



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway
August 2025



Finishing the 217 Kilometre Post just south of the stop block at Hazelgrove



Looking North at the Summit at the 218 Kilometre Position

OTHR Annual General Meeting 8th October Oberon Community Centre Library
Fleming Street Oberon at 7.30 pm.
Volunteer Today. Call Greg Bourne on 0437 389 684 for details



Oberon's Wild weather July 10th



**On Saturday August 2nd there was a moment of sunshine between drizzly showers
The volunteers decided at the toolbox meeting to work in the rolling stock shed.
It was just too cold to work outside
Who says the sun never comes out on Oberon?**

The more than challenging weather has continued through June and August and we have soldiered on and achieved.

- The successful winter lunch on 5th July
- Track work on the cess at 218.500 km and the start of sleeper replacement on the main line at Hazelgrove
- Michael Clark has continued with the restoration of HS36.
- The 13 kilometre and half kilometre post are in place, numbered correctly and freshly painted
- Continued servicing, restoration and improving the track maintenance vehicles, during August LGT348 (light gangers' trolley)

Greg Bourne
President

Email: admin@othr.com.au

Mobile: 0437 389 684

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COMMS Development Project Oberon to Hazelgrove

The committee has been investigating the COMMS options available when we are able to run a passenger train to Hazelgrove. In an emergency we will have to have a much more reliable system than is provided by the local mobile phone coverage. The company from Mudgee came and set up a mobile station/repeater on the loading platform. Using the handheld radios various committee members went "down the line to test reception" of the system along the length of the track.



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



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The Georges River Model Railway club have made a new layout showcasing the line from Oberon to Hazelgrove. It will be on show next weekend at the Goulburn Model Expo. OTHR will have a stand which is alongside the new layout. President, Greg Bourne, will be in Goulburn for the two days of the exhibition.



The Georges River Model Railway Club
is presenting the Goulburn Model Expo
on the weekend of 30th to 31st August, 2025
Veolia Arena, Braidwood Rd Goulburn.

Saturday 9 to 5

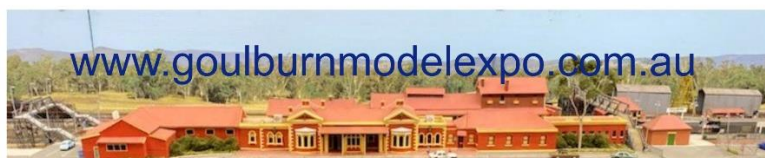
Sunday 9 to 4

Adults \$15 and Concession \$10

Children free under 12

Over 60 Layouts and Traders

See details on our website for the
exhibition and also East Coast Heritage Rail
tours to Goulburn and transport to the Expo



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Track work July and August 2025



**Near the 218.500 KM point work on the cess. A blocked pipe was removed.
The job is not quite finished and you can see the water-logged soil in the foreground.
Water that collects in the cess usually speeds up rotting of the sleepers**



Sleepers stacked on the turnaround loop at Hazelgove. The 1 in 4 sleeper replacement in earlier work did not address all of the old and worn out sleepers.

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Some of the older sleepers at Hazelgrove, dog spikes out and ready for removal

Committee Activities

The committee has a monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.30 to 12 pm in the Oberon Community Centre Library. These meetings involve reports from committee members who have particular responsibilities for the various projects that are in place – for examples, a treasurers report, track managers report, and Hazelgrove Station development report.

During the year we have had full day meetings with ONRSR for auditing purposes. We scheduled a meeting 10 am to 4 pm for last Wednesday to prepare the documentation for a variation of accreditation to run track maintenance vehicles to Hazelgrove. It was a good day and we made great progress. New ideas surfaced and how to deal with the risks associated in taking rolling stock out of the yard became evident. The meeting closed promptly at 4.00 pm but we are having another session next Wednesday to get everything ready for completion of the variation application.

We have been invited to participate in microsoft teams meeting with THNSW (Transport Heritage New South Wales) ATHRA (Association of Tourist and Heritage Railways) and more recently RISSB (Rail Industry Safety & Standards Board). These meetings are very important because the main agenda items are concerned with safe operating principles in heritage rail. THNSW have two sector meetings each which bring representatives from most of the heritage rail groups in NSW. They are held on Saturdays at convenient locations in Sydney.

Try this link to the ATHRA home page: <https://www.athra.asn.au/>

Try this link to the THNSW home page: <https://www.thnsw.com.au/>

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HS36 for August Newsletter.

Work continues on HS36 albeit a bit slower due to the lovely winter temperatures here in Oberon. It is a little difficult to work with hand tools when the temperature doesn't exceed four degrees all day in the rolling stock shed. Still, we press on.

Most recent works involved repairs to the outer eastern framework between compartments C36 and D36.

Quite a bit of rot and degraded timber had to be cut out and new timbers spliced in. Many old nail and screw holes glued and dowelled to present the frame ready for its new covering of two inch matchboard.

The first testing of lighting wiring was performed in compartment D36. Everything working as planned.

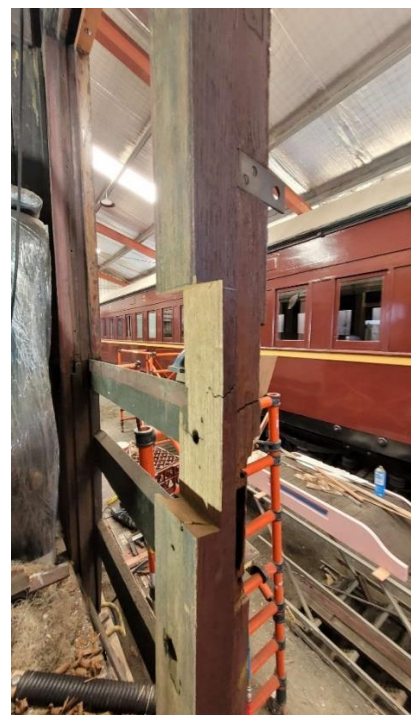
Michael Clark



Rot cut out down to good timber



New timber spliced in



Frame crack repair taking place



New tallowood for frame repair

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Frame repaired (awaiting fastening)



Lots of nail holes dowelled



New drop light timber support bars made with new rubber bumpers in place.

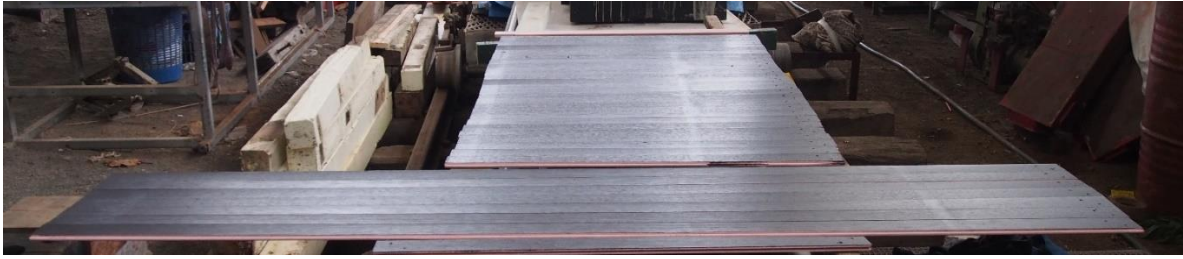


C36 to D36 frame complete and painted ready for cladding.

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Examples of some very intricate cladding work and the level of preparation required before matchboard is put on



Matchboard cut to length primed on one side and hydrosealed on the other



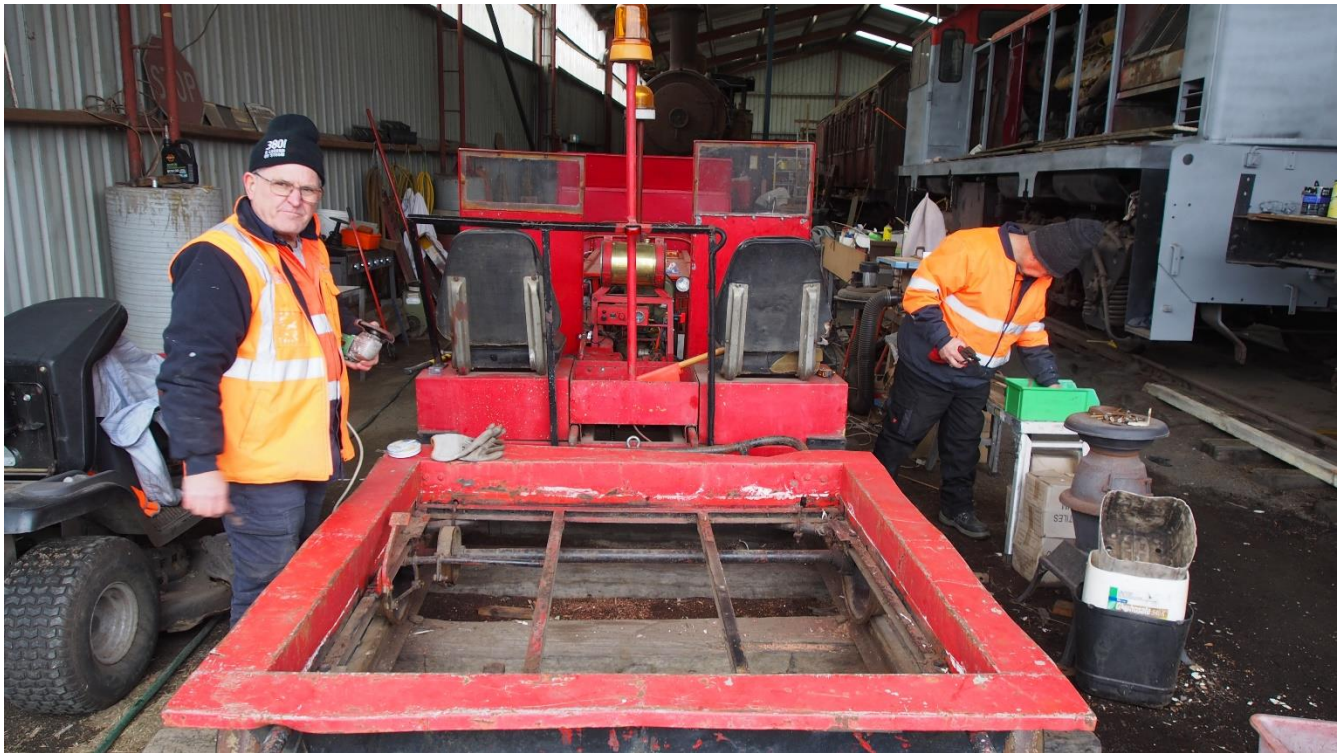
First light, probably since 1964, and no magic blue smoke.



**End of Day Track Work 23rd August
At 218.600 12 sleepers removed 3 lengths of rail removed**

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Rolling Stock July and August



Light Ganger's Trolley LGT 348 during disassembly



Frame of the Light Ganger's Trolley LGT 348 has been painted, grease nipples on the axles have been serviced

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Visit by Paul Toole

Paul Toole visited to discuss the Heritage Grant “Caring for State Heritage” 25-27SHR135 of \$14,490 (ex GST) for repairs to the windows and parcel room doors of the Heritage Station Building. The weather on the north western sides of the building has been the major cause of the obvious deterioration over time. The repairs are well underway in Dave Turek’s Joinery Workshop in O’Connell.

Fortunately, it stopped snowing just as Paul got out his car in the car park. He was able to inspect the scope of works on the building. I should have arrived about an hour and a half earlier and lit the fire in the station building. It was very unpleasant outside.

We also discussed the regulatory changes to the Health Standard for Rail Safety Workers particularly those who need a category one certificate for the roles they have as volunteers in Heritage Railways. The expense of the new medical certificates may influence the volunteers who work in the smaller heritage group and must personally fund the doctor’s certification appointments. It may even reduce the numbers who can volunteer! Paul did alert The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport. She suggested we take our concerns to the National Transport Commission. The matter is being followed up by several Heritage Rail Groups from each State.



Paul and Greg weathering the elements on the station.



**Innovative use of landscaping sleepers in Long Arm Farm Store
Just opened on corner of Fleming and Oberon Streets**

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date:	Wednesday October 8 th 2025
Time:	7.30 p.m.
Place:	Oberon Community Centre Library, Fleming St.

At the meeting, members will have the opportunity to:

- find out about OTHR's operations and finances
- ask questions about the operations and finances
- speak about any items on the agenda
- vote on any resolutions proposed.

At the meeting, members will be asked to vote to:

- to confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting
- to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the association during the proceeding financial year.
- to receive and consider the annual financial statement.

Sections from the OTHR constitution relevant to AGM

14 Composition and membership of committee

(1) The committee is to consist of:

- (a) the office-bearers of the association, and
- (b) at least 3 ordinary committee members,

each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under clause 15.

Note. Section 28 of the Act contains further requirements concerning eligibility for membership and composition of the committee.

(2) The total number of committee members is to be 7.

(3) The office-bearers of the association are as follows:

- (a) the president, (b) the vice-president, (c) the treasurer, (d) the secretary.

(4) A committee member may hold up to 2 offices (other than both the offices of president and vice-president).

(5) There is no maximum number of consecutive terms for which a committee member may hold office.

(6) Each member of the committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until immediately before the election of committee members at the annual general meeting next following the date of the member's election, and is eligible for re-election.

Section 15 of the Constitution Election of committee members

(1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary committee members:

- (a) must be made in writing, signed by 2 members of the association, and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination), and
- (b) must be delivered to the secretary of the association at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

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Nomination Form
Office Bearers – OTHR Inc.
ABN: 98 107 506 208

We, the undersigned, hereby nominate: _____

for the position of _____

Nominating Member 1:

Full name: - _____ Signed: - _____

Nominating Member 2:

Full name: _____ Signed: - _____

Consent statement of nominated person

I, - _____

(full name of nominated member) consent to be nominated for the position indicated above.

Signature of nominated member: _____ Date: - _____

Nominations for the various positions need to be emailed to

Secretary Elaine Boxer

by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 1st October 2025.

Email: admin@othr.com.au

Mobile: 0437389684

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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
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 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 through the second part 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

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
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:** _____

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