



October 2008 Newsletter

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

Spring has really arrived in Oberon and members are taking advantage of the great weather to undertake a variety of activities. Now read on about some of our recent achievements and upcoming events.

Spring Raffle Results

First of all, a big thank you to all members who helped with the raffle by selling books of tickets and returning the stubs and money so promptly. It was a great team effort as over \$1,400 was raised. Rudi Morauf of Oberon and Sydney was the lucky winner of the first prize which is a night's accommodation in Mudgee, return bus and CPH railmotor trip to Dunedoo, a 3-course meal followed by a Murder Mystery Show performed by professional actors. This prize was generously donated by one of OTHR's supporters, the Mudgee Miniature Railway Co-op Society.

Hugh Tregarthen of Oberon and Sydney won second prize which consisted of 2 emerald cut pink zircon gemstones generously donated by our member, Arthur Robinson. Rohan McKay of Cowra was the lucky winner of the third prize, a luncheon for 2 at Café Savanna in Oberon. This was kindly donated by long time supporters Barbara and David Coleman.

October Working Bee Report

OTHR members from Sydney, Bowral, Bargo, Bathurst and Napoleon Reef teamed up with local members to achieve some significant results. Three kilometres of line and rail corridor from Black Bullock Road to Clover Lane was cleared of all rubbish, 450 sleepers were put under the line and 250 were pinned and gauged near Black Bullock Road. Seven hundred sleepers that were purchased from the Australian Rail Track Corporation were graded and placed into packs of 20 ready for transporting from Tarana to our current work site.

The fettlers were again well fed at the 5-star OTHR "restaurant" by catering co-ordinator Lynette Ireland and her enthusiastic team. Our members are continually grateful to the McGrath Family of the Big Trout Motel for providing free accommodation for out-of-town workers, to the Oberon Council for the loan of an excavator and to Richard Webb for the loan of his tipper trailer.

New Member- Welcome to new member Ben Armstrong of Picton. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at OTHR's activities.

Upcoming Events

*A Night of
Bush Yarns*

7pm, Saturday 8th November 2008
Federation Pavillion, Oberon Showground

Join us for a great meal and plenty of fun with entertainment featuring these acclaimed Bush Poets;

 **Gregory North**
2008 Australian Bush Poetry Champion

 **Pat Drummond**
Australian Independent Country Music Artist of the Year 2000

 **Milton Taylor**
Australian National Bush Poetry Championships 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005

Also featuring Cill Van Der Velden
as well as local band 'Inside the Square'

Tickets \$35 each available from:
Thrifty Link Hardware Oberon
Oberon Industrial & Farming Supplies
Burruga Village Store
Town & Country Rural Supplies Bathurst

Bookings Essential


Oberon Tarana
Heritage Railway Inc

Burruga Ag
Bureau Inc

Hurry and get your tickets now as they are selling fast. A bar will be in operation during the evening. Three outstanding bush poets will feature on the night, including Gregory North who is the 2008 male Bush Poetry Champion of Australia, Pat Drummond who is well known for his comic repertoire, his work with the award-winning "Naked Poets" Bush Poetry Comedy troupe and his powerful lyric writing. Milton Taylor is the third feature artist who performs in verse, song and story and has produced 8 poetry albums and also a book.

The night will also feature popular Central Tablelands musician Cill Van Der Velden as well as the local band "Inside the Square."

Annual Central Tablelands Combined Clearance Sale

Sunday, 16th November from 10 am – 4 pm
at Oberon Showground

This is another big fundraising event organised by OTHR with the generous assistance of Oberon Council which donated \$2,000 towards advertising

costs. Farm machinery, goods from small businesses and households from all over the Central Tablelands will be auctioned on the day. Sellers will be restricted to 20 lots. All funds from the normal auction commissions and buyers' premiums will go to OTHR. There is no gate charge for what will be one of the biggest clearing sales ever held in Oberon.

Food will be provided by Oberon Apex and Rotary Clubs. Come along and enjoy a day of fun and maybe pick up a bargain or two. If you want to book items or need further information contact the Event Co-ordinator Tim Arnison on 0428 250 402, President Bill Muldoon on 0427 361 438. Check the special Clearing Sale website at www.OTHR.org or email: info@OTHR.org for information.

November Working Bee 1st – 8th November

Yes, the pressure is on as we push ahead with the line restoration. Track Manager Peter Culley has planning well in hand and with the assistance of the Council excavator, he plans to lay the last 560 sleepers north of the container to the "Summit" to complete that section of the line. Other work to be undertaken if time and numbers permit, includes spraying the line for weeds, building a cattle stop at Black Bullock Road, completing drainage work at level crossings and pinning sleepers near Gate 6. We need help to get all this work done. Even if you can only give up half a day during the week it will be much appreciated. If you can assist, please call Peter on 0427 042 448.



Loco 4901 waits to haul the last train out of Oberon on 27th September 1979 – a sad day for the Oberon and Tarana communities. We hope that our work will eventually breathe life back into this heritage pioneer line.

Photo courtesy of member Dennis O'Brien.

Get Better Quickly Arthur

One of OTHR's greatest stalwarts, Arthur Robinson underwent a hand operation a week ago. We wish Arthur a full and speedy recovery. We are sure Arthur will be at the November working bee to "supervise" our progress.

Vale Narelle Hoffman

Sadly, Narelle, the wife of popular fettler Kevin who is affectionately known as "Bluey" passed away recently after a long and courageous battle against cancer. Narelle was a great supporter of OTHR and "Bluey's" work on the line. A large contingent of the OTHR family attended the funeral to say goodbye to Narelle. Our deepest sympathy goes to the Hoffman Family in their time of sorrow.



Fettlers Clive, Dale, Ross and Peter take a meal break inside the refurbished catering van.

OTHR Joins the Millionaire's Club

No, we haven't won the lottery or received a million dollar grant! It is a much more momentous occasion. OTHR has now achieved one million dollars' worth of volunteer labour and donated or loaned machinery use. This is an amazing triumph for the small Oberon community and has been accomplished in two and a half years. Congratulations to all members and other supporters including businesses and the Oberon Council who have helped us in this amazing success. Now onto the next million and the running of our first train!

Doug Booker captured our Website Manager and Special Projects Officer, Rick Fletcher busily fixing the OTHR tractor at a recent working bee.

Rick travels from the Central Coast for the working bees.



December Working Bee Dates

**13th – 20th December inclusive
ending with a Christmas Barbecue**