nearly 5 metres high. They will be used in the construction of our train shed at Oberon Railway Station. The shed when finished will be 92 metres long and 18 metres wide. OTHR is appreciative of all the hard work of Matt McMahon and Shane Moorhead in acquiring the trusses and completing all the many procedures necessary to relocate them to Oberon. We hope to publish photos of this undertaking in our next newsletter.

Stop Press! At Last! At Last!

We have just received from the Australian Rail Track Corporation a draft of our Heritage Licence to Occupy the rail corridor from Oberon Station to Tarana Station. We have been working on this objective for over two years. When finalised, the licence will give OTHR control over the rail corridor. Congratulations to all those Board members who have lobbied long and hard to achieve this success.

A Night of Bush Yarns

What a wonderful and pleasurable night this was! Visitors from W.A. and Qld as well as from Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Bathurst and the Central Tablelands enjoyed a superb meal and 5 hours of non-stop entertainment from Greg North, Pat Drummond, Milton Taylor, Cill Van Der Velden and the local group "Inside the Square."

There were many musical and poetic highlights, including Greg's multicultural version of "The Man from Snow River", Pat's amusing stories and his hit songs including "The Sao Song" and "The Road to Damascus", and Milton's variety of funny and poignant poems and stories, such as the thought-provoking poem of an elderly person suffering from memory loss and also the duck-hunting adventure.

OTHR's profile was raised and will benefit financially together with our joint partners for the event, the Burruga Agricultural Bureau.



Shane Moorhead accepts the cheque for \$2,461.45 from Warwick Mawhood of Mawhoods IGA

During the Bush Yarns Night, Warwick Mawhood from Mawhoods IGA presented a cheque for \$2,461.45 to OTHR. This donation came from the IGA Community Chest that accumulates funds from IGA products. This generous support is a recognition from Mawhoods and the Community Chest Fund for the outstanding tourist project OTHR is undertaking.

Thank you to Mawhoods and the IGA Community Chest Fund. Your support is much appreciated.

Annual Central Tablelands Combined Clearance Sale

The inaugural sale organised by OTHR was held on 16th November at the Oberon Showground. Nearly 400 interested buyers attended the event and over 99% of all goods were sold. There were many bargains snapped up in the household goods as well as the farm machinery and equipment items.

OTHR will make over \$4,000 from the sale. Feedback was so positive that the Planning Committee has already decided that the next sale will be held on the 2nd weekend in November 2009.

Christmas Raffle

Your support for the raffle will be very much appreciated, so please contact our secretary Margaret (see letterhead) for a book of 10 tickets (\$2 each).

First prize is overnight accommodation for 2 adults in the Jenolan Caves House and 2 caves tours.

Second Prize is a gift voucher valued at \$150 from Birkenstock By Nature stores at Mona Vale or Neutral Bay.

Third Prize is a gift voucher valued at \$50 from The Green Fox Store, Oberon.

The raffle will be drawn on Saturday, 20th December.

Our grateful thanks go to Permanent Press Printers for again printing the tickets free of charge and to the prize donors, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, John and Katrina Mellon and Sam Lord.

Administrative Matters

- ☞ No working bee in January. Enjoy the break!
- ☞ First 2009 working bee 7th – 14th February.
- ☞ March working bee 7th – 14th March.
- ☞ No monthly meeting in January.
- ☞ Next monthly meeting - 4th February 2009.

Highlights of 2008

We go from strength to strength and during 2008 there were achievements that should be emphasised:

- ✓ The perseverance and determination of our not-so-young volunteer fettlers who turned up in all weathers, including snow to restore the line.
- ✓ Achieving a membership of over 300.
- ✓ Reaching one million dollars worth of volunteer labour and donated/loaned machinery.
- ✓ Getting continued & growing community support.
- ✓ Strengthening the co-operative working relationship with Oberon Council
- ✓ Acquiring and fitting out our catering van.
- ✓ Winning the Office of Rail Heritage Award for "Community Relationship Building."
- ✓ Completing nearly 4 kms of the line, restoring 2 major level crossings, maintaining the trucking yards and keeping the line clear.

IIIII

OTHR's Committee of Management wishes all members and supporters a healthy, relaxing and safe Christmas and an exciting 2009. We look forward to your continued support next year.