



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway
October 2024



Recent Progress on HS36



Friday 18th October Completion of Rail Celebration

L to R Elaine Boxer, Ken Lingabala, Paul Toole, Mike O'Kane, Greg Bourne, Michael Clark,
Andrew Gee, Nathan O'Regan Mark Handel

Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM

Patrons

Paul Toole

State Member for Bathurst

Andrew Gee

Federal Member for Calare

Committee

Gregory Bourne

President, Public Office

Michael Clark

Vice President

Elaine Boxer

Secretary, Catering Manager

Jessie Clark

Treasurer

Michael O’Kane

Events Manager

Mark Handel

Rolling Stock & Track Manager

Trent Elliott

General Committee Duties

Line Managers

Mark Langdon

Asset Manager

Alex Boromisa

Facebook Moderator

President’s Message

The annual general meeting resulted in a 7-person committee. Trent Elliott is the only new member. The treasurer was able to report after presenting the annual financial statements that we are able to pay our debts if and when they fall due.

Trent worked as a Technician in Telecommunications up until the year 2000, after which he migrated into Data Centre Facility Management/Operations. In those roles he has a day to day role in preventative maintenance and monitoring of a large facility to ensure 100% up-time is maintained. His interest in rail preservation dates back to the early 80’s, when he was both a member of “Richmond Vale Railway” and “Thirlmere Rail Transport Museum”. At Thirlmere he was active in loop line operations, when operations centred around 3137 with a four-car end platform set. He learnt about the Oberon-Tarana Branch line through the purchase of Ron Preston’s “Tender into Tank”. After a long hiatus he is looking to rekindle his interests in rail restoration. We look forward to working with Trent and know that he will make a difference at Oberon.

On Friday 18th we had an informal gathering to celebrate the completion of the work on the line from Oberon to Hazelgrove. Our local parliamentary representatives and patrons, Andrew Gee and Paul Toole, were present and each said more than a few words of encouragement and mentioned that it was very pleasing to see how the overall project is progressing and that it will be a wonderful tourist attraction in the future.

We have had two meetings with ONRSR this year and another is scheduled for the end of November. We will be discussing the variation in accreditation to run a passenger train to Hazelgrove. The committee will be working hard to get the documentation right for this November meeting.

Greg Bourne
President

Email: admin@othr.com.au

Mobile: 0437 389 684

Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM

The Spring Lunch Flyer - There are still 4 seats left.

Don't miss out. Only 4 seats left.!!!



Yes it's a late Spring in Oberon. Its time to book your Spring lunch on board our vintage dining car. Celebrate Spring with a sumptuous 4 course meal with all beer, wine, and non alcoholic drinks included. Seating is strictly limited to 20 people so get in early to avoid missing out. All tables seat 2 people and can only be booked as tables for 2.

BOOKINGS www.ticketebo.com.au/othrspringlunch

Or scan QR code with your smart phone



**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**

Vegetation Control

This has been very difficult in the last few weeks because of inclement weather. Wind has been the major problem especially when spraying. We had an early start Friday 11th October to get going before the strong winds made it unsafe to spray. Track spraying is quite easy. Just load up the unit with 100 litres and pull it along! It is only 5.6 km from Oberon to Hazelgrove. Usually have to stop 4 times to refill the spray tank.



Treasurer, Jessie Clark, made it to the Hazelgrove stop block by 10.00 am on Friday 11th.



Completed - Spraying and whipper snipping on the track near Highland Pine
Note that the fence has been moved back to improve train clearance

Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM

Vegetation Control continued



Mark Langdon using his mulching mower just north of Borg gate 6



Station group on Completion of the Rail Project Friday 18th October

Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM

HS36 Update

First of all, an amendment needs to be made. In our last letter we mentioned that malthoid was used as the flooring material in HS36 along with many other items of rolling stock in the NSW fleet. This was incorrect and should have read **"marmoleum"**.

Following on from our last update the reupholstering of all first-class seating is progressing well. We have now received all first-class backs, arm rests and other various pieces. Our upholsterer will progress on the final works of in situ base repair which will then enable him prepare the seat cushions. We have received the two extra hides to enable this. All in all, we are very satisfied with his level of works.

Of interest was the timber base of the short first-class seat in compartment D36. The bases need to be reupholstered due to fabric rot. On removal of the old layers of canvas and horse hair it was found that the front base timber had a recess for a mortise lock (since removed). According to Evan Rees of THNSW "this is the original mortise lock for the linen locker that was under the seat base when this compartment was configured as a sleeping compartment. Thus, this is the original seat framing from when the car was first built".

New wiring for lighting has been installed into the guard's compartment. The old wiring was extremely damaged with cracked and missing insulation. Guidance was received from Geoff Olsen of THNSW in regards to this. Internal trim had to be temporarily removed to enable wire placement. Room for cabling was very tight. Old wiring was removed.

New canvas from the roof line to the lower gutter line has now been installed from the rear-guard end. Firstly, tacked in place then waterproofed.

The sloping section of the roof on each side has been sanded and all crazing patched with trowelable bitumen. The top of the roof along from the guard end has also been sanded and patched with the same product. Areas of malthoid that were removed earlier for asbestos testing have been filled with trowelable bitumen. This product works very well for such areas. The first of the roof vents has been installed by placing in a bed of trowelable bitumen in the same manner as originally done.

The extremely damaged, patched and rotten guard end matchboard was removed. All old nails and screws removed. Nail holes and screw holes were dowelled and trimmed flat. Rot was cut out of the lower sill and new timber spliced in. The entire frame then treated with wood hardener and bitumen seal coat applied. Of interest were the frame timbers. These timbers showed different iterations of the car's history. Images taken for record.

The guard end gutters have had all tack and nail holes dowelled, treated with wood hardener and timber repairs done where required.

New matchboards have been applied to the guard end and north east guard wall. All matchboards have wood primer applied to their backs for protection prior to installation. Due to the complex curve of the lower north east guard wall these matchboards were steamed and bent over a buck made up to replicate the lower section of the wall. A steamer had to be built to enable this task. All boards have been skew nails as per original process. This also gives a neater finish as well as limiting exposure to nail rust and then timber degradation.

Both animal box doors have been removed for repair. These doors have some rot and timber distress. Three broken louvers from the north east door have had to be replaced. Of interest is the inside edge of the louvers have a galvanised sheet formed cleat cover on each of them. On removal of this cover for repair there is a lot of evidence of animal chew marks on the louvers. This was obviously seen as an issue and so gal sheet cleats were made and applied to prevent this at some stage.

We are currently in the process of duplication the zinc ceiling panel in compartment D36 which has incurred corrosion as mentioned in the last report. We have since found out that these panels were stamped half at a time, that is the die for stamping was just half the size of the panel. The zinc panel

**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**

would have been stamped, removed from the press, turned around then the other half stamped. In reflection of this we are looking at taking a fibreglass mould off the good half of this panel and duplicating it for the second half.



Original linen mortise lock in seat base of D36 compartment upholstered over.



Old lighting wiring above guard compartment below roof vent.



**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**

Renewed wiring.



Old wiring (already cut) in guards' compartment.



New canvas on gutter line.



New canvas on gutter line.

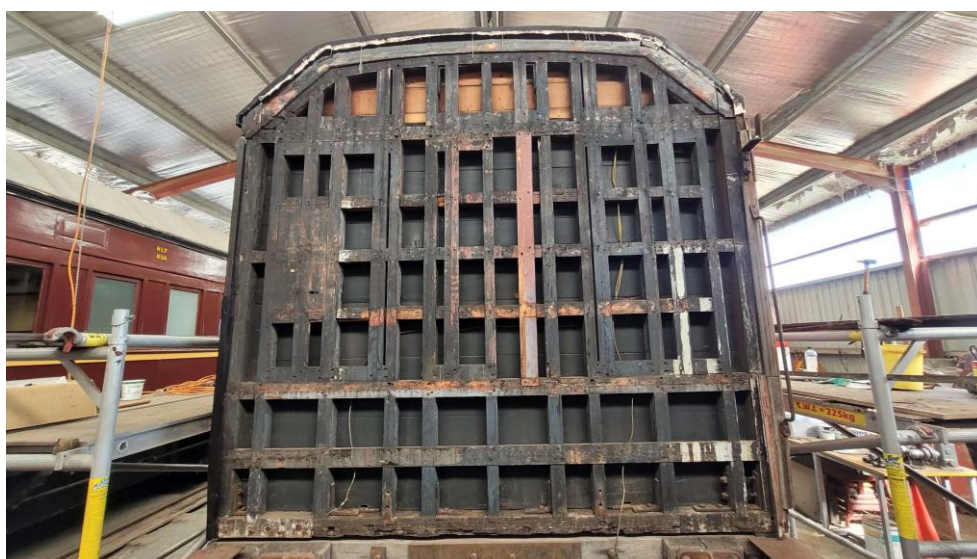
**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Guard end roof sanded and bitumen applied. Cracks filled. Repaired centre vent installed.



Roof side bitumised. First aluminium holding strip re-installed over gutter line canvas.



Guard end with matchboard removed.

**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Rot repairs completed. Screw and nail holes dowelled.

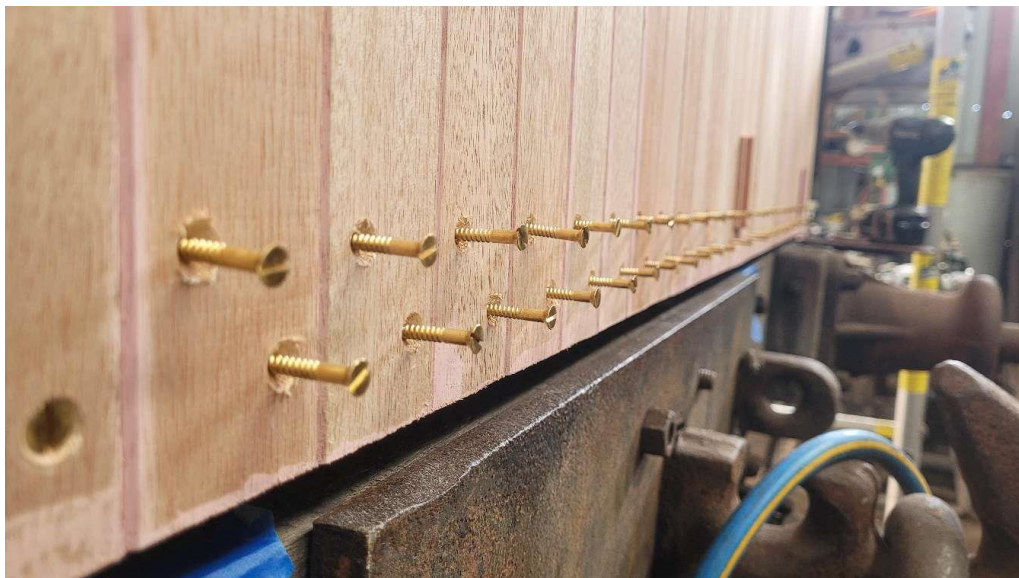


Frame repaired and painted ready for matchboard. Guard end.

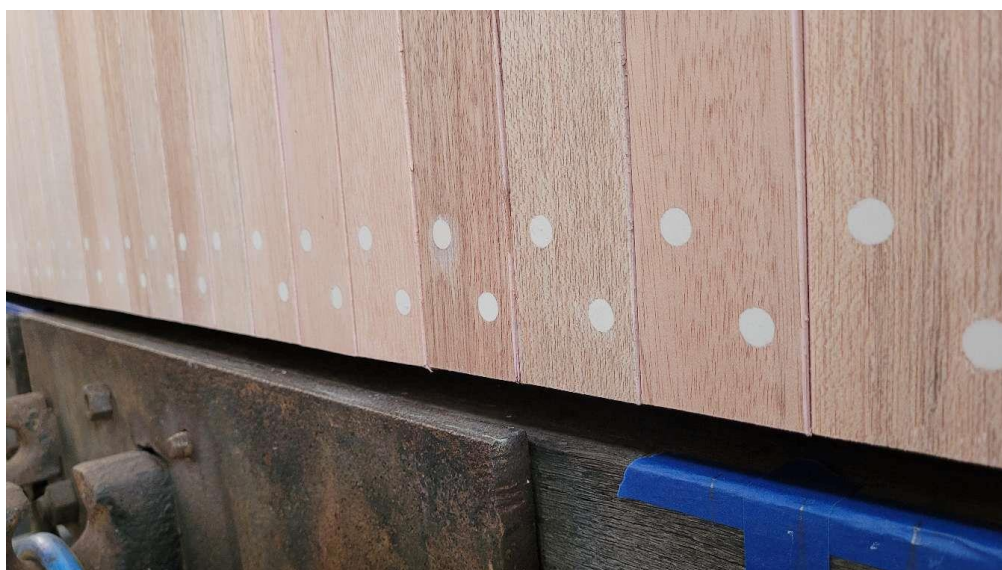


Matchboard application guard end.

**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Matchboard application guard end.

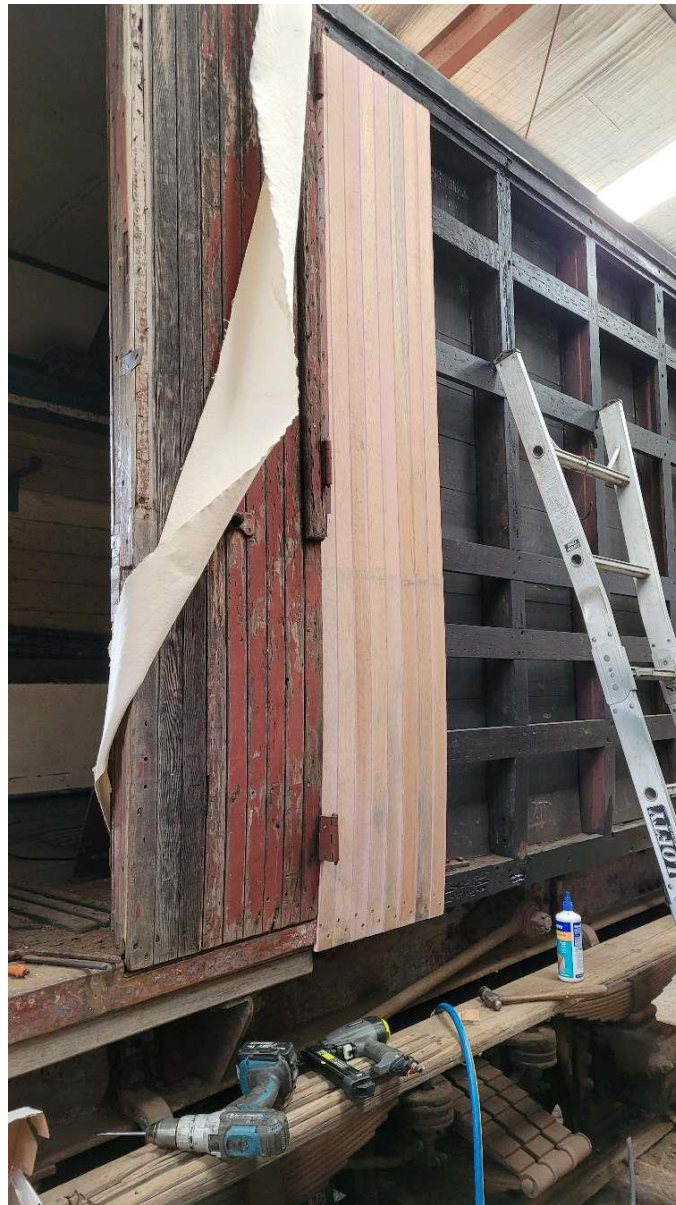


Matchboard application guard end.



Matchboard application guard end.

**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Guard wall matchboard application.



Guard wall application showing dog box door cavity.

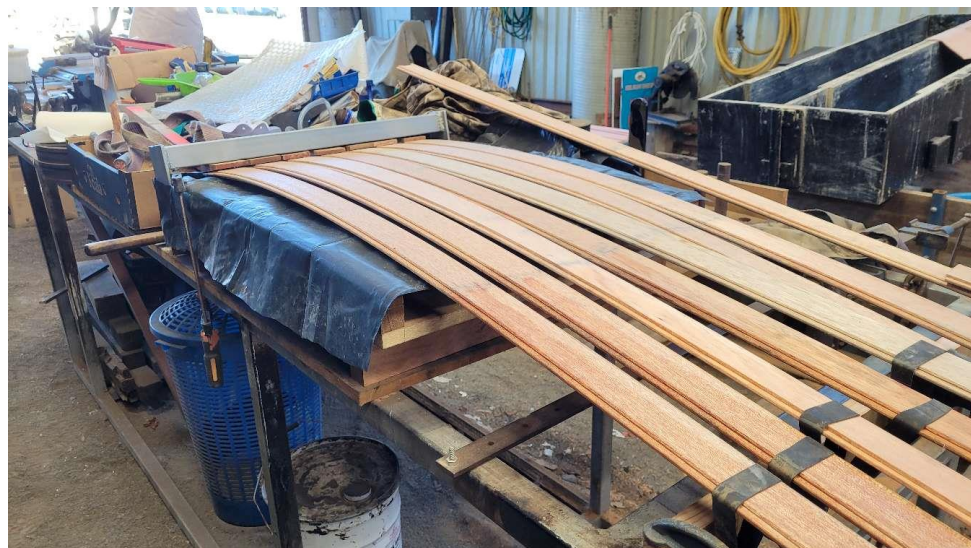
**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Steamer for bending guard wall matchboard.



Bending buck made replicating lower wall section. Used for steam bending.



Steamed timbers on buck.

**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Dogbox door work. Note dog chew marks on louvers.



D36 first class finished seat backs temporarily placed for seat base measurements.

Australian Sporting Car Club

On October 10th members of the Australian Sporting Car club made its way to OTHR for a lovely morning tea within our 1897 end platform car. Fortunately, it was a bit warmer for them than it was for our patrons during our recent Winter Lunch.

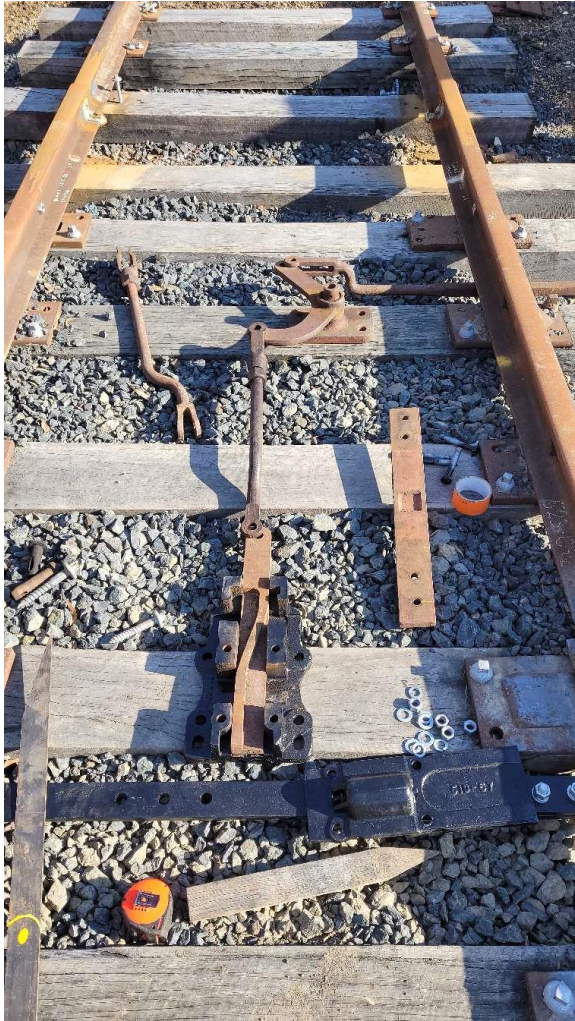
If your group for example, Car Club, Probus Club, would like to attend a high-end tea or lunch in our lovely restored end platform cars then please contact admin@othr.com.au.



A selection of ASCC Club cars in front of Oberon Station with 7307, CBA850 and HLF854 EPCs

Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM

Track report - Setting up Hazelgrove Southern Turnout - Update



Work on the southern end of the Hazelgrove loop is progressing well with the setting of the foundations for the south frame being completed. The track at the south end was lifted, packed and levelled and the sleepers reinstalled after the welding process was completed.

The remaining work of bolting down the lever frame, fitting the rodding and a small amount of ballasting will see the south end completed. This will be done at the next working bee.

Photo on the left was in the August newsletter. The necessary bits and pieces had been located and laid out ready for installation.

Bottom photo shows that the facing point lock has been installed and the rodding is connected.

Next page. On Saturday 12th October after excavating the hole for the pad the concrete was mixed and the pad was completed.

Photo next page



**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Pad for Frame B at Hazelgrove

Important – help needed – in the rolling stock shed

"Rolling stock maintenance can be a filthy job. We are currently seeking donations of clean cotton rags to help the cause. Old sheets, T shirts, tea towels, towels etc. can all help, but must be cotton. If you have some to spare and can drop them off then please contact.

admin@othr.com.au. Thankyou."

Locomotive Report

The majority of the doors for loco 7321 have now been prepared and painted and are ready for installation. Most of the door had rust holes in the bottom due to the many years of working at the Sydney docks. The rust was cut out and new sheeting was welded in to repair the affected area. This repair ensures many more years of service out of the body work. The remaining work will commence soon. The weather is improving for painting to take place and we are currently looking at a quicker method for preparing the remaining doors for painting.

The Spring Lunch - There are still 4 seats left.

Don't miss out. Details page 3

**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



Monthly Open Days have been cancelled.

Recent Open Day attendances have been low
We have many group bookings up until Christmas
and our energy is going into ensuring that they are
successful.

We have two group bookings coming up on
November Sat. 2nd and Sat. 23rd.
December will be just as busy.

Contact Secretary Elaine Boxer:
admin@othr.com.au
Website <http://othr.com.au>

Working Bees - It is your railway, be a part of its development!

Regular working bees are now occurring every Saturday with opportunities during the week if
you are available.

Personal Protective Equipment boots and orange Hi-Viz must be worn.

All volunteers are required to pass a General Induction Program. On track volunteers will
need to progress to Rail Safety Worker (RSW) status.

Contact: Greg Bourne President
Email: admin@othr.com.au Mobile: 0437 389 684

You do not have to attend every working bee, just the ones that fit in your timeframe.

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.

OTHR is seeking expressions of interest from members who would like to join the training
program to become qualified carriage attendants, guards, station attendants, drivers and
second persons as well as other important roles.

These roles will require other regular forms of volunteering to support OTHR.

Your interest should be lodged with the President or Secretary at admin@othr.com.au

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.

Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM

2024 Event Sponsors.

The OTHR Committee congratulates the following local businesses who have committed to partnering our events in 2024

They are listed on our website using this link.

<https://othr.com.au/sponsors/>

Sponsor	Address or Telephone	Type	Web URL
Oberon Council	02 6329 8100	Gold	https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/
Mawhoods IGA and Liquor	02 6336 0344	Gold	https://igaoberon.com.au/
Elders - Emms Mooney	02 6336 1109	Gold	https://emmsmooney.eldersrealestate.com.au/
Titania Motel	02 6336 1377	Gold	https://www.titaniamotel.com.au/
Oberon Earthmoving	0411 729 732	Gold	https://www.oberonearthmoving.com.au/contact-us
The Rockley Pub	02 6337 9415	Gold	https://www.therockleypub.com.au/
Oberon CRT	02 6336 1506	Silver	https://www.crt.com.au/store/oberon-industrial-farming-supplies/
Sauls Grading Services	0409 361 557	Silver	
Reliance Bank	157 Oberon Street 02 6336 0451	Silver	https://www.visitoberon.com/business/financial-professional-services/reliance-credit-union/
Royal Hotel Oberon	113 Oberon Street 02 6336 1011	Silver	https://royalhoteloberon.com.au/
Jenolan Caravan park	7 Cunynghame St	Silver	http://www.jenolanholidaypark.com.au/
Oberon Lifestyle Properties	83 Oberon Street 02 6336 0179	Bronze	https://oberonlifestyleproperties.com.au/
DJ's Cafe	169 Oberon Street 02 6336 1528	Bronze	https://www.oberonaustralia.com.au/1224/djs-cafe/
Spark Electrical	Oberon Street	Celebration	https://sparkedelectrical.com.au/
Oberon Bakehouse	159 Oberon Street 02 6336 1075	Celebration	https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/Restaurant_Review-g504263-d13223293-Reviews-The_Oberon_Bakehouse-Oberon_Blue_Mountains_New_South_Wales.html
Kringle Cottage	159 Oberon Street 0428 412 757	Celebration	https://www.facebook.com/morethanjustachristmasshop/
Oberon Pharmacy	135 Oberon Street 02 6336 1466	Celebration	https://www.oberonpharmacy.com.au/
Barkers Butchery	171 Oberon Street 02 6336 1516	Celebration	https://www.oberonaustralia.com.au/1213/barkers-butchery/

**Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM**



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

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 av donation.

Payment can be made in the following ways however EFT is preferred.

- **Direct Bank Transfer** – our bank details are **BSB: 062 632 Account number: 1004 9851.**
- **PayPal via our website.**
- **Cash** - can be paid direct on Open Days
- **Cheques** - made payable to Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. and mailed to PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787

****** Please include your name as the reference on your EFT transfer**

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 can contribute.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Next General Meeting
January 8th 2025 9th at 7.30 PM