



# History on the Move

## Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway December 2025

### Patrons

**Paul Toole**

State Member for  
Bathurst

**Andrew Gee**

Federal Member for  
Calare

### Committee

**Casual Vacancy**

President

**Elaine Boxer**

Secretary, Catering Manager  
Public Officer

**Michael O'Kane**

Events Manager

**Casual Vacancy**

Rolling Stock/Track  
Manager

**Michael Clark**

Vice President

**Jessie Clark**

Treasurer

**Trent Elliott**

General Committee  
Duties

**Casual Vacancy**

Rolling Stock/Track  
Manager

### Line Managers

**Mark Langdon**

Asset Manager

**Alex Boromisa**

Facebook Moderator

## Message from the Committee

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Members and Supporters, It is with some regret that we announce the resignation of Gregory Bourne as President of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway, effective 19th December 2025. Greg has been an integral part of our organisation for over eleven years, serving as a volunteer and leader. We are grateful for his contributions and commitment to the organisation. During his tenure as President, Greg has provided leadership, guidance, and support to our organisation and volunteers. We appreciate Greg's decision to step down and prioritize his own needs. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours and thank him for his service.

The committee will make interim arrangements to ensure the organisation's continued success and will announce the appointment of a new President in due course. If you would like to express your appreciation to Greg for his service, please feel free to reach out to us, and we will pass on your message. Thank you again to Greg for his commitment and service to OTHR.

Sincerely,  
Management Committee.

## ***Christmas Volunteer Lunch***

Friday 12th of December saw the holding of our Christmas volunteer lunch at the Oberon station in set number 21. As is the norm, our catering crew performed a splendid job in keeping the fine foods coming for our volunteers.

The Committee wishes to thank the catering crew for all their hard work throughout the year. OTHR events included our high end Winter, Spring and Autumn lunches along with our Mother's Day high tea as well as numerous other visiting club events.

All these events provide significant income for OTHR to help us achieve our end goals.



Set 21 ready for Christmas Lunch



Missed our famous on board lunches? You might like to try this one yourselves.

### **Moroccan Lamb Backstrap with Eggplant and Middle Eastern Chickpea Salad**

**Serves 4**

#### **Moroccan Lamb Backstrap**

##### **Ingredients**

2x250gr lamb backstraps or lamb loins  
1x tbsp olive oil (rubbing)  
1 ½ tbsp olive oil (cooking)

##### **Moroccan spice mix**

1 ½ tsp cooking salt  
¾ tsp cumin powder  
¾ tsp ground ginger  
¾ tsp black pepper ½ tsp allspice powder  
½ tsp cinnamon powder  
½ tsp coriander powder  
1/8 tsp clove powder  
*Mix together in a bowl*

##### **Yoghurt Sauce for serving**

¾ cup Greek style yoghurt (full fat)  
1 tbsp lemon juice  
1 tbsp olive oil + extra from drizzling  
¼ tsp salt and pepper  
Pinch of Sumac or paprika  
*Mix together and refrigerate till needed*

##### **Middle Eastern Chickpea Salad.**

400g can of chickpeas drained but still wet  
2x tbsp olive oil,  
1 tsp ground cumin.  
1 ½ tsp All spice  
1 tsp ground cardamom  
¼ tsp salt  
2 cucumbers diced  
2 tomatoes diced  
1 small red onion diced  
¼ cup coriander leaves roughly chopped  
¼ cup parsley roughly chopped

##### **Dressing**

1 ½ tbsp. sherry vinegar  
Zest of ½ lemon  
2 tbsp lemon juice  
¼ cup olive oil  
1 tsp caster sugar  
1 clove of garlic smashed  
Salt and pepper

*Combine all ingredients in a jar and shake. Set aside to allow the flavours to combine*

##### **Instructions**

Pat the backstraps dry the rub over with 1 tbsp olive oil. Sprinkle all of the spice mix on the lamb backstraps and set aside for 1 hour. Heat 1 ½ tbsp. olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Cook for 4 minutes on each side or until the core temp is 59c. Transfer onto a rack and rest for 3 minutes. Cut into thick slices and serve on top of toasted eggplant. Serve with Chickpea salad and some fresh greens  
Place Chickpeas in a large bowl, add the spices and toss to coat. The wetness of the chickpeas will allow the spices to stick.  
Heat 2 tbsp of olive oil in a large pan over high heat and fry the chickpeas for a couple of minutes. Shake the pan to encourage the chickpeas to roll. Transfer to a bowl and add the salad ingredients. Drizzle with the dressing and serve warm.

##### **Fried Eggplant**

Cut the eggplant into 2 cm rounds, coat each side with olive or spray oil, and sprinkle on salt and pepper. Heat a dry non-stick pan then add the eggplant pieces, cook until nice and brown on both sides.

## **Trackwork**

The generous donations of lights and fittings from groups including Junee Roundhouse Museum and Victorian Goldfields Railway have enabled the first complete set of light assemblies to be assembled for Albion Street crossing. Mark Handel, our Rolling stock and Track Manager did a splendid job in assembling these units.

It is with regret however that we must also announce the resignation from the Committee of Mark Handel. Mark held the position of Ordinary Committee member with the role of Rolling Stock and Track Manager. This Committee has deemed this position as a Casual Vacancy at this time.

Mark has been a member of OTHR since 2019 and since that time has been instrumental in performing many tasks where his mechanical knowledge and aptitude had come to the fore. There was very little that Mark could not lend his skills to. Mark was also the driving force behind obtaining 3085 for OTHR under a Custodial Management arrangement with THNSW.

## **HS36 Update**

Our local upholsterer has now completed all the first class seat squabs. His professionalism in using heritage based techniques is to be applauded.

Mike O’Kane spent many hours in preparing C36 compartment ceiling for undercoating. The guard end pressed zinc ceiling panel in C36 was rotted out and removed. It has been replaced by the removed panel from compartment D36 which was repaired by marrying its stable zinc component and splicing in a moulded fiberglass section into the zinc. The ceiling then received its first undercoat.

Delivery was taken of our steel ducket sheets after they were curved to shape. The first of the sheets was screwed onto the newly made ducket walls. The car pillars either side of the ducket had their old screw holes dowelled and filled in preparation to receive the new ducket. The new ducket married in well with the car and was screwed in place.

The outside east wall section between compartments C36 and D36 has now been fully placed into matchboard and all trims applied. All matchboard has had 3 coats of grain sealer with sanding between coats prior to being undercoated

Further metal knee braces have been pressed into shape and await fitment to current areas under repair

Tested light wiring in compartment C36.

Commenced work on compartment B36 to C36 east frame section. Removed all existing drop light rails and removed all hardened drop light window rubber bumpers.



Ist Class seat squabs trial fitted



C36 compartment ceiling in primer.



Testing C36 compartment lights.



C36/D36 matchboard sealed, trims in place.

**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 will restart from January 17<sup>th</sup> and occur every Saturday with opportunities during the week if volunteers 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: Elaine Boxer Secretary  
Email: [admin@othr.com.au](mailto:admin@othr.com.au) Mobile: 0409 777 580

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 into a New 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 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.



Finally, as we move toward the end of 2025 OTHR Management would like to wish all our volunteers, members and supporters the very best For Christmas and The New Year.





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 Secretary: 0409 777 580  
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:** \_\_\_\_\_