



# History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway  
June 2025

## The TIC Mark 60



Since the last Newsletter the volunteers have been working hard on two of our Track Maintenance Vehicles that we will be able to use on the Oberon to Hazelgrove track during maintenance activities

Photo Greg Bourne

### Visiting Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway

We have discontinued the first Saturday of the month Open Days since the beginning of the year.

Visitors are always welcome and there are a few ways to join in

- Organise a group to come in – we can cope with groups on a weekday or a weekend. Larger groups often want to have lunch or morning/afternoon tea
- Join one of the Lunches or High Teas that we are running on a regular basis – advertised in the newsletter, Facebook page and notice boards around town. Mike O’Kane was on 2BS Bathurst this week
- Small groups of two or three rang and booked for a tour of the Oberon Yard, Rolling Stock Shed and Heritage Station Building. A phone call resulted to a time and day. Much better if the phone call is a day or two ahead of the preferred time.

Contact details: Greg Bourne 0437 389 684

admin@othr.com.au

Membership Renewal now due  
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

In my last presidents report I mentioned that we had one non-conformance and a few comments on other areas that needed more work from the ONRSR Audit. In my reply I suggested that we break our response into three parts and that was accepted. The first part is due in on Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>. It is just about ready to submit.

Working bees continue each Saturday and good work has been done. We usually have two or three volunteers on random week days as well. The weather has been more than challenging over the last three weeks especially in the mornings. The ABC ran a news article this morning (19<sup>th</sup> June) "Winter solstice brings widespread frost as Australia's coldest towns revealed. During winter, Oberon temperature does not even make it into the double digits, peaking at between 8.1 and 8.8C on average, according to BOM figures. Add a bit of wind chill into the equation, and it is likely to feel even colder." It is good to see the dedication of our regular volunteers.

The colder weather has slowed the growth of weeds along the track and there has been less time spent on vegetation control. We did have good bonfire out at Hazelgrove. Highland Pine organised an excavator to work in the corridor and clean up their fence line which is also our fence line! Thank you, Highland Pine.

We have managed to get a few tasks completed in the rolling stock shed and this newsletter highlights the excellent progress made on two of our Track Maintenance Vehicles, the Wickham, and the TIC Mark 60. They have not been used very much in recent time because of starting problems which turned out to be problems with the electrical wiring in both the high-tension side of the ignition system and some poor wiring in the normal 12-volt system running the lights, horn, and battery charging. There is still work to be done but they are much improved.

**Greg Bourne**

President

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

Mobile: 0437 389 684

Membership renewal is due after the June 30. Please renew as soon as possible. There is a membership renewal form at the end of the newsletter. If you prefer to do it on line, try CTRL + Click

<https://othr.com.au/membership/>  
to take you to othr.com.au membership page

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Ian Hopkins recently joined the volunteer group. He is an Electrical Fitter by trade and can be seen here repairing the wiring on the TIC TMV. New air horns fitted and all lights are working.



The fuel tank on the TIC had been painted red a long time ago – the paint was flaking off. Mark Handel removed the tank and took it home to tidy it up. The result is excellent

Check our website for information for all our Track Maintenance Vehicles  
<https://othr.com.au/track-maintenance-vehicles-2/>



May - a delivery of components for the new platform at Hazelgrove

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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 :** <https://ticketebo.com.au/oberon-tarana-heritage-railway/the-winter-lunch-2025>



*Photo Courtesy Martyn Salmon*

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## Vegetation Control



Excavator organised by Highland Pine clearing vegetation in the rail corridor.



Burning off at Hazelgrove. Vice -president Michael Clark and President Greg Bourne on site making sure that the fire did not get away. We did have another slightly better bonfire near Black Bullock Road but did not manage to take a photo.

Photo John Giblin

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## Track Maintenance



Ian Hopkins (left) and Mark Handel (right) working on the track just north of tip road. The steel sleeper is not in our standards for the line and had to be removed. The timber sleeper which was removed at the same time is obviously going to firewood heap.



### **OTHR and Charles Sturt University**

Following the report in the last newsletter the engineering students from Charles Sturt University had the task of looking at the Snakes Gully Bridge and finding a way to repair, restore it or build a structure that will allow the continuation of the train line to pass over the gully that the river runs through.

Their final plan based on economic aspects, was to replace the bridge with a system of pipes and build an embankment up to line level.

The group made a model of the contours of the site and the location of the pipe work. They also prepared engineering drawings. It is not practical to include them in the newsletter

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### **HS36 Update April to May 2025.**

Our upholsterer delivered the first of the First-Class leather seat squabs for test fitting. The squab fitted well so now the rest are being made up. Our upholsterer is retiring and HS36 is to be his last job. OTHR would like to take this moment to thank him for the wonderful work he has accomplished to a fully heritage standard.

Mike O'Kane, our painter, spent a lot of time getting paint matched in enamel for our approved outer colour scheme of Tuscan Red and Russet. This was a very trying exercise with many avenues explored however Mike finally came up with the colour codes needed.

Mike applied a first coat of Tuscan Red to the guard's end and east side to seal the primer. It is good to see colour going back onto this old girl.

Work continues applying matchboard. We are working our way up the east side of the car. Half of D36 compartment has been matchboard fitted but only after we repaired the drop light cavities ensuring no binding while installing newly moulded drop light window rubber bumpers. Trims have been cut and test fitted. We are awaiting the curving of the new duckett metal skins. We need these to fit the duckett so that we can then correctly fit the timber trims.

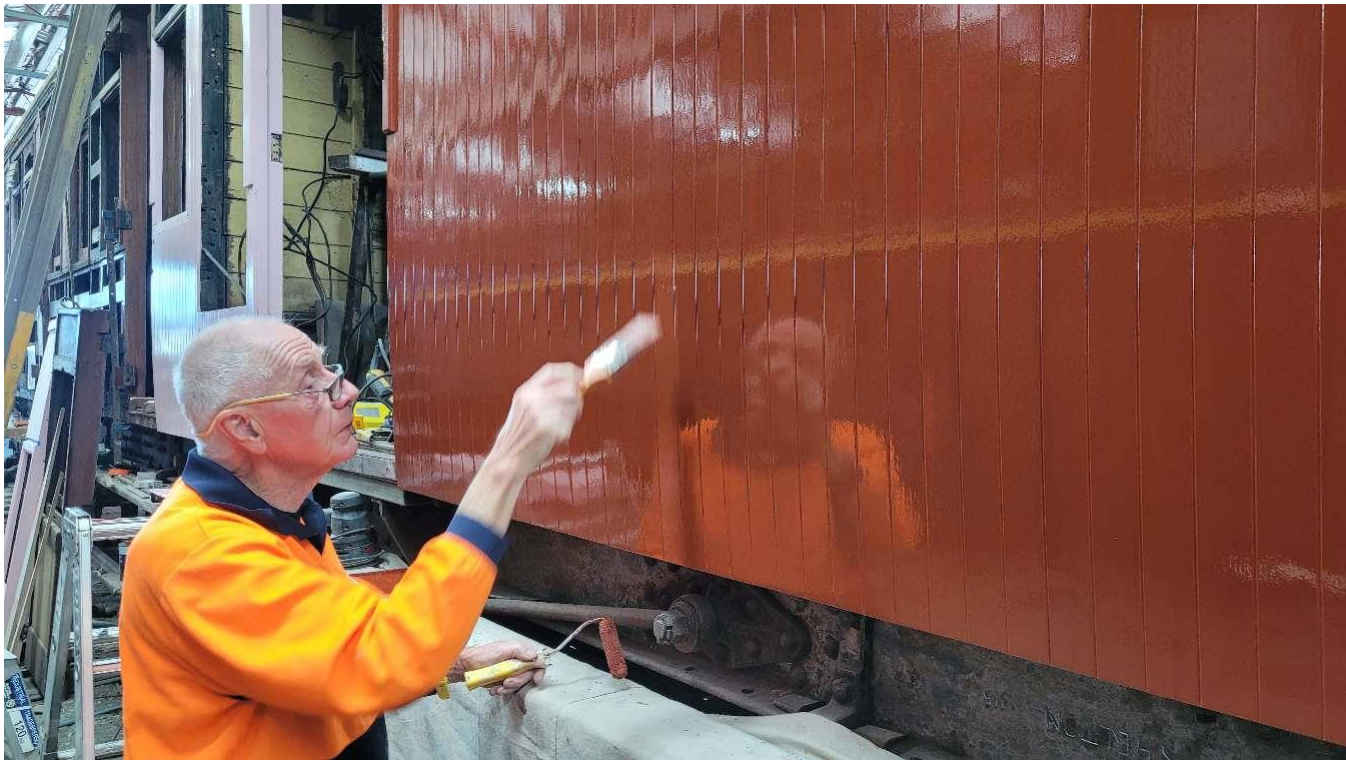
The north east brass lower corner bracket was temporarily installed to allow the guard corner trims to be fitted as well as the final fitment of the rear-guard wall under gutter trims. These came together nicely.

At the time of writing this, winter has well and truly set in with 4 days in a row kicking off at minus 5 degrees. Work does slow down because of this but still progresses, nonetheless.

Michael Clark







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## Two more photos from the Dennis O'Brien Collection



**2<sup>nd</sup> March 1963 – the run around loop was obviously not in use in 1963**



**2<sup>nd</sup> March 1963 – consist has been reorganised for trip back to Tarana**

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## 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](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)  
Website <http://othr.com.au>



## 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.

### 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.

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PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787  
email: [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au)  
website: [othr.com.au](http://othr.com.au)  
Phone President: 0437 389 684  
ABN: 98 107 506 208

### Renewal or Application for Membership

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

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

Tick appropriate box

Membership is \$40.00 per person

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount payable

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

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

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