



# History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway  
February 2025



Canowindra Goods Shed - James McInerney - 16-11-85

## A NEW RECEPTION BUILDING FOR OTHR

Since November 2022 OTHR has been negotiating with the powers that be to gain permission to erect a new reception building in our carpark area. Based on a stock NSW Railways freight shed, the 1985 photo by James McInerney shows the Canowindra Shed as an example. Our new building will eventually contain facilities for us to cater for the growing number of visitors we expect once we commence running trains.

Toilets, cafe, ticketing, merchandising and office areas will all be included in the building. It will enable us to process up to 100 people at any one time, as well as providing a venue for special events off the train. Endless hurdles and delays have now put the project in jeopardy. Funding for this project is coming from a Government Bushfire Recovery Grant which is due to expire at the end of March this year. The Development Application is now with Oberon Council, and is going through the Heritage part of the approval. Once the DA is approved we hope to be granted a construction certificate which will enable us to get the slab down before the end of March. Everything is riding on this approval. If it doesn't arrive in time we will forfeit the grant money. The building will be put on hold until we can raise the necessary funds to start again.

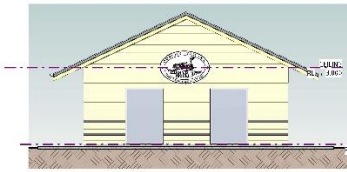
This project has been a rude awakening into the duplicity of government structures. We have had to deal with UGL regional Linx, Transport for NSW, NSW Department of Heritage and Environment, and Oberon Council. 5 separate Heritage officers. 2 years off chasing departments, Sending and resending documentation to the same department because someone dealing with our case left leaving no trace of what had gone before. So here we are in February, already, with a ticking clock moving us relentlessly to the end of March. Will we make it?

Michael O'Kane. Project Manager

Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details

# A NEW RECEPTION BUILDING FOR OTHR

ELEVATIONS - PROPOSED



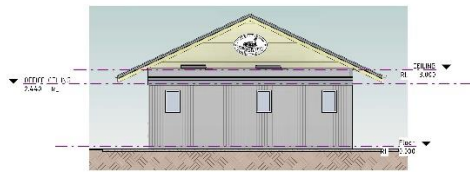
1 - North Elevation

1 : 100



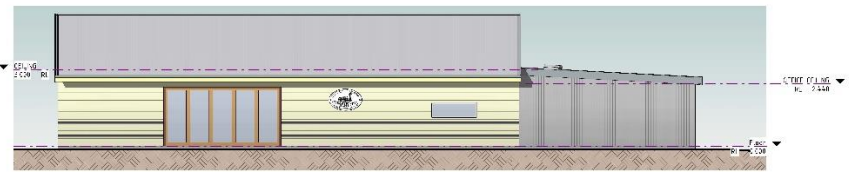
2 - East Elevation

1 : 100



4 - South Elevation

1 : 100



3 - West Elevation

1 : 100

## Plan of the proposed reception building



## The proposed site of the new reception building

Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details

## 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 committee is working hard on a variety of projects. January went in flash and now that we are almost in the middle of February a sense of urgency is developing.

Current projects are:

- Restoration off HS36
- Finishing the painting and servicing to “fit for service” of 7321 and 7307
- Track work at Hazelgrove completion of frame A and completion of ballasting in some sections.
- Black Bullock Road Level Crossing
- Finalizing all level crossing interface agreements
- Vegetation control
- Meetings with ONRSR – next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Aquitttal of three grants
  1. Black Summer Bushfire Recovery – Paths and new amenities building
  2. Stronger Country Communities Fund – Hazelgrove track improvements and amenities
  3. Veolia Mulwaree Grant – Lawn mower

We have just completed another grant application 2025-2027 Caring for State Heritage Grant. If successful we will have some funds available for work on the station building and men’s toilet

1. Station building repairs to the badly weathered western facing windows and doors
2. Station Building replacing the guttering, downpipes and underground pipes
3. Mens’ toilet badly weathered door frames and doors.

**Greg Bourne**

**President**

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

**Mobile:** 0437 389 684

**Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details**

**Oberon Council is Resurfacing Lowes Mount Road. The Council Contractor Sauls Grading did a great job of tidying up the mound between the road and rail line**



**Book a visit to the OTHR Precinct  
Get a group together or suggest it to a group that you are a member of.**

**Group Bookings are Always Welcome**

**Morning or Afternoon Tea  
Special Lunches  
All Linked to a Tour of the Precinct**

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



**Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details**

# Working Bees - It is your railway, be a part of its development by Volunteering

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.

We have spare high vis vest that can be used by volunteers.

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](mailto: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.
- ✓

## The 2024 Working Bee and Working from Home Statistics are: -

Hours -Total Working Bees, Open Days, Time Spent working at Home and Other	7566
Total \$ Volunteer Contribution	\$340,499

You might be interested in how we calculated the \$340,499. The NSW Centre of Volunteering values a volunteer hour at around \$45. There are other ways of getting a figure but we are happy to use the peak bodies figure.

## As we move forward to the middle of the year

We will need to get more volunteers involved in 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](mailto: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.

Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details



Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway

# THE AUTUMN LUNCH

## Saturday 5th April

Join us on board our vintage dining car for a sumptuous lunch

Includes appetisers

3 course meal

All drinks

\$120 pp

Oberon Railway Station North Street Oberon

Tables hold 2 people ONLY

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

Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details

## Vegetation Control

Vegetation control continues to be difficult. The un-seasonable summer weather has made it difficult in some parts of the corridor to maintain the spraying regime that we like to follow.



A photo from the December Newsletter  
Spraying and whipper snipping on the track near Highland Pine  
Below

A photo from almost the same spot showing regrowth since December.



Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details

## More on Hazelgrove

Member John Giblin putting his new tractor and flail mower to good use on the overgrown vegetation at Hazelgrove. He has a property adjacent to the rail corridor and is keen to help tidy up the site.



Just north of Oberon we can see the results of regular spraying of the track. During January, at this location, we were able to clear both sides of the track as well.

Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details



## Hazelgrove

When inserting a replacement timber, the easy painless way is always the best way.  
A controlled push with tractor fork gets it into position



The relocation of this timber at a Saturday working bee in January was part of the changes necessary to complete the rodding to A frame at the northern end of Hazelgrove.

Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details



Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway

# THE WINTER LUNCH

## Saturday 5th July

*Join us on board our vintage dining car for a sumptuous lunch*

**Includes appetisers**

**3 course meal**

**All drinks**

**\$120 pp**

**Oberon Railway Station North Street Oberon**

**Tables hold 2 people ONLY**

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

*Photo Courtesy Martyn Salmon*

**Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details**

## 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/>

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

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[website: othr.com.au](http://othr.com.au)  
 Phone President: 0437 389 684  
 ABN: 98 107 506 208

### Renewal or Application for Membership

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

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

Tick appropriate box

Membership is \$40.00 per person

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

Donation

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

Total amount payable

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

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

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

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