



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway December 2020

**Oberon's Volunteer/Volunteer Group of the Year 2020 Australia Day
Awards 26th January 2020**



A beautiful shot of our train drawn up to Oberon Station

Photo by Chris Walters.

Patrons

Paul Toole

State Member for Bathurst, Deputy Leader of NSW National Party, Minister for Transport and Roads.

Andrew Gee

Federal Member for Calare, Minister assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education.

Committee

Gregory Bourne

President, Public Officer

Ken Lingabala

Vice President

Engineering Manager - Infrastructure Manager

David McMurray

Secretary

John Brothie

Treasurer.

Graham Williams

Track Manager.

Michael Clark

Committee man

Michael O’Kane

Events Manager

Line Managers

Elaine Boxer

Catering Manager

Mark Langdon

Asset Manager

Mark Handel

Rolling Stock Manager

Denis Turner

Driver Training Manager

Mick Sanders

Operations Manager

Alex Boromisa

Facebook Moderator

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Presidents Message

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and supporters of OTHR. It has been a very good year overall and some of the highlights have been elaborated on in the Editors thoughts.

Yesterday afternoon I was involved in a special Zoom meeting "Online Grant Workshop" instigated by Transport Heritage New South Wales chaired by Margot Stuart. The emphasis was on how to apply for grants and the avenues of support that are available before submitting any proposal. One point in my notes is "ring the grant administrator before going ahead". I intend to forward the notes that I took to all committee members.

This was a timely meeting because we have recently been informed of three or four sources of grants where we are eligible and may be successful.

David McMurray has a good start on one with a due date for submission on January 28th. The committee are supporting him in gathering information and quotes for some modifications/extensions to the rolling stock shed, changing the position of the entrance gate and improving the path to the station platform. It would also be good to attract some funding for improvements/restoration of the Mens' Toilet Block which needs quite a bit of attention!

In closing it would be remiss of me not to thank the Committee Members and Line Managers who have worked hard during the year to make sure things have gone smoothly. Thank you to the many members who have made such a significant improvement to the organisation this year.

Greg Bourne
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Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.
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Other important contacts

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- Email: admin@othr.com.au
- Website: www.othr.com.au

Facebook: 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 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 e 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.



Christmas Decorations for December Open Day

Editor's thoughts

As 2020 rapidly comes to a close it's time to sit back and reflect on the passing of another year.

And so as I rest easy in my chair with some Christmas Cheer and embrace the symbolic Christmas tree with all its baubles and lights, I see too many baubles but some particularly bright lights:

January: Restoration of Oberon Station Platform completed.

Draft lease document for the HOL north of Albion Street received.

OTHR named Oberon's Volunteer/Volunteer Group of the Year 2020.

February: Certification of Roads 3 & 4 in the Oberon Yard granted. Further requested documentation for the Federal Government Grant for \$1.5M forwarded to Canberra.

March: Senior committee visited Bathurst Rail Museum for its official opening. Caught up with Co-Patron Andree Gee, Federal Member for Calare, Minister assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education for a chat.

April: Locomotives were maintenance checked and tested. Took delivery of the big spray unit that was funded by the Federal Government Communities Environment Programme to be fitted to Tony Buckland's donated Ute.

May: Received the "CRN for Heritage Operations licence" to be reviewed by the committee. Set up Zoom so our committee meetings could be continued.

June: Heritage Operators Licence North of Albion Street received for review and signing. Driver Training programme set up. Effects of Covid 19 interferes with our Open Days.

July: HOL returned to John Holland Rail and Rail Corporation New South Wales for signing. Meeting held with ONRSR to develop a plan/timeline for variations to our accreditation necessary after the execution of the HOL. Scope of Works north of Albion Street was commenced prior to letting tenders for rail refurbishment to Hazelgrove.

August: Further meeting held with ONRSR to discuss risk management north of Albion Street. Monthly Open Days recommenced on a restricted basis Started to review Safety Management System

documents in preparation of work commencing north of Albion Street.

September: First drawdown of the \$1.5M Federal Government Grant to prepare Scope of Works requested. Preparation for a further meeting by ONRSR to run a seminar for Committee Members and Line Managers. Also started preparation for the October Open Day and the first official movement of the train in the Oberon Yard. Further amendments to the HOL because of Government Department name changes.

October: HOL officially confirmed. A couple of new Line Manager Positions confirmed. AGM held and new Committee confirmed. First official train movement into Oberon Station occurred after an absence of 41 years.

November: Increased enquiries from groups wishing to visit the Station Precinct. Working closely with the other museum in Oberon. Another very successful open day.

And so with my favourite Christmas song, "Driving Home for Christmas" playing in the background and with a soothing ale in hand, I reflect on the OTHR achievements in 2020.

My conclusion....2020, What a Year!!

"I know the price of success: Dedication, Hard Work and an Unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.

Frank Lloyd Wright"

A Very Happy Christmas to all our readers and may 2021 deliver everything to want in life.

Training Managers Report

Firstly, I apologise for my tardiness for not introducing myself earlier.

My name is Dennis Turner, I am a Steam and Diesel locomotive Cert. IV Trainer and Assessor with ATHRA (Australian Tourist Heritage Railway Association) I am also employed part time by The Instruction Co. and do the same work with the main line companies and I have just retired as a Driver/Trainer/Assessor with Southern Shorthaul Railroad.

About 9 month's ago I was asked by my Training Manager from ATHRA (Mr. Steve Devenson) to speak to Greg regarding training and assessing in 73Class engine, air brakes operation and shunting.

From these discussion's a plan was conceived to train 5 members' in the above. Well after 5 months' of "off job" and "on job" training all our members passed. Well done, to all.

There is still a long way to go, before the members can operate the locomotives and a train to Hazelgrove, we will get there.!

My plan after the track has been certified fit for traffic, we will run quite a few light engine trips back and forth, this is to allow the trainees to become accustomed to travelling at speed (20kph) and to fine tune their judgment in powering and braking.

Then, when they are assessed as competent in light engine movements, we will be running empty car movements, again fine tuning the braking, powering and working in "Push-Pull" mode (this is not as easy as it sounds) as both crew's need to think as one!

With the training already given, it has allowed us to move a locomotive and car up to the platform for shunting practice and for our open days, this has made a great difference to make people aware that we are still determined to operate trains, (after all the negative remarks made over the past year's).

I have spoken to Greg regarding running another class to qualify more members in engine and air

and shunting. This has to be done in a timely fashion, so as to maintain competencies and memory recall (some of us are mellowing in age and memory), otherwise everyone will need to be re-assessed, (don't forget training is competency based)

If any member wishes to be qualified in operations please make yourself known to either Greg or myself, because when we do run our passenger services to Hazelgrove and return, (the number of services per day have yet to be worked out), but it will take 6 people on the train per trip to make it work, plus we need a Yard Controller making this number 7, then we need to include Gate Keepers, shunters and not forgetting our good ladies in the canteen and shop.

After discussions with Graham, the Safe-working system will be Staff & Ticket, (at the beginning the Tickets will not be used) but when we start running to Tarana, we may well be using them but, that's a long way down the track (pardon my pun).

I will write the safe-working courseware and assessments in due time, then I will be running the classes for this, this can also be done "off-site" by electronic means or paper based.

Please contact me on 0439631916 if you would like to register your interest in becoming train crew.

Faternally
Dennis Turner

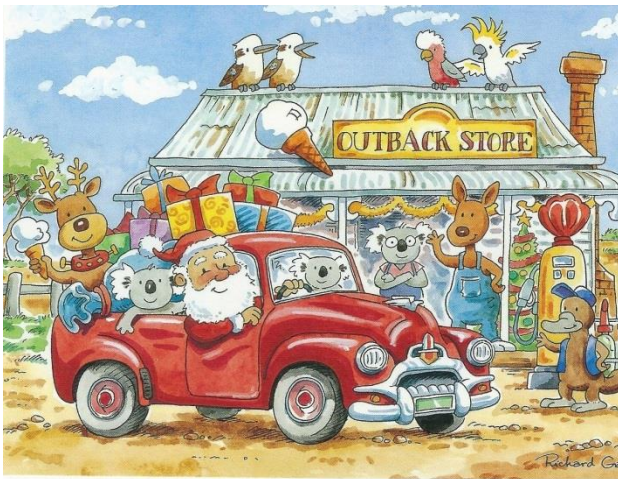


This month we have received 80 sleepers donated by Transport for New South Wales and facilitated by John Holland Rail.



We wish you all a very Merry and Peaceful
Christmas and a Happy New Year.
The Committee OTHR.

**WITH COVID RESTRICTIONS
SLOWLY BEING LIFTED OTHR
WILL SOON BE ABLE TO RESUME
BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS.
KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR
ANNOUNCEMENTS.**



OTHR Goes Christmas.

“At an Aussie Aussie Christmas
There are more prawns than potatoes
More flies than mosquitos
Than presents under the tree....”

Christmas will be at the forefront of OTHR’s
December 5th Open Day.

The station and train will be themed with lots of
tinsel and baubles.

Entry fee is \$5.00PP (children under 18 free)

Our café will have a very special menu and the cost
for this month will be \$10.00.

Santa will make a special appearance from 11.00
am – 1.00 pm. You can have your children or family
photos taken for a small cost of \$5.00 in a very
railway setting.

All proceeds will assist the OTHR project.

I’ve used some of Amber Lawrence’s lyrics here and
a special thanks to her. Find her “Aussie Aussie
Christmas” song on YouTube.

Saturday’s Menu

Rea, Coffee

Christmas Cake

Mince Pies

Chocolate Yule Log

\$10.00 Per Person..



From a Negative to a Positive.

November's Newsletter brought you an article about a tree that had fallen across the track at Hazelgrove.

Our volunteers ended up removing the tree by cutting it into lengths and bringing them back to the Station precinct. From there they were milled. Those milled lengths will now be seasoned and used as posts to hang gates at Albion Street.

Two birds killed with one stone!



Volunteer Michael has a log positioned in the mill



Tree largely removed



Same log now milled and ready to be seasoned.



Logs safely back at the Oberon Station precinct.

Volunteers work at either end of the Oberon – Hazelgrove Rail line.

In November we started weekend working bees. On November 14th a group of volunteers started painting at the station sanding and painting the station seats and a baggage trolley.

Another group went to Hazelgrove Stop where mowing, whipper sniping and weed spraying was carried out.

Over the coming weeks we will be progressively practicing weed control along the entire length of the track back to Oberon.



Mowing at Hazelgrove November 14th



Station Seat in need of painting 14th November



End of Day November 14th



The Same Seat on December 2nd



This trolley is earmarked for sanding back and re-painting.

Rotovanners visit OTHR

Last Thursday 26th November a group of about 40 caravanners visited the Oberon Station Precinct.

OTHR volunteers brought the train to the station and morning tea was a feature in the pop up café carriage.

The day presented picture perfect Oberon Spring weather.



A group of Rotovanners enjoying our 1897 End Platform Carriage.



OTHR Café ready for the Rotovanner visit.

Skoda & Tatra Register Museum

Saturday 28th November was a day of celebration for the Skoda & Tatra Register Museum. It marked the launch of the annual “Scoberon” Art Competition and Annual Luncheon later at the Oberon RSL. Deputy Mayor of Oberon, Mark Kellam, was the guest of honour.

In particular the Museum presented a fantastic railway book to mark the occasion as well as acknowledging the help OTHR had provided during the past year or so. OTHR Committee was honoured to receive this gift and it can now be found in our library.

Immediate Goals

A new range of goals to be achieved soon as follows:

1. Obtain full track certification for the Oberon Yard area.
2. Gain approval for the HOL North of Albion Street to approximately 500m north of the Hazelgrove Station.
3. Apply for variation to existing accreditation for Rail Infrastructure Manager & Rail Transport Operator to approximately 500m north of the Hazelgrove Station.
4. Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate work trains to Hazelgrove.
5. Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate tourist trains to Hazelgrove.

New Feature for OTHR.

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

Hiring fees are very competitive.

Positions Vacant

Your committee is looking for members to step up and take a part in the responsibility of running a large-scale volunteer enterprise, namely the Oberon to Tarana Heritage Branch Line as a tourist attraction.

Within the next few months and into the future OTHR will be continuing 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:

- Finance Manager – needs to be filled soon.
- Safety Manager – needs to be filled soon.
- Curator, Oberon Station Interpretive Display.

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

OTHR also needs skilled tradespersons of all types. For example, Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Boilermakers, Painters plus more.

Please also contact Greg Bourne as above your experience.

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.

Step 1: Your interest should be lodged with the Secretary at 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.

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



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 possible 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 \$30.00 per year and new members are welcomed at any time during the year.

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

Membership is due at the end of June annually.

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

Secured your New Merchandise Yet?

A novelty wooden Train Whistle has just been added to OTHR's merchandise range.

The whistle is a good size and sounds like a train whistle should. It is a great addition to your collection.

Purchase one or two for the children or grandchildren and let them annoy you for a long time.

Cost for members is \$10.00 and non-members \$15.00.

The order form is to be found later in this newsletter.



Sunset at Oberon...Simply Spectacular.

About Oberon.....

December is the start of the summer season in Oberon.

What more could you want; balmy days, brisk nights and for the enthusiast, lovely drives and rides.

One of the great road trips of the Central Tablelands, which overflows with fabulous scenery and expansive views, is the Tablelands Way. Leaving the hustle of the highway behind in Goulburn, head for the hills and the dreamy town of Taralga, where you'll find beautiful buildings and good coffee! Continue on towards Oberon, travelling through some of the most beautiful scenery in NSW. Layer after layer of blue, rolling hills, steep river valleys and spectacular high ranges make this route one to remember.

Oberon Visitor Information Centre has a series of road runs for car and bike enthusiasts starting and finishing in Oberon.

Oberon is a lovely place to stay a day or two and enjoy lovely country ambience, great food and coffee.

While you're at it, why not spend an hour or two or maybe three at the Oberon Station Precinct just one block from Oberon's main street. Fast developing as an interesting tourist precinct, it boasts three museums.

The principal museum is the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. Open on the first Saturday monthly or by appointment anytime for groups. Enjoy old fashioned hospitality and savour a Devonshire Tea on an 1897 American style End Platform Carriage

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

- Morgan Muster (an anniversary tour by the Morgan Owners Club).
- Various seniors bus groups.
- School Children.
- 7th Horseless Carriage Club International Tour.
- "Downunder Jampot Rally" organised in conjunction with the AJS & Matchless Motorcycle group and OH@CC.
- Standard and Triumph Car Club.
- Rotovanners.

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 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 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.

Oberon, More Than You Expect.



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.

Working Bees.

With the weather warming up, so are our working bees.

The next working bee for December is

Saturday 12th.

Weekend working bees are being organised to give members more opportunities to join in essential maintenance work. At the moment we have a couple of areas that need fairly urgent attention.

- Vegetation control in the Oberon Yard and then further North of Albion Street. This will involve spraying (Round-Up) using the spray unit on the Ute, mowing and whipper snipping the weeds. The good spring rains in Oberon have accelerated grass growing! If you have some equipment that you can bring with you, please do so.
- Painting of various items that are on the station. Seats and baggage trolley, sanding, priming (if necessary) and a top coat.

Track work will continue during the week. In recent times this has been done on either a Tuesday or Thursday depending on availability of the fettlers.

If you want to be a part of the weekday working bees then contact us.

Personal Protective Equipment must be worn.

Working Bees will start at 9.00 AM and will generally finish around 3.00 PM.

Greg Bourne
President
Email: gpbourne@gmail.com
Mobile: 0437 389 684

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.

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.

Sleeper Club

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.'s Sleeper Club is a wonderful way of contributing to the rebuilding of our great project.

When investing in a sleeper you'll receive a Certificate noting your purchase and this can make a wonderful and unique gift for any rail buff, your family or friends.

The investment is \$100 per new sleeper.

A great idea for Birthdays, a Special Event or even Christmas.

Get yours now!

Monthly Open Days.

**The next Open Day will be Saturday, December 5th
and will 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.

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.

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?

In December we welcome:

Paul Ballard - a returning member after an absence of many years. His historic photo collection can be found in the OTHR Website.

Ralph Geary of Oberon NSW - a returning member.

Paul Aitken of Lithgow NSW

Phillip Fowler of East Ballina NSW

Brendan Holden of Beecroft

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???

Here are a couple of gems from Will Rogers:

- Never squat with your spurs on.
- Never kick a cow pat on a hot day.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- If you're riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
- After eating an entire bull., a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.
The Moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

OTHR Precinct

A Must See!

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.

OTHR Open Days now feature our train drawn up to the station, where you can enjoy a Devonshire Tea at our pop up café in one of the American style End Platform Carriages.

The wider Oberon Heritage precinct houses a variety of rolling stock most of which is rare and has a story to tell.
Ask any of our enthusiastic volunteers for the low down on the machinery.

OTHR, Oberon District Museum and the Skoda Tatra Museum are 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 \$5

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.

OTHR for Hire

Have a special event and need a unique backdrop? Oberon Station Precinct and Train are for hire for photo shoots.

Whether it is a wedding, school formal, family reunions or any occasion, send a message to admin@othr.com with your enquiry.

Our rates are competitive.

Training

Training is an ongoing issue for OTHR. Some of the training can be conducted in house and some needs to be done externally.

A couple of areas are being examined just now and include:

- Rail Safety Workers Certificate. This can be done online.
- TMV Training. This can be done in house. There is a Medical Certificate requirement.
- Locomotive Driver Training. We have a permanent trainer/assessor
- Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificate can be done externally online.
- Working with Children Certificate. This can be done online and is free for volunteers.

Sleeper Club

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.'s Sleeper Club is a wonderful way of contributing to the rebuilding of our great project.

When investing in a sleeper you'll receive a Certificate noting your purchase and this can make a wonderful and unique gift for any rail buff, your family or friends. A great idea for Birthdays, a Special Event or even Christmas.

The investment is \$100 per new sleeper.

Get yours now!



73 Class buffers sand blasted and primed ready for fitting.

Passenger trains return to Oberon.

Any railway enthusiast would know the publication "Railway Digest" as a quality magazine devoted to all things railway. It is a production of the Australian Historical Society (NSW Division). If this magazine is not on your reading list, it should be!

The November issue has an article titled "Passenger trains return to Oberon" and was written by contributor Chris Walters. With permission of Railway Digest we reproduce the article:

"The Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway (OTHR) west of Sydney reached a major milestone in its mission to introduce a tourist service to the dormant branch line in NSW's Central Tablelands during early October when they were able to operate a passenger train into Oberon Station. Although other similar shunting and crew training moves have occurred over the last year or so around Oberon yard, this "official" train was the first to operate with the intent of serving passengers. Although the train ran empty and was only able to operate the short distance from the group's depot to the restored platform, it was the first occasion that a passenger train had arrived in Oberon since 1971. The consist – diesel-hydraulic locomotive 7321 (to be named Hazelgrove) hauling the "flat truck" frame of cattle wagon CW17192 and end platform cars CBA850 and HLF854 – was moved into the station on Friday afternoon 2 October for the regional media before an open day at the Oberon Station museum the following day. Although the movement was not accredited to carry any passengers, visitors were able to tour both carriages in the platform, inspect the cab of 7321 and, for \$5 a head, tuck into cake or scones and tea or coffee in a dining section set up in carriage HLF854. The nearby depot shed was also open, where 7307 (carrying its name "Carlwood", albeit only chalked on for the moment), a third end platform car (undergoing extensive restoration) and bogie ballast plough van W1049 were all stabled. A number of other vintage freight vehicles

and track maintenance vehicles and section cars were on display around the yard as well.

In other major news, OTHR have also secured the Heritage Operators Licence (HOL) from Transport for NSW for the section of railway line from Albion Street (to the immediate north of Oberon Yard and the group's depot) through to Hazelgrove, a distance of just over five kilometres. This HOL extends the existing licence, which covers the Oberon station and yard precinct, and will allow the group to haul tourist passenger trains from Oberon to Hazelgrove, on the proviso that OTHR can secure the accreditation variation from the Office of National Rail Safety Regulator (INRSR) to carry passengers, and complete restoration of the section of line covered by the HOL. The group has finalised the scope of works for the refurbishment of the line to Hazelgrove, and this has been submitted to the Canberra Office handling the Community Development Grant of \$1.5 million.

The hope is to have trains operating between Oberon and Hazelgrove by the end of 2021 with longer term goals to extend to Carlwood (a further ten kilometres north of Hazelgrove) and ultimately the main line junction at Tarana. This latter goal would see the full 24 kilometres of the line restored and potentially enable a connection with NSW Trainlink Bathurst/Dubbo services operating on the Main Western Line through Tarana."

One last Thing....

Don't forget our Christmas themed Open Day.

Saturday 5th December 2020

BE THERE!!

Morning Tea Menu see page 20

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 four sponsors on board, all sponsors offer in kind support for which we are extremely grateful.

Would you like to become a sponsor? Contact President Greg to find out how you can participate in OTHR's exciting sponsorship deals. 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

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

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 Highlands Motor Inn

Highlands Motor Inn, quality accommodation at an affordable price.

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

Contact: (02) 6336 – 1866

77-79 Dart 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"

Contact: 0427 104 318 or 6336-2049



Official OTHR Merchandise

Buy Now.

OTHR Cap.

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.

OTHR Badge

Reproduced from the original OTHR badge, metal and enamel.

Priced at \$15.50 non-members - \$13.50 members. Price includes GST and Postage and Handling anywhere in Australia. Overseas will include extra postage.

OTHR Whistle

New Product. A must for your memorabilia collection....sounds just like a train whistle!!

Priced at \$24.50 non-members – \$19.50 members. Price includes GST and Postage and Handling anywhere in Australia. Overseas will include extra postage.



Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787

email: admin@othr.com.au

Website: - 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. |
| Official OTHR Badge | \$15.50 non – members | \$13.50 members |
| Official OTHR Whistle | \$24.50 non - members | \$19.50 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 | _____ | \$_____ |
| Caps at non-members price \$29.00 | _____ | \$_____ |
| Badge at membership price \$13.50 | _____ | \$_____ |
| Badge at non-membership price \$15.50 | _____ | \$_____ |
| Whistle at member price \$19.50 | _____ | \$_____ |
| Whistle at non-member price \$24.50 | _____ | \$_____ |
| Total | | \$_____ |

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.



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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 | <div></div> <div>Suburb/Town</div> <div>State Postcode</div> |
| Phone | <div>Mobile</div> <div>Home phone</div> |
| Email address | |

Tick appropriate box

Membership is \$30.00 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**. 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.

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: _____



Menu

Tea, Coffee

Christmas Cake

Mince Pies

Chocolate Yule Log

\$10 per head