

# **OBERON TARANA HERITAGE RAILWAY INC.**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**September 2019**



**.....bringing your rail heritage back to life.**

**PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787**

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

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

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc](https://www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc)**

**GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/2mhftk44>**

**Patrons:**

**Paul Toole,**

**State Member for Bathurst, Deputy Leader of the New South Wales  
National Party, Minister for Regional Transport  
and Roads**

**Andrew Gee,**

**Federal Member for Calare, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime  
Minister**

**Committee:**

**President/ Systems Manager/ Public Officer: Gregory Bourne**

**Vice President/Asset Manager: Martyn Salmon**

**Secretary: Vacant**

**Treasurer: John Brochie**

**Track Manager: Graham Williams**

**Public Officer: Gregory Bourne**

**General Committee:**

**David McMurray: Fundraiser, Newsletter Editor/Publicity**

**Ken Lingabala**

## **Managers**

**Operations Manager: Timo Kanko**

**Rolling Stock Manager: Timo Kanko**



**fathers Day 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.**

**Best wishes to all the fathers  
amongst our reade**

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## ....from the President's desk....

We have received approval for the Section 60 application to repair the drop log platform, retaining wall and coping to the station platform. Tenders are out; in fact they are due in today August 24<sup>th</sup>. We expect that by the time the newsletter gets to members next week the tender process will be finalised. It will be great to get the platform project completed.

Working bees have focused on the line in the yard, replacing the timbers under the compensators so that the points function in the correct manner. There has been a great sense of achievement in those who have been involved in the working bee. The work has not been particularly hard but getting the final adjustments tight can be a bit tedious.

The focus for this month will be the replacement of nine sections of rail in front of the station platform – the foot on some lengths has rusted. The dog spike puller is being repaired and modified and as soon as it is back in action it will be “full steam ahead”.

Negotiations with John Holland and Transport for New South Wales regarding an extension of the Heritage Operators Licence North of Albion Street are proceeding and getting closer to a conclusion.

The Annual General Meeting will be held during the next Bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nomination forms will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Greg Bourne  
President/ SMS Manager  
Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.  
Email: [gpbourne@gmail.com](mailto:gpbourne@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 0437 389 684



*President Greg Bourne*

## **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 which was also known as the pioneer 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.**

## Editor's thoughts

The Annual General Meeting is almost upon us.

If you haven't given that meeting any thought, then it's time to consider the year ahead.

Essentially an AGM is a report card on the year just past and an opportunity to look ahead at our short and long term goals.

So you need to consider whether the year under review has been one of moving forward or of stagnation. You need to consider whether the current committee has performed to your expectations or could they have done better.

The AGM is an opportunity to nominate yourself or someone else to help run the association or allow the status quo.

Don't forget the myriad volunteer managerial positions that have been identified and the so-far unidentified volunteer positions that will be required to operate OTHR into its working future.

There are currently eight identified managerial roles to be filled and at least six volunteer assistant's positions coming on line soon.

Every position is important to your association and is necessary if we are going to operate a fully professional tourism attraction for the general public and a working railway for the benefit of you, the members.

Apart from the committee positions, all other managerial and volunteer positions are casual and all that's needed is to be available as required

Give it a go! There's nothing to lose and so much to gain. You might just find working on the railway is a great deal of fun.



*Snow at OTHR August 2019  
Photo Martyn Salmon*

## Just what do we mean?

From time to time you might come across unfamiliar abbreviations in this newsletter. To members of OTHR (Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.) the meanings are straight forward but to the casual observer they might appear to be confusing.

Here's a list of some common abbreviations and what they mean:

- ATRHA - Australian Transport Rail Heritage Association
- HOL – Heritage Operator Licence
- JH/CRN – John Holland/Country Rail Network
- ONRSR – Office of National Rail Safety Regulator
- OTHR – Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.
- RIM – Rail Infrastructure
- RSNL - Rail Safety National Law
- RSO – Rolling Stock Operator
- SMS – Safety Management System
- TfNSW – Transport for New South Wales
- THNSW – Transport Heritage New South Wales

When you see these abbreviations in future it will give you an idea of what your committee is talking about.



*The track not far from Oberon Station  
Photo Martyn Salmon.*

## **Federation Chamber – Bills**

Appropriation Bill (no 1) 2019-2020, Appropriation Bill (No2) 2019-2020, Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No1) 2019-2020 – Second Reading.

In the Federation Chamber on 1<sup>st</sup> August last, Andrew Gee MP. rose to support these very important bills.

Here is an extract of his speech to Federal Parliament –

....“Speaking of railways – and there are a lot of railway fans out there, let me tell you – we’ve got another exciting railway project up and running in Oberon. It’s the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway. The federal government has committed \$1.5 million to help restore the branch line to carry a heritage tourist train through the area. This is a very exciting project. Stage 1 involves the installation of 5.6 kilometres of new railway line, the purchase and placement of new sleepers, drainage, earthworks and labour costs.

The Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway has received grants in the past but, whilst they have trains and some track, they haven’t been able to run the trains in any meaningful way. This funding is actually going to get the trains running again. So I’d like to congratulate the president, Greg Bourne, the vice president, Martyn Salmon, the treasurer, John Brotchie, and also the committee members Graham Williams, David McMurray and Ken Lingabala and acknowledge their really important hard work and commitment. They have been passionate about it over many years, and their dream is going to be realised through this wonderful funding.” ....



*The announcement was made in early May at the Oberon Station Heritage Yard.*

*Gathered on an end carriage owned by Louise Kroger were (left to right)*

*Andrew Gee MP, Member for Calare, Greg Bourne, President OTHR, Graham Williams, Track Manager and Committee member, Michael McCormack MP, Leader of the Federal National Party and Deputy Prime Minister, David McMurray, Publicity and Funding Officer and Committee member, John Brotchie, OTHR Treasurer and Committee member, and Martyn Salmon, Vice President, OTHR. Martyn is holding the OTHR business plan.*

## **Membership Renewals Due 30<sup>th</sup> June.**

Here’s a timely reminder that renewal of annual membership is due on 30<sup>th</sup> June.



You have until 30<sup>th</sup> September to renew or your membership will lapse.

A Renewal form can be found at the end of this Newsletter

## **NEXT MEETING**

### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

**OBERON RSL**

**7.30 PM.**

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 is the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. Annual General Meeting. This is one of the more important meetings in our year and is an opportunity to hear about the progress we have made during 2018/19 and what our future plans hold for 2019/20.

This is also a great opportunity for you to nominate for a committee position or take on a management role in OTHR. The next twelve months promise to be an exciting time and you could actually have a management role in it.

Give this meeting plenty of thought during the next month and let the current committee know in advance if you would like to nominate for any committee role or any of the management roles that have so far been identified.

## **Immediate Goals**

Existing goals 1 and 2 have now been achieved as a result of our accreditation recently granted. Your committee has now set a new range of goals to be achieved in the near future as follows:

1. Obtain track certification for most of the Oberon Yard area.
2. Gain approval (having applied) for the HOL North of Albion Street to just south of the Snakes Valley Creek Bridge "stop block" at 208.409Km.
3. Apply for variation to existing accreditation for RIM & RSO (for use of TMV's) to just south of the Snakes Valley Creek Bridge "stop block" at 208.409Km. Time frame 3 – 6 months. After the federally funded restoration of Stage 1 being the line North to Hazelgrove.
4. Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate work trains to Hazelgrove. Time frame 3 – 6 months.
5. Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate tourist trains to Hazelgrove. Time frame 3 – 6 months.



*Snow at the Oberon Station yard August 2019*

*Photo Martyn Salmon*



## Vale Tim Fisher AC

**1946 – 2019**

It would be remiss of a tourism railway association not to acknowledge the passing of Tim Fisher.

Tim, a past member of the NSW State Government and a past leader of the Federal National Party and Deputy Prime Minister was known for achieving so much to steer Australia's future during the Howard years.

For rail people, Tim was a tireless advocate for rail transport and rail tourism and was best known as a rail fan. After retiring from politics he continued his association with rail as a special envoy for the Adelaide to Darwin railway line and travelled the first freight train and first Ghan passenger train to Darwin in 2004. The V Class GT46C locomotive V544 owned and operated by Pacific National is named after him.

In 2008/09, Tim hosted the series of ABC podcasts "The Great Train Show", covering a wide range of railway topics from around the world and within Australia. Tim also acted as a tour guide for Scott McGregor's Railway Adventures.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway shares his family's loss.

Tim's passing is a loss to rail tourism everywhere.

## Positions Vacant

As you have read earlier, your committee is looking for members to step up and have a part in the responsibility of running a large scale volunteer enterprise, namely the Oberon to Tarana Heritage Branch Line as a tourism attraction.

Within the next few months and into the future OTHR will be commencing the building of a wonderful community project involving the operations of trains as a tourism attraction that will be the envy of the Central Tablelands and the Central West, if not New South Wales.

Specifically the following positions have been identified and will need to be filled in due course:

- Secretary – the position needs to be filled ASAP.
- Asset Manager – needs to be filled ASAP
- Catering Manager – the position needs to be filled ASAP
- Finance Manager – needs to be filled soon.
- Infrastructure Manager – needs to be filled soon.
- Safety Manager – needs to be filled ASAP
- Engineering Manager – needs to be filled soon.
- Curator, Oberon Station Interpretive Display.

All positions will be filled by members or the railway community or the general public with appropriate skills suited to the job.

Please contact President Greg Bourne on [gpbourne@gmail.com](mailto:gpbourne@gmail.com) or [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au) or mobile 0437 389 684 with a CV of experience.

OTHR also needs skilled tradespersons of all types. For example, Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Boilermakers, Painters plus more. Please also contact Greg Bourne as above with your experience.

As a result of our recently granted accreditation to shunt locomotives in the Oberon yard we are seeking volunteers who would like to train as drivers or ancillary staff.

Please contact Vice President Martyn Salmon by email at [admin@OTHR.com.au](mailto:admin@OTHR.com.au)

OTHR is a volunteer group so you will be volunteering with a fun group but with serious intent.



*Our Artist's impression of Diesel 7321 "Carlwood" pulling HS36 in the recent snow in the Oberon Station yard.*

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

WOW, look at all the volunteer positions now becoming available!!

I want to drive a loco or the tractor for shunting or a track maintenance vehicle to haul materials around the yard.

But what do I do?

Step one: contact President Greg or Vice President Martyn via our email address and indicate interest.

Step 2: when advised, organise a medical at the appropriate level (there are three levels of rail medical).

Step 3: when advised, our trainer will instruct you in controlling trains, tractors or TMV's to the appropriate certificate level.

For all other volunteers there is a site induction and further training depending on the type of volunteer assistance you wish to undertake.

All this is a requirement because as an accredited rail operator we need to comply with the national health standards and qualifications as set out by the National Transport Commission.

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.

Still interested in volunteering? Then let's hear from you.



*Jenny O'Regan, volunteer, sorting out the storage container.*

## 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 cost \$20.00 per year and new members are welcomed at any time during the year.

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

Membership is due at the end of June annually.

Refer to OTHR website to download an application, or complete the form at the end of this newsletter.

## **Central West Streamliner Success.**

A common comment that we hear all the time is about the number of people who are really interested in travelling on heritage rail. Here is a column authored by Ross Jackson, a member of OTHR and fund raiser for Streamliner Australia that provides some insight of the popularity of heritage rail travel. It appears that some 500 enthusiasts participated on just one day.

“August 11 2019  
Ross Jackson – Author.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> July, Streamliners Australia ran our first fundraising passenger train, The Central West Streamliner in conjunction with the Lachlan Valley Railway Society.

Appropriately, SSR’s B61 and GM10 hauled the 200 passengers from Sydney to Bathurst, and delighted over 300 Bathurst locals on a shuttle trip while the train was in town.

We raised over \$16,000 on the day to go towards the restoration of CL17, thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket and came for a ride”

## **Work on Oberon Railway Station is underway.**

It’s pleasing to report that the Department of Environment and Heritage has given its approval for the repairs to the station to proceed, albeit with a number of caveats.

We now have approval from all interested parties.

A meeting was held between four interested civil engineering companies and OTHR committee to discuss the repair requirements. A selective tender process will now take place.



*Oberon Heritage Station in Winter*

## **New merchandise delivered**

The first of the new range of merchandise has been delivered.

OTHR caps are now available for purchase now and are of very good quality.

Prices: \$15.00 members, \$20.00 non-members. Get in for yours now.

An online store is being set up to allow distant members to purchase our merchandise. Look for it soon as part of the OTHR website.

Further additions to the merchandise range will be added slowly throughout 2019.

## Sleepers

You are reminded that we have a supply of sleepers for sale. Some are suitable for landscaping and some suitable for firewood. See the advertisement later in the newsletter about firewood. If you want to purchase landscaping sleepers, contact President Greg Bourne. These sales are a good source of income for your organisation.

## About Oberon.....

Spring and Summer in Oberon is a combination of stable, temperate alpine climate with more than enough attractions to keep a group of visitors occupied for a week or more.

It's always a challenge for an association's events manager or co-ordinator to continue to come up with interesting places to go and see.

Have you ever considered Oberon?

Oberon is the first authentic country town west of the Blue Mountains. It is the home of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. Within the heritage railway precinct you will find a vibrant and active heritage railway interpretive centre, the only Skoda Tatra Car Museum in Australia, and a regional museum. Nearby is one of the best private museums featuring tractors and other memorabilia and a fantastic military museum.

Nearby is the largest cool climate garden in the world, over 160 acres in size; the World Heritage listed Jenolan caves; the museums and world famous racing car track and shopping delights of nearby Bathurst and of course the sites and delights of the famous Blue Mountains also within 50 minutes' drive of Oberon.

Piqued your interest? Who do you contact?

To get you started you can contact Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc., (0408 606 889 Dave) the Oberon Visitor Information Centre on 6329 8210 Mat, Debbie or Lynne)

We have the expertise in organising group stays, from a day to a week, and can assist you in organising a visit to Oberon.

Some major events coming up in the next couple of months include:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Horseless Carriage club International Tour
- Insight Railway Tour
- The annual "Downunder Jampot Rally" organised by the AJS and Matchless Motorcycle Club.

Past events have been:

- Morgan Muster ( an anniversary tour by the Morgan Owners Club).
- Triumph Car Club weekend.
- Geelong Cat Club week-long visit.
- Peugeot Car Nationals over an extended week end.
- Various Seniors bus groups.
- School Children.

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

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 and the Hunter Valley.

There is a team of friendly locals here to help.

One thing's for sure, you will be more than welcome in Oberon

Contact us any time to discuss.

Oberon, Simply Spectacular!

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

Or phone 0437 389 684 Greg, or 0408 606 889 Dave.

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.





*The recent Morgan Muster at the Oberon Heritage Railway precinct.*

**Next Working Bee.**

**Keep an eye on the  
News/What's On"  
Section of the  
Website.**

## **July/August Working Bee wrap....**

OTHR volunteers have carried out a number of jobs in the Oberon yard including:

- Removal of materials accumulated in previous working bee activities
- Replaced a number of timbers, supporting compensators and other rodding equipment.
- With the replacement of all the timbers, the "de-rail" on the run around loop was reconnected and worked from the "C" frame lever, the first time in 40 years (last train)
- Relocated two stop blocks.
- Installed some racking in the storage container and re-organised the storage container.
- Developed an events management SOP.
- Some tidy up in the office.
- De-clutter under the awning continues.

- On-site meeting with potential contractors (selective tender) for the maintenance work on the station platform coping and retaining wall.

We had six volunteers for each of the two-day working bee, with the second day testing from a weather point of view (wind and rain), followed by 2 days of snow.

**We are always on the lookout for volunteers for working bees.**

**Generally volunteers are required to participate in allocated 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.**

**We would like to see anyone with railway trade experience but that's not a requirement.**

**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.**



*Snowy day at the Station yard.  
Photo Martyn Salmon.*

## Important Dates for Volunteers

Open days are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month to coincide with the Oberon Farmers Market.

Volunteers will be required to 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.

## Monthly Open Days.

The Oberon Station precinct holds open days on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, the same day as the Oberon Farmers Markets.

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), and a pop up café serving a Devonshire tea for an additional \$10.00.

The result has seen a large increase in visitors comprising locals and tourists.

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.



*Hosting a recent group tour*



v

28<sup>th</sup> April 2018

To; David McMurray

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

Dear David,

I am writing on behalf of the TR Register Australia Club to thank you and your Heritage Rail Group for the fantastic hospitality you showed us during our recent Autumn Run to Oberon.

The high tea on the station platform was very well received by our group, especially the ladies who enjoyed Victoria's scones and jam afternoon tea.

The viewing of the Oberon rail station, the rail memorabilia and the rolling stock including the old carriages brought back many fond memories to all of us.

Please extend our thanks also to Wayne, Greg and of course Victoria for the great time shown to us

We wish you the best in your continuing endeavours to get the trains moving to Tarana and rest assured we will be back to enjoy another high tea soon.

Thanks again

Gavin Rea



## Event Management at Oberon Rail Precinct.

In recent times there has been an increasing amount of events occurring at the Oberon Rail Precinct resulting in a large number of visitors attending at those events.

It is apparent that OTHR needs to have an Events Management Plan put in place and this is in the

process of being developed to ensure the safety of visitors.

There is a need for specific volunteers to be appointed. Already roles have been identified including a Site controller, First Aid Officer, various Monitors and Station Staff.

Once the Event Management document has been completed and ticked off by your committee we will add these volunteer positions to our Positions Vacant.

These volunteer positions are casual and will only be needed when larger events occur.

We would welcome your enquiry for these positions and the others that are currently required.

Contact either President Greg or Vice President Martyn to register your interest.

## Welcome New Members

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is always looking for new members.

Interested in railways or the Oberon to Tarana line in particular, 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....

If anyone hears of the passing of one of our members please let the editor know via President Greg so we can make a special mention



## Say Whaaat???

- My Boss asked me to start the presentation with a joke....So I put my payslip on the first slide.
- I'm going to retire and live off my savings. What I'll do the second week I have no idea.
- Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.
- Petrol prices are so high that I can double the value of my car just by filling up.

## The Quest for funding continues....

Donations are particularly important now as we have the certainty of running a train to Hazelgrove soon.

With your help, your committee can start to introduce all the refinements that will make a journey to Hazelgrove an experience to remember.

To donate go to OTHR GoFundMe site and donate there, or alternatively send those donations to PO Box 299 Oberon. Please make it clear that you are donating to the rebuilding of the Oberon Branch line.



*Geoff Smith (left) with Martyn Salmon working on a compensator support at the August working bee.*

## Sponsors

Seeking funding continues to be one of your committee's priorities.

Sponsorships are a very 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.

Currently we now have five sponsors on board, all sponsors offer in kind support for which we are extremely grateful.

## Skoda & Tatra Museum update...

Our Skoda and Tatra Partners are gearing up for a most interesting event in November 2019.

The Skoberon Art Prize is earmarked for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM. The Skoberon Art Prize aims to celebrate and appreciate the design and function of Skoda and Tatra vehicles through artistic expression. Enter for a chance to have your work added to the

museum's permanent collection. The theme will be Skoda and Tatra Cars.

Entries will be accepted in kids and teens categories 10 years and up while Adults will be accepted from 18 + years.

There are prizes to be won.

Entertainment will include a BBQ and live music.

Here's a great chance for artistic OTHR members to support our partner Skoda Tatra museum!

Let's do it!! Enquiries to Oberon Skoda Tatra Museum via their Facebook page.



## Visit OTHR every time you come to Oberon

Make sure you keep up to date with work in progress at the Oberon Station Precinct and the Oberon branch line.

The heritage listed PC3 station building contains a small interpretive centre consisting of memorabilia and a photo display of the history of the Oberon to Tarana branch line.

You'll see a variety of trikes and TMV's (track maintenance vehicles) in the Oberon Station yard. Take time to inspect the Rolling Stock shed and inspect our 73CI Diesel Locomotives and walk through - even sit down in - the two 1897 American End Platform carriages.

OTHR is open between 10 AM and 2 PM on the first Saturday of each month, coinciding with the Oberon Farmers Market.

Admission \$5 (18 and over), Devonshire Tea \$10.

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



*Graham Williams (left) with Phil O'Regan and Greg Bourne working on a compensator support*

## Consider our History

Your committee recently commissioned a Statement of Heritage Impact in relation to the Oberon Station Platform repair and restoration. The report was written by Patsy Moppett, Town Planner and Heritage Consultant.

Much of the report contains a fascinating report on Oberon and the Oberon to Tarana heritage railway and over the next few issues I thought you might be interested in reading about the station and railway precinct through the eyes of a Heritage Consultant.

### "Historical Overview

#### Settlement of Oberon & District

Aboriginal occupation of the Oberon region was by the Wiradjuri group, along with tribes of the Macquarie, Bogan and Lachlan Rivers including the Daruk, and Gundungarra peoples. The Burra

Burra also frequented the area. The Oberon area was on a dividing line between the eastern and western districts, and various routes passed through there. This would have been mainly along the Cox's River and its tributaries. Any reluctance to settle in the vicinity of Oberon may have been caused by the severe climate, although relics and burial grounds have been found in numerous locations.

Many Aboriginal names have found their way into the names of local places albeit with spelling variations, such as Duckmaloi, Bummaroo, Gurnang, Murrin, Bindook and Tuglow.

The first Europeans to enter the Oberon region were explorers Francis Barrallier, Bradbury and Le Tonsure in 1802. Following the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813, surveyor George Evans passed through on his way to the Bathurst Plains, and in 1819, explorer Charles Throsby travelled through from the Southern Highlands. John Oxley's party inspected Throsby's route in 1820.

Most Europeans passing through saw no native people but saw signs such as campfire sites, carved trees, tracks, etc. Throsby however came across one group and had indigenous people in his party.

Once the Great Dividing Range had been conquered, pastoralists often moved stock to the high country around the Oberon district in times of drought, with or without the consent of the central colonial rule in Sydney. Settlers and land grants followed, and land was taken up along the Fish and Campbell Rivers from about 1820, pushing the Aboriginal population out. Disease and violence also took a toll. Overall there was very little recorded about the native people of the Oberon area. Many went on to become domestic servants or labourers and stockmen for the white settlers.

Significant early grants of land were made to people such as Phillip Parker King. Thomas and Robert Raine, Sergeant Charles Whalan, Reverend Walter Lawry, John Fulton and William and John Lawson. Many of these larger landholders were absentee landlords, with their properties being in the hands of managers. These biggest landlords

did not stay in the district, and in many cases, land is now held by the descendants of people who worked for them. The population of the district increased considerably once the grant system was replaced in 1831 by sales of land at public auction, and the Government's changed policy in regard to immigration and brought to the country a steady flow of free settlers.

Oberon was originally known as Bullock Flat, and permanent settlement commenced about 1839. The Robertson Land Act of 1861 allowed people to settle on unreserved Crown land on blocks of 40 to 320 acres on condition that a bona fide residence was established there. This had the effect of redistributing a lot of land previously held by squatters. Selectors followed in the 1860's taking up smaller holdings as they moved away from former pursuits such as the waning gold fields.

The town was not gazetted until 1863, when the name became Oberon. Mining in the area contributed to local income supplementing the farming economy including the results of the gold rush, copper mining, and eventually timber resources were also being exploited.

Water supply was provided from 1858 from the completed Oberon Dam, and Oberon's proximity to Jenolan Caves, Kanangra Walls and other significant landscape features have fed the tourism industry.

From the late 1800's however, there was one issue which would unite the people of the Oberon District – the demand for a railway branch connection preferably to Tarana and on to the Great Western Railway."

So here was the background setting that eventually put into place the Oberon to Tarana branch line.

This is one reason why the restoration of the branch line and its infrastructure is such an important project to the Oberon community and to New South Wales in general and why your committee has worked for 12 years so far to bring the line to Tarana back to life.

Next month Patsy Moppett examines our railway's history and sets it in the context of establishing a tourism railway for everyone.

## Winter Special

**Firewood grade sleepers for sale**

**6 x 4 Box trailer load**

**\$50.00**

## Contact For all enquires

President: Greg Bourne, 0437 389 684

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

## Proud Sponsors

### Primary Sponsor



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

### Bronze Sponsor

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

Contact: Phone/Fax 6335-6239

Mob : 0418 619 709

7 Cunynghame Street, Oberon NSW 2787

### Bronze Sponsor

Highlands Motor Inn, quality accommodation at an affordable price.

We don't work to a budget; we work to exceed tour expectations.

Contact (02)6336 – 1866

77 – 79 Dart Street, Oberon NSW 2787

### Bronze Sponsor

Along with the Australian specialised construction brands Orminoid and Lanko, Davco is part of the international ParexGroup. ParexGroup is a truly global company and a leading producer of speciality dry-mix solutions with 3,905 employees. The group has a strong local focus.

### Bronze Sponsor

Haymes Paints are a family owned Australian business. The business started in Ballarat in 1935 is now in the hands of fourth generation of the Haymes family. Over the years, each member has taken care to hand on the commitment and passion for crafting quality products. As they say their name and reputation is on every can.

Would you like to become a sponsor? Contact our President to find out how you can participate in OTHR's exciting sponsorship deals. There are a number of sponsorship levels available. By sponsoring OTHR and its vision you will become a partner of the programme.



**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 or 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	 Suburb/Town _____ State _____ Postcode _____
Phone	Mobile _____ Home phone _____
Email	

Tick appropriate box

Membership is \$20.00 per person

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount payable

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**. 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 laboring, catering to professional management.

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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 are able to contribute.

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





## **Official OTHR Merchandise**

**Buy Now.**

### **OTHR Cap.**

New Product, Bottle Green with white OTHR logo, fits all sizes.

Purchase today and be a part of the OTHR team. Proceeds go towards the refurbishment of the Oberon to Tarana line.

**Priced at \$29.00 non - members, \$24.00 members.** Price includes GST and Postage and Handling anywhere in Australia. Overseas will incur extra postage.

Payment:

**Direct Bank Transfer - BSB 062632. Account Number: 1004 9851.** Please include your name as a reference.

**Cheques** – made payable to Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. and mailed to PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787.



## 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

# Merchandise Order Form

Official OTHR Cap \$29.00 non - members \$24.00 members.  
Price includes Postage and Packing

Product/Quantity:	
Name:	
Mailing address: Street Number	Street
_____	_____
Or Post Office Box Number	
Suburb or Town	
State and Postcode	
Your contact details	
Phone: _____	
Email address: _____	

	Number	Total
Caps at membership price \$24.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
Caps at non-members price \$29.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____

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 or at an Open Day.
- **Direct Bank Transfer** – our bank details are **BSB: 062 632 Account number: 1004 9851**. Please include your name as the reference statement