



# History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway October 2023



**Newly refurbished End Platform Carriage, CBA850 along with loco 7307  
On show at Oberon Station Precinct during the Model Railway Exhibition  
30<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

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**OTHR Membership is now overdue for renewal. \$40.00 for 2023/24  
Renewal Form at the end of the Newsletter. Please renew Now!!**

## Patrons

### Paul Toole

State Member for Bathurst

### Andrew Gee

Federal Member for Calare.

## Committee

### Gregory Bourne

President, Public Officer

### Vice President

Casual Vacancy

### David McMurray

Secretary

### Jessie Clark

Treasurer.

### Michael Clark

Committee man

### Michael O’Kane

Events Manager

### Mark Handel

Rolling Stock Manager

## Line Managers

### Elaine Boxer

Catering Manager

### Mark Langdon

Asset Manager

### Mick Sanders

Operations Manager

### Alex Boromisa

Facebook Moderator

### Jon Bennett

Training Supervisor

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Part of the work on new access pathway was replacing sleepers especially those had had been covered and buried under the previous pathway



## President's Message

September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> were extraordinarily busy for the committee and volunteer members - basically a four all day commitment. Well done and thank you to all of those who enabled the Exhibition to be successful

Visitors were down on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> to the Open Day. The working bee was attended by 5 volunteers who completed a variety of tasks

- Sorting and storing the merchandise that had come back from the Model Rail Exhibition
- Track in rolling Stock shed -re-aligning sleepers and using screw dogs to fasten the rail
- Clean up of the caravan which is used for tool box meetings, tea breaks and lunches.
- De-plating harbour bridge timbers and other sleepers that have been stored in the yard. These will be used in the turnout at Hazelgrove.
- Vegetation control mowing in the yard and whipper snipping along the track.

"When will the line re-open?" Now that is a question that does not have a simple answer. We have to

- Complete the maintenance and restoration work on our rolling stock so that they are certified "fit for use".
- Get a variation to accreditation for running passenger trains to Hazelgrove. Our current RTO applies only to the Oberon yard for shunting purposes.
- Deal with some track issues such as rail replacement and fishplate/joint maintenance
- Complete the turn around and installation of the southern turnout at Hazelgrove
- I am sure that other things emerge as we move forward. The committee is working hard to get things done. Things take longer, suppliers send the wrong things or things that do not match our specifications.

**Greg Bourne**

**President**

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- **Website:** [www.othr.com.au](http://www.othr.com.au)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc](http://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc)

## Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

### Mission Statement

**To be an accredited rail operator to run a tourist train from Oberon station to Tarana station on the main western line. This would allow for tourists to ride a heritage train along the Oberon Tarana branch line.**

**Further, the running of this train would generate tourist related jobs in the Oberon area and give residents in the Oberon/Bathurst area an opportunity by volunteering at OTHR to enhance rail heritage in the local area.**

**Network with other rail heritage groups and museums at Valley Heights, Lithgow, Zig Zag, Bathurst, and Cowra to form a Heritage Railway partnership to prioritise and promote the area as a Railway Tourist Precinct**



Oberon Station Precinct and Train are for hire for photo shoots and films. Whether it is a wedding, school formal, family reunions, settings for filming or any occasion, email [admin@Othr.com.au](mailto:admin@Othr.com.au)

Our rates are competitive.

## Editor's thoughts

October in Oberon 2023...what a month!!

Much of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc's planning is coming to fruition in October.

For months our planning of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tarana to Oberon branch line in October is on show.

The Oberon Tarana Model Railway Exhibition was presented over October long weekend commencing 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Member Greg Young put together eleven large N scale layouts at the Malachi Gilmore Hall as part of the Georges River Model Railway Club.

Spectacular as they were, the resultant influx of visitors was overwhelming.

Next event is the "Picnic in the Park" on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and we are encouraging everyone from locals to visitors to come along to this event. This is a Cars and Coffee event.

The last event for October is the Great Railway Ball, this year taking the form of a bush dance on 28<sup>th</sup> October. If you ever wondered what a genuine country bush dance was all about then this is the event for you. There are limited tickets available, so book your table of 8 or single or double tickets while you can.

The last event in this series will happen hopefully sometime next year and will be the greatest of the celebrations.

This will be the official reopening of Stage 1 Oberon to Hazelgrove for tourist passenger services. Don't miss that one!!

The OTHR Committee was excited to present the newly refurbished End Platform Carriage CBA 850 drawn up, resplendent, at the Oberon Station in the Heritage Station Precinct. On this occasion, entry was free to all who came to inspect the carriage and the work that has been carried out on the station precinct itself.

This display will be repeated at the station precinct on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

"See your goal

Understand the obstacles  
Create a positive mental picture  
Clear your mind of self-doubt.  
Embrace the challenge  
Stay on track  
Show the world you can do it!"



**Annual Renewals were due 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.**

**Make sure you don't miss future benefits and the pleasure of being part of a vibrant group of volunteers**



*New pathway showing the safety fence.*

**OTHR has given away**

**\$3,000**

**Have you got in for yours yet?**

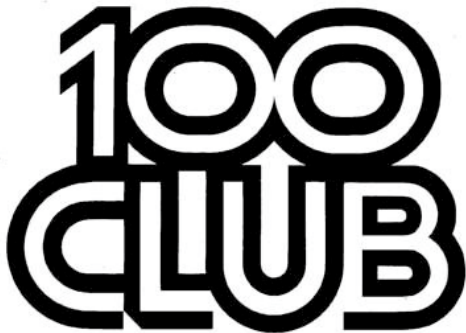
OTHR has given away \$3,000 in prizes in the 100 Club so far.

You can be in with a chance if you purchase a ticket.

Prizes so far have gone to South Australia, Wollongong and of course to Oberon.

An application form can be found at the end of this Newsletter. Simply follow the instructions to get your ticket today.

As they say in the classics...you've got to be in it to win it!



**Draw No 4 is now selling.**

**Your chance to win \$1,000**

You can win \$1,000 by investing in our fund raising with a chance to win.

It's a simple way for you to invest to help secure our future.

It works this way:

- Purchase a ticket for \$20.
- There are only 100 tickets sold.
- When all 100 tickets are sold, we will draw one ticket with your chance to win \$1,000.
- Simply fill in the entry form that will be located at the end of the February newsletter, email it to us (or in need post it) and bank your funds to our bank account, detailed in the form.
- Reference your name in the banking details.

- Once we match your entry form with your deposit, we will issue a ticket in your name and email it back to you.
- If you win, we will email you and publish your name in the next available newsletter.
- We will ask for your banking details at that point and direct credit your win.

OTHR Committee's draw will be final, and we won't accept any further claim.

We have checked with all States and Territories in Australia and have been cleared to run the 100 Club, no matter where you live.

**Get your ticket now for a chance of winning. Application form at the end of this Newsletter.**

## **October Event Sponsors.**

Celebrations as important as the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Tarana Oberon branch line and the commencement of tourist passenger services mean nothing if not shared with the Oberon community.

The OTHR Committee congratulates the following local businesses to date who have committed to partnering our celebration events.

**Gold Sponsor Oberon Council**



**OBERON COUNCIL**

**Gold Sponsor Mawhoods IGA Oberon + Liquor**



**Mawhood Bros Pty Ltd.**

**141 Oberon Street, Oberon, NSW 2787**

**Also, at Cootamundra and Grenfell NSW.**

**Gold Sponsor: Titania Motel**



**Titania Motel**

11 – 13 Tarana crescent, Oberon NSW 2787

**Gold Sponsor Oberon Earthworks**



**Silver Sponsor Oberon Industrial and Farming Supplies**



63 Dart Street Oberon

**Silver Sponsor Saul's Grading Services**



Keeping you on the level.

**Gold Sponsor: The Rockley Pub**



**The Rockley Pub.**

2 Budden Street, Rockley, NSW 2795

**Silver Sponsor: Reliance Bank Oberon.**



**Oberon, NSW**

157 Oberon Street, Oberon, NSW. 2787

**Silver Sponsor Royal Hotel Oberon.**

113 Oberon Street, Oberon, NSW. 2787

**Gold Sponsor: Elders Emms Mooney**



**Emms Mooney**

106 Oberon Street, Oberon, NSW 2787

Also at Bathurst, NSW, Blayney, NSW, Cowra, NSW, Orange, NSW, Molong, NSW.

**Bronze Sponsor**

**Oberon Lifestyle Properties**

83 Oberon Street, Oberon, NSW 2787

**DJ's Café**

169 Oberon Street, Oberon, NSW 2787

**Celebration Sponsor**

Spark Electrical Oberon

Oberon Bakehouse

Kringle Cottage

Oberon Pharmacy

Barkers Butchery



*OTHR's growing merchandise range at the Model Railway Exhibition.*

## Model Railway Exhibition Celebrating 100 years of the Tarana Oberon Railway Branch Line.

Oberon Tarana heritage Railway Inc. got off to a roaring start with the Model Railway Exhibition well patronised. Up to 1,000 visitors patronised the display over the four days and all went away in awe of the spectacle.

The central display was the Tarana to Oberon branch in N scale and it was a credit to the members of the Georges River Model Railway Club.

This event was co-presented by OTHR and the Georges River Model Railway Club whose members enjoyed a change of scenery in glorious Oberon.

OTHR Volunteers drew the newly refurbished carriage CBA850 to the Oberon Station Platform for inspection. They were overwhelmed with the response and the visitor numbers inspecting it and the railway precinct easily exceeded the total number of visitors seen at open days for the last three years or so.

The weekend display indicates that the eventual recommencement of tourist passenger services will fulfil OTHR's optimism in projected visitor numbers.

OTHR thanks those members who gave their time and effort to help present this wonderful production to Oberon, the Central Tablelands and the Central West.

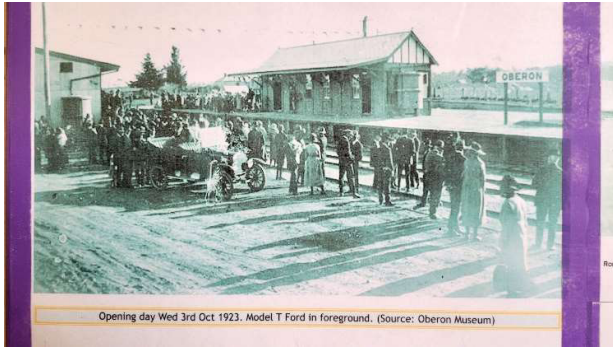
It goes without saying that the event wasn't possible without the local sponsors listed above together with model railway sponsors Frate-N, Gopher Models, Wombat Models, IDR Models, Kieran Ryan Models, Bob's models and Hobbies, Kerroby Models, Casula Hobbies, The Australian Model Railway Association Inc, Inspire Graphics, Alco World and Railroad Entertainment Shop online



*The Tarana to Oberon model railway layout shows Oberon Station in N gauge with a 19 Class locomotive at the platform.*



*Committee men manning the desk at the Exhibition. Left to Right: Greg Bourne, President, Dave McMurray, Secretary and Mike O'Kane, Events Manager.*

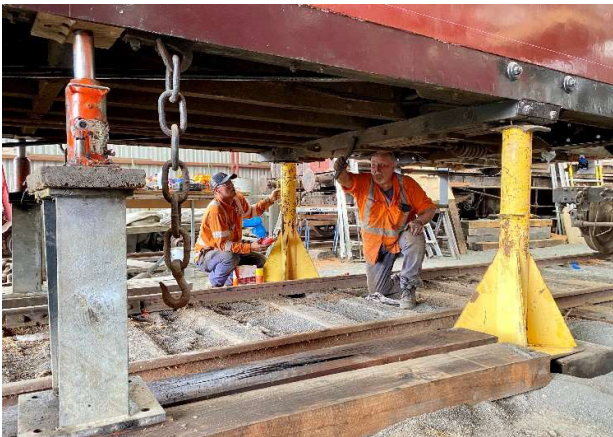


Opening day Wed 3rd Oct 1923. Model T Ford in foreground. (Source: Oberon Museum)

*The more things change, the more they stay the same.  
Photo shows official opening day 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1923 and the  
scene on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, taken from the same spot  
below.*



*Locomotive 7307 and Carriage CBA850 at Oberon Station*



*Flash back to January-lifting of carriages for bogie inspections*

## Picnic Day

### An event for all Car Clubs

### Saturday 21st October 2023

One of the 1923 Opening Day events was a picnic in the park. OTHR is planning a picnic day in "The Common" in conjunction with the Skoda and Tatra Register Museum. A modern take of the event of 100 years ago.

An up-market style Cars and Coffee event for all car clubs, motoring enthusiasts and visitors in New South Wales.

Coffee, beverages typical of the day in 1923 and pastries will be on site, but we are encouraging visitors to bring their own picnic hamper. The coffee wagon of Sarah Coad's "Get Roasted" van and Garry Connell's famous ice cream truck will be on hand.

"The Common" is ideal for everyone as there is sealed parking for about 60 vehicles. Entertainment to get your toes tapping or even breaking into a jive will be provided by "The Union" a local traditional rock band that you can enjoy whilst taking in the ambience of the park. The area is grassed, is close to toilets and a playground for kids. There is ample parking for visitors who aren't driving a classic vehicle, rod or whatever at various parts of "The Common" or in the nearby street.

OTHR will also have the Station Precinct open, showcasing our work so far in re-establishing the branch line for tourist passenger services. Located at the other end of Oberon in North Street, this presentation is the cream on the cake for your visit to Oberon, NSW.

If you are intending to stay overnight in Oberon, I suggest you book your accommodation quickly as accommodation will be tight.

We will be excited to see you in Oberon on 21<sup>st</sup> October to help us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup>



Anniversary of the opening of the Tarana to Oberon branch line.

Apart from food on site, this will be a free event for all who participate.

We encourage all enthusiasts to dress in the vintage of your vehicle.



*You don't get me I'm part of **The Union**.  
The group is a local rock band and will be entertaining  
at **The Picnic in the Park** on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023.*

**Whatever you do, don't miss this event.**

Events Managers: pencil this event into your club's diary.



*New pathway  
Another aspect (from the east/North Street) of the  
new pathway to the station.*

## 2023 Great Railway Ball.

Yes, The Great Railway Ball for 2023 is on again on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

The Ball is part of the OTHR Month of Celebrations of Centenary of the opening of the Oberon branch line.

This year the ball will take the form of a bush dance in 2023. A folk band, The Nodding Thistles have been engaged and they are guaranteed to have you dancing on the tables this year. The band will call each dance, so there's no excuse for not taking to the floor.

We will be offering a fabulous dinner, included in the cost of \$100 PP. Interest is already high and tickets are limited, so jump in quickly and lodge your interest at [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au) or contact Mike O'Kane at [mokups@gmail.com](mailto:mokups@gmail.com) and we'll get back with further information.

**Numbers need to be confirmed by the 21<sup>st</sup> October, so get cracking and book your spot.**



*"The Nodding Thistles"*

*You'll soon be dancing to the Aussie Bush Songs and Irish Jigs for which this band is renowned.*

## So are these celebrations just “The Vibe”

So, are the OTHR October celebrations just “The Vibe” or is it something else?

Could that “something else” be the history of the branch line that Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. has been working so hard for so long to bring back to life?

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1923 at about 4.45pm. witnessed the first train to arrive at Oberon, NSW. Trains came and went for the next forty-six years becoming Oberon’s link to the outside world and in the process created numerous characters and Oberon’s rich history was born.

Carolyn Hide’s research has uncovered the very germ of an idea that was to ultimately become the Tarana to Oberon branch line.

Here is the story as it unfolded:

### **Sydney Daily Telegraph Tuesday 10 October 1882:**

“...The Minister for Works bus received through the members for East Macquarie, Messrs. Coombes and Smith, Ms P., a petition from residents of Oberon and Fish River, asking for a tramway from Tarana to Fish River Caves, via Oberon. The petitioners urge in favour of the construction of the tramway the number of tourists who would use it, and also that it would open up a large quantity of cultivable land at present inaccessible.”

Thence to:

### **“Lithgow Mercury Friday 5th October 1923.**

#### **Opening of the railway. Brilliant weather and a successful function.**

Nature smiled on Oberon’s great day (3<sup>rd</sup> October) The severe wintry weather of the previous few days ended early on Wednesday, and the temperature was genial and spring-like. It was a sinking and very welcome change, which increased the enthusiasm of all who participated in an historic district function – the official opening of the line from Tarana to Oberon.

The Sydney train brought many visitors to Tarana. Among these were the Hon. J.C. L. Fitzpatrick (representing the Government) senior member for the district, and Sir Charles and Lady Rosenthal. Tarana platform was crowded as the train drew in. Representative men were there from Oberon, including Cr. Richards, shire president, and there were

also people from every centre between Lithgow and Bathurst.

The railway arrangements were in the charge of Mr. Nicholas, district superintendent. The train left Tarana for Oberon about 3.20, with nearly 200 persons (old and young) aboard, and to the accompaniment of cheering, in which the children played a hearty part.

The new line is 15 miles in length, with a “ruling grade” of 1 in 25.

The running time from Tarana, including stops, is 85 minutes. The return journey from Oberon is scheduled to occupy 95 minutes, as, owing to the steep grade, the maximum speed is fixed at 15 miles an hour.

Optimism dominated those who journeyed in the first train. The country looked radiant in its mantle of Spring green. Cr. Richards, Mr Batcheldor, and many other Oberonites were rich in reminiscence of the early days while the train crossed the Fish River and strained in its passage up the steep gradients between Snake’s Valley and Hazelgrove. Here and there a flag was noticed on some wayside dwelling, and occasionally the children shrilled a welcome as the train sped by. There are two unattended ground-level platforms on the line – Carlwood and Hazelgrove. The former is named after Mr. Carl Johnston, ex-member, who was foremost in the Parliamentary effort to secure the railway. At Hazelgrove a few passengers joined up and there also tickets were checked. Thereafter the country improved, somewhat as the train drew in towards its destination, and evidences of settlement were more manifest.

At Oberon station the whole population had gathered to welcome the official train. Including the cheering children there must have been nearly two thousand people on the ground, and the welcome was very genuine and hearty. Forty years of agitation had ended triumphantly, and from all over the district people had gathered to celebrate the great day. Oberon had made unwonted preparations for the day. At an early hour members of the league, assisted by other willing workers, got busy with decorations. Main-street throughout was ablaze with bunting, while all business places contributed their share of the gay scene. The railway station and approaches were also bedecked. People began early to stream into town from the outlying districts in hundreds.

At 11 o’clock the children of the public and convent schools were marshalled and, bearing flags and other emblems, marched to the showground, where a

basket picnic was held, and races, games etc., were carried out. After a very enjoyable day, they were again marshalled and marched through the town to the railway station, followed by the public, for the purpose of greeting the train.

Every point of vantage was speedily occupied. At 4.45 pm the train came into sight, whistling in a joyous manner, while the children lined up on the platform, under the direction of Mr. Chudleigh, sang lustily, "Advance Australia Fair", which gave place to loud and continued cheering by all present.



*Eagerly waiting for the first train to arrive at Oberon station 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1923  
Photo: Alan Sharp Collection*

### **The Official Opening.**

The Parliamentary party was welcomed by the president of the railway league, Mr. A.E. Burcher, who, in introducing Mr Fitzpatrick, said the people of Oberon joined him in expressing delight that the hour had arrived when Oberon railway would be declared open. There was some excuse for feeling elated, as they were making history, taking part in a ceremony that meant the advancement of a district they all loved and wanted to advance. It was about two years and three months since the first sod was turned on the spot where their station now stood. Many faint hearts had declared the first sod would also be the last, but happily that was not the case, and henceforth they would be able to refer with pride to our railway as an accomplished fact. It was up to the people of the town and outlying districts to patronise the railway, by consigning produce and travelling on it as passengers. He had much pleasure in asking Mr. Fitzpatrick to declare the line open for general traffic."

Mr Fitzpatrick, Sir Charles Rosenthal and Mr. J. Ryan all made warm speeches.

"At the conclusion of the speeches a blue ribbon was stretched across the track. At a given signal the train, which had run back again, moved slowly forward, and just as the engine, gaily bedecked with

flags, was about to touch the ribbon, Mrs. A.E. Burcher (wife of the President of the Railway League) cut the ribbon, to the accompaniment of great cheering.

Mr. Fitzpatrick then completed the ceremony by declaring the line open. He also presented Mrs Burcher with the scissors as a memento of the occasion.



*Mrs. A.E. Burcher cutting the opening ribbon.  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 1923 at around 4.45 pm  
Photo source: Oberon Museum.*

The station area is pleasantly situated on rising ground, commanding a splendid view of the town and adjoining country. The main buildings, of cement slabs, comprise a general waiting room, booking and S.M's office and ladies waiting room. A little to the north is another building for the storage of parcels. Further on is a turntable, which is nearing completion. On the opposite side of the line from the table are trucking yards, while a loading ramp, for produce, is also being made. A neat goods shed, beside which is a handy lifting crane, goes to complete the station equipment.

The children of the combined schools were given a free ride on the train to Hazelgrove and back after the opening ceremony. The youngsters, who all looked well, greatly enjoyed the treat.

### **The Banquet.**

A public banquet, given in honour of the occasion, was held in the hall, and largely attended. The viands, which were of excellent quality, were supplied by the lady workers associated with the Methodist Church. Mr. Paton's orchestra (Bathurst) discoursed bright music, and this feature also proved highly successful. There was a large attendance. Mr. A.E. Burcher

occupied the chair, and opened the toast list by proposing "The King."

Mr. A.E. Burcher, Mr Fitzpatrick, Mr. J. Ryan, Sir Charles Rosenthal, Mr. G. Batcheldor, Mr. Looby, Cr. C. E, Richards, Mr. A. Stephenson J.P, Mr G.N.Falls, Mr. H. Stevenson, Mr. Nicholas, Loco. Inspector McGuinness, Mr. Jas. Doust J.P. as well as many others spoke, proposed, and responded variously.

"As a fitting end to a perfect day, dancing by both juveniles and adults was kept up in the show pavilion to a late hour."



*Turning of the first sod ceremony Oberon, NSW  
Photo: Alan Sharp Collection*

It's definitely the historic moments and not "the Vibe" that is heading the OTHR celebrations.

The Model Railway Display is a nod to the opening of the railway on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1923. The "Picnic in the Park" is a modern take of the picnic in the Showground, and The Great Railway Ball is a nod the banquet where we are honouring our great pioneers.

There are also some clues in this historical account as to what will be happening when we present the fourth and final event of re-opening of the branch line for tourist passenger operations

## **Member for Bathurst visits Model Railway Exhibition.**

State Member for Bathurst, Paul Toole, was a visitor to the Model Railway Exhibition at the Malachi Gilmore Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

According to Mr. Toole's Facebook:

"The Malachi Hall in Oberon's main street has been buzzing when model trains took centre stage.

It was all part of the celebrations of OTHR marking 100 years since the opening of the Oberon Tarana branch line.

With over 1000 people coming through the doors, the exhibition featured an N scale reproduction of the Oberon Tarana branch line itself."



*State Member for Bathurst and shadow Police Minister, Paul Toole (right) with Greg Bourne, President Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc, at the Malachi Gilmore Hall. Oberon, NSW*

## **Intending to marry? Why not consider the Oberon Station as your venue?**

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is introducing the Oberon Precinct and Train as a venue for wedding and other photo or filming opportunities.

Should marriage be in the offing, or you know a relative or friend who is about to marry, OTHR is offering a unique venue for that exclusive wedding photo that you will treasure for all time.

You have the choice of the Oberon Station or the Station and Train.

Enquiries can be made via our email address:  
[admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)

Hiring fees are competitive.



## So... you think you want to volunteer?

OTHR is seeking expressions of interest from members who have the necessary accreditation to drive 73 Class Locomotives or those who would like to learn/train. Importantly all accredited drivers will need to also volunteer in many of the other tasks required of OTHR.

We are also seeking interest for carriage attendants, guards, and station attendants.

**Step 1:** Your interest should be lodged with the President or Secretary at [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)

### **Important information about moving rolling stock:**

Shunting in the yard will not be frequent but regular as movements are required. Typically shunting would occur in bringing rolling stock to the station for display at open days, special events and rallies.

### **Medicals:**

The level of certification depends on your level of interest.

- Driver Level 1 medical certificate  
TMV operator Level 2 medical certificate.
- For all volunteers there is a site induction and further training depending on the type of volunteer assistance you wish to undertake.
- OTHR needs to comply with the guidelines of ONRSR – the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator and other Laws either Federal or State.

## **Our Code**

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. (OTHR) is a not for profit, member-based organisation. We have a

responsibility to strive to make informed, consistent, and ethical decisions.

Our code is a public statement that OTHR is committed to doing the right things the right way. Our code applies to all OTHR committee members and members.

We are proud of our culture, and understand it is continually shaped by the behaviours and attitudes demonstrated on a day-to-day basis by all our people.

Our code includes references to relevant OTHR requirements (OTHR policies and procedures) and other helpful tools and resources.

No code of conduct can ever cover every situation, OTHR relies on you to use sound judgement and speak up when you have questions or concerns.

All committee members, members, volunteers, and employees of OTHR are representatives of OTHR and are expected to act responsibly and professionally.

As a representative of OTHR, you are expected to act in the best interests of OTHR and to conduct yourself in a manner that does not discredit:

- An individual team member, having regard to their position held within OTHR, or
- The reputation of OTHR.

Whenever there is conflict or a difference between an applicable legal requirement and Our Code, you must apply the strictest standard.

Our partners, and third parties, can also have a direct impact on the reputation of OTHR through their behaviours and actions. For this reason, we want to work with our partners to ensure that they share our commitment to safety, ethics, and compliance. We also expect and encourage all our contractors and their employees to act in a way that is consistent with Our Code. We will take appropriate measures where we believe they have not met our expectations or their contractual obligations.

## **Important Information.**

Help us bring our heritage railway to life by becoming a financial member of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

Membership of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is a valuable way you can contribute to our vision. Individual annual membership costs \$40.00 per year.

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**OTHR Membership is now overdue for renewal. \$40.00 for 2023/24  
Renewal Form at the end of the Newsletter. Please renew Now!!**

New members are welcomed at any time during the year.

Membership is required to cover insurance for any volunteer work you can contribute.

Membership is due at the end of June annually.

Refer to OTHR website to download an application or see the application form at the end of this Newsletter.

## About Oberon.....

October!

Life is bursting out all over. Buds are bursting on the bush and the Fish River ripples over stones with a sound that lulls you into a sense of paradise.

Early misty and frosty mornings are the best and to meander along any of Oberon pathways is an absolute delight. The countryside is greening with a hint of Ireland.



*Springtime in Oberon.  
Photo: Nate Taylor*

Oberon is only about two hours from Sydney, so make the trip up to enjoy our alpine climate; there's plenty to see in the district and if you ever tire of the region's beauty then try one of our quaint and unique eateries.

Who doesn't like food? Oberon has many eateries each offering a lovely takeaway with coffee or a long lunch.

Cafes such as Cafe Oberon, DJ's, The Hub, Peter's Cafe, Pick of the Bunch, the Rainbow Trout, or the Royal Hotel, the Oberon RSL, or the Oberon Golf Club; no matter your culinary taste, Oberon has something for you. District wise, there's the Rockley Hotel, the Hampton Halfway Hotel, the Tarana Hotel, Mumma Snow's Café Tarana and the soon to be re-opened

O'Connell Hotel, all located in Oberon's circle of villages.

Further, the dormant Tourist Hotel that graces one end of the Oberon village main street is about to re-open as a restaurant and wine bar. Ed Power and his son will soon be purveying fine wine and meals with the flavours of the four corners of the world.

The Milbrey Café and Craft Shop is about to open in the main street. It will delight your taste sensory and tempt you with local crafts.

Oberon truly is delighting us with a taste of renewal.

Oberon always has something on the go and great events that will be sure to impress City Slickers and Country hicks alike:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> September – 22 October Mayfield Spring Festival.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October Oberon Bull Futurity.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October Naidoc Day Celebrations.
- 21<sup>st</sup> October Oberon Railway Cars and Coffee "Picnic in the Park."
- 21<sup>st</sup> October Back to the '80s at Black Springs.
- 21/22<sup>nd</sup> & 28/29<sup>th</sup> October Gairloch Garden Spring Opening.
- 21/22<sup>nd</sup> October Hartley Valley Garden Festival.
- 28<sup>th</sup> October OTHR "The Great Railway Ball".
- 28/29<sup>th</sup> October Oberon Outdoor Festival Kanangra Yerranderie Tagalong.
- 28<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> December Oberon Outdoor Festival.
- 29<sup>th</sup> October Tarana Farmers Market.

Come and check us out, say "G'Day" to the locals and we'll certainly extend a hand of friendship.

For the latest in what else's happening check with the knowledgeable girls at the Oberon Visitor Information Centre.

Oberon is always welcoming of groups of all genres. Some of the recent visitors to the Oberon Station Precinct have been:

- Two small group private viewings of rail buffs and photographers.
- One private group visit.
- Portland Car Club, Portland, NSW.
- Group of model train enthusiasts.
- Secondary visit by Model Train Enthusiasts.
- Pittwater Motor Enthusiasts Club Inc. Northern Beaches, Sydney, NSW

- Model Railway Exhibition, celebrating the opening of the Tarana to Oberon branch line, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1923.

Oberon has an enthusiastic team available to help you plan an action-packed itinerary, whether it is for a day or a week.

Contact the girls at the Oberon Visitor Information Centre on 02 6329-8210 or Dave McMurray from OTHR on 0408 606 889 to discover the possibilities.

Oberon, the perfect place to base yourself for a day, a few days, or a week!

Oberon is just two hours from Sydney's Western Suburbs, two and a half hours from Canberra, and an easy and lovely drive from Dubbo as well as the Hunter Valley.

One thing's for sure, you will be more than welcome in Oberon! There is a team of friendly locals here to help. Contact us any time to discuss.

We would appreciate you passing this newsletter to others who might be thinking about a wonderful and vibrant trip to a spectacular part of Australia.



# OBERON

MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE



*Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc can cater for group visits of 12 and upwards.*

*At the present time we are not able to provide catering because of the headstock work on HLF 854  
Contact [www.admin@othr.com.au](mailto:www.admin@othr.com.au) to discuss your proposed visit.*

## A reminder...

**OTHR Membership was due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

**\$40.00 for 2023/24  
Renew Now!!**

## Monthly Open Days.

**Monthly Open Days are continuing the first Saturday of the month. Please note, morning teas and other catering activities are on hold while restoration of carriage HLF854 continues.**

**We will host group tours of the Oberon Heritage Precinct on request.**

We need volunteers for Open Days.

Volunteers will meet and greet visitors, show them through the displays and try to answer any questions. If you wish to volunteer at the open days, please contact President Greg. All that's required is a broad knowledge of OTHR history and an ability to talk with people. The work is rewarding and fun. Great friendships can form at these days.

Some changes have been made, with the establishment of a professional though small railway interpretive display. An entry fee of \$5.00 pp (children under 18 free).

Your committee is also actively advertising for group visits, and we are providing a railway experience bar none.

Groups are starting to line up and results so far have been encouraging. If you are a member of another group, say a car club or Rotary or Probus or a gardening club, etc. and that group is looking for an excursion, please suggest they book a group visit to Oberon station.

Admission \$5 (18 and over),

Oberon District Museum admission \$5.

Skoda Tatra Museum entry by way of a donation.

For group visits: see <http://othr.com.au> (contact us) or contact President Greg

## Working Bees.

Regular working bees are now occurring every Saturday and mid-week. Keep an eye on the website or OTHR Facebook page for up-to-date information. Personal Protective Equipment and orange Hi-Viz must be worn.

Contact: Greg Bourne President

Email: [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au) Mobile: 0437 389 684

We are always on the lookout for volunteers for working bees. Volunteers are required to participate in many tasks. If you can help, contact President Greg. Not all work is onerous and can be as little or as much as you can put in. There is a job for everyone. You don't have to attend every working bee, just the ones that fit in your timeframe. You will take away experiences from your time at Oberon.

Some of the benefits of volunteering are:

- Developing new skills & meeting new people
- Assisting with a meaningful and important cause
- Contributing to the community
- A sense of belonging.

### Welcome New Members

OTHR is always looking for new members. Interested in railways or the Oberon to Tarana line, why not give your support by becoming a member.

### Not so well

If anyone hears about any member on the sick list, please let the editor know via President Greg so we can send get well wishes on behalf of the association.

### Remembering

Let us know of the passing of any of our members, so we can acknowledge them appropriately. Contact President Greg with all details.

### Say Whaaat???

- I'm so happy Spring is here, I just wet my plants.
- I woke this morning to find my pet rat Elvis was dead. He was caught in a trap.
- I joined a Carpenter's class last week; we haven't made anything yet. We've only just begun.
- A man was washing his car with his son. His son said, "At least you could have used a sponge"

Contact: 0427 104 318 or 6336-204

## Sponsors

Seeking funding continues to be one of your committee's priorities. Sponsorships are an especially important part of the funding of our activities. It matters not whether a person or company contributes cash or kind, each will be considered as a sponsorship. The reason is that any person or company that contributes in kind is helping us in as much as we don't have to pay for those services and the sponsor is foregoing income. The committee needs to seek cash sponsors and this task is ongoing.

Would you like to become a sponsor? Contact President Greg. There are a few sponsorship levels available. By sponsoring OTHR and its vision you will become a partner of the programme

### Primary Sponsor Oberon Council

Oberon Council is a proudly independent council which has supported OTHR from its very beginning. The council administers the Oberon Shire and is second to none when looking after the community.

### Silver Sponsor Titania Motel

Titania Motel is your gateway to rural Oberon, NSW. Located in a quiet residential area, the motel has a range of rooms to suit everyone.

When booking your room be sure to mention that you are here to visit Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. for a discounted room rate.

Your host is Denise Voytilla

Ph: 6336 1377 or Mob: 0400 347 122

Website [www.titaniamotel.com.au](http://www.titaniamotel.com.au)

11 – 13 Tarana Crescent, Oberon, NSW 2787

### Bronze Sponsor Jenolan Holiday Park

Jenolan Holiday Park offers a range of accommodation in Oberon to suit everyone. Would you like to book your accommodation now?

Mob: 0418 619 709

7 Cunninghame Street, Oberon NSW 2787.

### Bronze Sponsor Oberon Trash Pak

Oberon Trash-Pak is a family business owned and operated by Wayne & Michelle White. Services offered are regular out of town garbage service, septic tank, and grease trap pump outs. Oberon Trash-Pak offers Domestic and Commercial Mini Skip Bins, Portable Toilets, Rubbish Removal. "You don't have to live in town to get a regular garbage service."





**Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.**

PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787

email: [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)

website: [othr.com.au](http://othr.com.au)

Phone President: 0437 389 684

ABN: 98 107 506 208

**Renewal or Application for Membership**

I/We wish to renew my membership or to apply to become a member of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. and agree to be bound by the Articles of Association of the organization and its Rules and Regulations

Name	
Mailing address	Street Number _____ Street _____ Or Post Office Box Number _____ Suburb/Town _____ State _____ Postcode _____
Phone	Mobile _____ Home phone _____
Email address	

Tick appropriate box

Membership is \$40.00 per person

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount payable

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*All donations are tax deductible.  
The treasurer sends a receipt for membership which will also include information of any donation.*

Payment can be made in the following ways:

- **Cheques** - made payable to Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. and mailed to PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787
- **Cash** - can be paid direct to our Treasurer at any of our bi-monthly general meetings.
- **Direct Bank Transfer** – our bank details are **BSB: 062 632 Account number: 1004 9851.**
- **PayPal via our website.**
- Please include your name as the reference statement

**Expertise** (Please complete if you are joining OTHR for the first time) Indicate any skills, expertise, or areas of interest you may be able to share with us as the railway is being restored ready for operation. We need members with a wide range of skills from labouring, catering to professional management.

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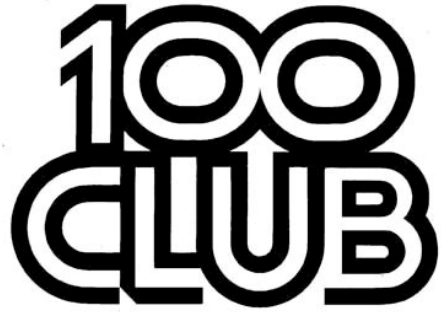
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Membership represents a significant financial contribution to our organization. Members receive regular newsletters and invitations to special events. Membership is required to cover insurance for any voluntary work you can contribute.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.  
Your 1 in 100 chance to win \$1,000.00.**

**Number of Tickets @ 20.00 each:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	
<b>Amount Banked:</b>	(Be sure to reference your name in the deposit)
<b>Date</b>	
<b>OTHR Bank details</b>	<b>BSB: 062 632</b> <b>Account No: 1004 9851</b>
<b>Email this entry to:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@othr.com.au">admin@othr.com.au</a>

**Office use only**

<b>Draw No:</b>	
<b>Ticket No:</b>	

**21ST OCTOBER 2023**



**OBERON RAILWAY CARS & COFFEE  
'PICNIC IN THE PARK'**

**AT THE OBERON COMMON  
VIA CURTIS STREET**

**CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE OPENING OF THE TARANA TO OBERON LINE**



**ENTERTAINMENT BY "THE UNION",  
A SEVEN-PIECE ROCK'N'ROLL BAND**

**FOOD, COFFEE, BYO PICNIC**

ALL INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.  
BRING YOUR CLASSIC VEHICLE AND  
DRESS IN PERIOD COSTUME  
& ENJOY THE FUN

**10AM - 2PM**



# Cars & Coffee

**PICNIC IN THE PARK**

**OBERON COMMON**

**VIA**

**RALEIGH STREET**

**10AM—2PM**

## **How do I get there?**

The event is located at the North-Eastern part of The Common, a large park located in the centre of Oberon.

Follow our distinctive signs for easy access.

If you are entering Oberon via the Abercrombie (from Goulburn) or O'Connell Roads (Bathurst), then drive through the Oberon CBD and turn right at Raleigh Street.

If entering Oberon on the Duckmaloi Road (Sydney and towns to the East) follow that road and turn left at Raleigh Street.

Look for the new servo under construction on the corner of Raleigh Street.

The display is at the end of that street where it intersects Curtis Street.

We look forward to hosting your visit to Oberon, NSW

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**OTHR Membership is now overdue for renewal. \$40.00 for 2023/24  
Renewal Form at the end of the Newsletter. Please renew Now!!**