



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway April 2020

Oberon's Volunteer/Volunteer Group of the Year 2020 Australia Day Awards 26th January 2020



An historic day for Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.
This historic photo shows one of our 73 Class Locomotives being loaded onto a specialised trailer at Tarana for the road trip to Oberon.

OTHR Locomotives were hauled from Sydney to Tarana arranged by Steve Preston

Patrons

Paul Toole

State Member for Bathurst, Deputy Leader of NSW National Party, Minister for Transport and Roads.

Andrew Gee

Federal Member for Calare, Minister assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education.

Committee

Gregory Bourne

President, Public Officer

Ken Lingabala

Acting Vice President
Engineering Manager
Infrastructure Manager

Tabetha Lord

Secretary

John Brotchie

Treasurer:

Graham Williams

Track Manager:

David McMurray

Fundraiser, Newsletter Editor/Publicity

Managers

Elaine Boxer

Catering Manager

Timo Kanko

Operations and Rolling Stock Manager

Mike O’Kane

Events Manager

Mark Langdon

Asset Manager

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Presidents Message

- **HOL.** I have been chasing this up over the last week. I had a phone call from Carina Francis from JHR/CRN late last week asking for a list of who owns what buildings on the site.
- **Locomotive Maintenance.** On Saturday 21st. we had on site Aaron Faulds, Mark Handel, Phil Davis who formed a small team of people to start, warm up and complete some testing and maintenance on 7321. Phil is based in Bathurst and currently a driver for SSR (Southern ShortHaul Railroad). He spent about an hour with Aaron and Mark upgrading their knowledge and skills on the controls and idiosyncrasies of the 73 Class Locos.
- **Tony Buckland**, who is seriously ill, has donated his four wheel drive Ute to OTHR. David McMurray met with Tony last Friday. I spoke to his wife Sally on Monday morning and he is struggling to cope with the situation as the cancer continues to spread.
- **Spray Unit.** We have taken delivery of the spray unit from Oberon CRT. In the first instance we will mount the spray unit on a sleeper trolley and when Tony's Ute is available it may be put on it.
- **Driver Training.** I have been reading through the Driver Training documents that were prepared by ATHRA. These may be a useful resource as we move forward with driver training. Your interest in driver training should be lodged with the President or Secretary at admin@othr.com.au

Greg Bourne
President
Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.
Email: gpbourne@gmail.com
admin@othr.com.au
Mobile: 0437 389 684



Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. Mission Statement

To be an accredited rail operator to run a tourist train from Oberon station to Tarana station on the main western line. This would allow for tourists to ride a heritage train along the Oberon Tarana branch line which was also known as the pioneer line.

Further, the running of this train would generate tourist related jobs in the Oberon area and give residents in the Oberon/Bathurst area an opportunity by volunteering at OTHR to enhance rail heritage in the local area.

Network with other rail heritage groups and museums at Valley Heights, Lithgow, Zig Zag, Bathurst and Cowra to form a Heritage Railway partnership to prioritise and promote the area as a Railway Tourist Precinct.

Contact:

- Mail: PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787
- Phone: 0437 389 684
- Email: admin@othr.com.au
- Website: www.othr.com.au
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc

Editor's thoughts

COVID-19.

What does this mean to Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.?

Here in Oberon the Coronavirus doesn't mean we have to shut our operations, but we are being mindful of precautions and taking heed of Federal, State and Local Government advice.

That advice so far has caused us to cancel our April Bi-Monthly General Meeting because of restrictive measures applied to the number of people attending indoor activities. In our case the, our meeting room is very small and couldn't accommodate our members and practice safe social distancing.

It has also meant that the Committee meeting scheduled for 25th March had to be conducted via a telephone link.

As of this moment, we have taken action and postponed our Cars and Coffee event until 6th September 2020.

Most of OTHR activities take place outdoors. It is very difficult to continue with planned working bees on the dates previously advertised due to the restrictions placed on the numbers of people in a group and the requirements of social distancing.

We are determined to be as normal as possible but at the same time observing any requirements as may be necessary. As COVID-19 warnings are changing daily, warnings may change; we will do our utmost to observe them and make our members safe.

The moral of this Pandemic is to heed all instructions, but operate as much as usual. OTHR will continue to try to make the Oberon Railway Precinct as safe as possible.



Happy Easter to all OTHR Members, Friends and Readers.

Please Note....

As a result of the increasing restrictions placed on gatherings and in particular within clubs due to COVID-19, we have cancelled the April Bi-monthly General Meeting. Clubs are currently restricted to less than 100 people and we couldn't guarantee social spacing in our meeting room.

NEXT MEETING

NEXT BI-MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

**DATE TO BE DETERMINED
WHEN COVID-19
RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN
EASED**

Immediate Goals

A new range of goals to be achieved in the near future as follows:

1. **Obtain full track certification for the Oberon Yard area.**
2. **Gain approval for the HOL North of Albion Street to approximately 500m north of the Hazelgrove Station.**
3. **Apply for variation to existing accreditation for RIM & RSO to approximately 500m north of the Hazelgrove Station.**
4. **Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate work trains to Hazelgrove.**
5. **Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate tourist trains to Hazelgrove.**



Oberon Council recently used this image as an update on their Facebook page.

Positions Vacant

Your committee is looking for members to step up and take a part in the responsibility of running a large-scale volunteer enterprise, namely the Oberon to Tarana Heritage Branch Line as a tourist attraction.

Within the next few months and into the future OTHR will be continuing the building of a wonderful community project involving the operations of trains as a tourism attraction that will be the envy of the Central Tablelands and the Central West, if not New South Wales.

Specifically, the following positions have been identified and will need to be filled in due course:

- Finance Manager – needs to be filled soon.
- Safety Manager – needs to be filled ASAP
- Curator, Oberon Station Interpretive Display.

All positions will be filled by members or the railway community or the general public with appropriate skills suited to the job.

OTHR also needs skilled tradespersons of all types. For example, Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Boilermakers, Painters plus more.

Please also contact Greg Bourne as above with your experience.

So... you think you want to volunteer?

WOW look at all the volunteer positions now becoming available!!

OTHR is seeking expressions of interest from members and non-members who have the necessary accreditation to drive 73 Class Locomotives. We are also planning a training program for those who would like to develop the skills and knowledge base associated with safe movements of locomotives and rolling stock.

Your interest in driver training should be lodged with the President or Secretary at

admin@othr.com.au

Important information about moving rolling stock:

Shunting in the yard will not be frequent but regular as movements are required. Typically shunting would occur in bringing rolling stock to the station for display at open days, special events and rallies.

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.

Still interested in volunteering? Then let's hear from you.



A very rare photo of Carlwood Stop on the Oberon to Tarana branch line from the 1920's. Photo from Matt McMahon's collection.

We have Jobs... but what do they entail?

It's often said by some that they would like to volunteer but don't know where to look; they have skills that must be of use but where?

OTHR has jobs and we are looking for people with particular skills. Do you want to be part of a progressive association with bold plans and a grand vision that is steaming ahead?

Give President Greg a call and find out whether you have the qualifications to fill the vacancies. (listed under "Positions Vacant")

Our Code.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. (OTHR) is a not for profit, member-based organisation. We have a responsibility to strive to make informed, consistent and ethical decisions.

Our code is a public statement that OTHR is committed to doing the right things the right way. Our code applies to all OTHR committee members and members.

We are proud of our culture, and understand it is continually shaped by the behaviours and attitudes demonstrated on a day to day basis by all our people.

Our code includes references to relevant OTHR requirements (OTHR policies and procedures) and other helpful tools and resources.

No code of conduct can ever cover every possible situation, OTHR relies on you to use sound judgement and speak up when you have questions or concerns.

All committee members, members, volunteers and employees of OTHR are representatives of OTHR and are expected to act responsibly and professionally.

As a representative of OTHR, you are expected to act in the best interests of OTHR and to conduct yourself in a manner that does not discredit:

- An individual team member, having regard to their position held within OTHR, or
- The reputation of OTHR.

Whenever there is conflict or a difference between an applicable legal requirement and Our Code, you must apply the strictest standard.

Our partners, and third parties, can also have a direct impact on the reputation of OTHR through their behaviours and actions. For this reason, we want to work with our partners to ensure that they

share our commitment to safety, ethics and compliance.

We also expect and encourage all of our contractors and their employees to act in a way that is consistent with Our Code. We will take appropriate measures where we believe they have not met our expectations or their contractual obligations.

Important Information.

Help us bring our heritage railway to life by becoming a financial member of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

Membership of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is a valuable way you can contribute to our vision.

Individual annual membership cost \$20.00 per year and new members are welcomed at any time during the year.

Membership is required to cover insurance for any volunteer work you are able to contribute.

Membership is due at the end of June annually.

Refer to OTHR website to download an application.

Sleepers

You are reminded that we have a supply of sleepers for sale. Some are suitable for landscaping and some suitable for firewood. See the advertisement later in the newsletter about firewood. If you want to purchase landscaping sleepers, contact President Greg Bourne.

These sales are a good source of income for your organisation.



*Another rare photo. Building the Oberon Branch Line, early 1920's
Photo from Matt McMahon collection.*

Secured your New Merchandise Yet?

Enamelled metal badges have been added to our new range of merchandise.

They are of a very good quality and a great addition to your collection of OTHR memorabilia.

Prices: \$10.00 members, \$12.50 non-members, plus P&P if purchasing online/order form. See the order form later in the Newsletter.

Additionally, two new products will be added to our range, but not until we are over the COVID-19 virus and are up and running again.

A select number of local businesses are now stocking OTHR merchandise. The stores include Oberon Visitor Information Centre, Oberon Licenced Post Office, Kringle Cottage, Arrows Newsagency and Mama Snow's Café, Tarana



Long-time volunteer Arthur Robinson on mowing duties.

About Oberon.....

Autumn in Oberon has well and truly arrived. You can expect beautiful clear days and chilly nights as is expected in our temperate alpine climate. I can think of nothing better than enjoying a beautiful chilly night in front of a roaring fire with a hot toddy, or gazing at the stars in the crystal clearness of an Oberon night. Perhaps strolling amongst the Alpine trees and enjoying the colourful hues of the autumn leaves is more for you. Daylight hours have more than enough attractions to keep a group of visitors occupied for a week or more.

It's always a challenge for an association's events manager or co-ordinator to continue to come up with interesting places to go and see.

Have you ever considered Oberon as a place your club or association would visit?

There are great drives around the Oberon area. All routes take in the beautiful country side and all are bitumen roads. We currently have 6 routes ranging in distance from approx. 40kms to approx. 149kms. All routes are self-guiding or we can guide you.

Oberon often overlooked but it's central to most of New South Wales major tourist attractions, is the first authentic country town west of the Blue Mountains. It is the home of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. Within the heritage railway precinct, you will find a vibrant and active heritage railway interpretive centre, the only Skoda Tatra Car Museum in Australia, and a regional museum. Nearby is one of the best private museums featuring tractors and other memorabilia and a fantastic military museum also close by.

Mayfield Garden is the largest cool climate garden in the world, over 160 acres in size; the World Heritage listed Jenolan caves; the museums and world famous racing car track and shopping delights of nearby Bathurst and of course the sites and delights of the famous Blue Mountains also within 50 minutes' drive of Oberon.

Piqued your interest? Who do you contact?

To get you started you can contact Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc., (0408 606 889 Dave), the Oberon Visitor Information Centre on 6329 8210 Mat, Debbie or Lynne)

We have expertise in organising group stays, from a day to a week, and can assist you in organising a visit to Oberon.

Some past events have included:

- Morgan Muster (an anniversary tour by the Morgan Owners Club).
- Triumph Car Club weekend.
- Geelong Car Club week-long visit.
- Peugeot Car Nationals over an extended weekend.
- Various seniors bus groups.
- School Children.
- 7th Horseless Carriage Club International Tour.
- Insights Railway Tour
- "Downunder Jampot Rally" organised in conjunction with the AJS & Matchless Motorcycle group and OH@CC.
- Weekend visitors enjoying lunch and a visit to the two museums and railway interpretive centre on site as part of Oberon Outdoor Week.

Oberon, the perfect place to base yourself for a week or a few days or even just a day!

Oberon is just two hours from Sydney's Western Suburbs, two and a half hours from Canberra, and an easy and lovely drive from Dubbo as well as the Hunter Valley.

There is a team of friendly locals here to help.

One thing's for sure, you will be more than welcome in Oberon!

Contact us any time to discuss.

Oberon, Simply Spectacular!

Email admin@othr.com.au

Or phone 0437 389 684 Greg, or 0408 606 889 Dave.

We would appreciate you passing this newsletter to others who might be thinking about a wonderful and vibrant trip to a spectacular part of Australia.



"The Common", Oberon's beautiful park located in the heart of town.

Next Working Bees.

Working Bees are extremely important in keeping the momentum at the railway moving forward. However the recent changes to the Covid-19 recommendations make it extremely difficult to continue with the advertised working bees. The numbers in a group and the requirements of social distancing mean that the advertised working bees have been cancelled until further notice.

The working bees usually have a main focus on track work in the Oberon Yard and "regulars" have developed into a very competent group of fettlers.



*A very early photo of Oberon Station.
Photo supplied by Matt McMahon.*

March Working Bee wrap

A fair amount of work has been done since the start of March out in the yard and rolling stock shed. The OTHR has been following advice from relevant authorities on the prevention of virus spread. Yesterday's announcements from the Government will slow down the progress especially about increasing numbers of people affected by the COVID-19 virus.

The first activity was to have afternoon tea on the station with the Council members. An important event for us as some of the Councillors did not have a clear picture of what we are trying to achieve and how well we have improved the site in the last few years. Thanks to Dave McMurray for organising and Elaine Boxer for catering.

Barry Webb has continued with the tidying up of the yard by relentlessly attacking the weeds. Arthur Robinson has mowed the area twice. Graham and Greg have shifted sleepers and timbers ready for future working bees. Some of the firewood sleepers have been removed. Michael O'Kane continues with work on HL854. The interior has been finished and some important restoration work has been done on the exterior.

The third Saturday working bee was attended by a small contingent of members, which is not surprising considering the restrictions placed on activities by the Government.

We managed to replace the timber under the E-Frame near the southern end of the yard. 5 timbers have been installed in the track near the E-frame. These timbers replace "doubled up" sleepers that were not really able to keep the track in gauge and did not meet our engineering standards. We still have a few small track improvements involving replacement of sleepers. Covid-19 restrictions will delay some of this work.

Aaron and Mark continued with the good work they have been doing on 7321. It has been started on two different days and the basic systems have been checked and it is more than ready to have further testing in the near future.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers for working bees.

Generally, volunteers are required to participate in allocated tasks.

If you can help, contact President Greg.

Not all work is onerous and can be as little or as much as you can put in.

There is a job for everyone.

You don't have to attend every working bee, just the ones that fit in your timeframe.

You will take away experiences from your time at Oberon.

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.



Placing the timber for E-frame - March



Lining the timber up - March working bee.



Bolting it in place - March working bee.



The E-Frame in place - March working bee.



Restoration work in progress on HL854.

Monthly Open Days.

Open days are held on the 1st Saturday of each month to coincide with the Oberon Farmers Market.

Volunteers will be required to meet and greet visitors, show them through the displays and try to answer any questions.

If you wish to volunteer at the open days, please contact President Greg. All that's required is a broad knowledge of OTHR history and an ability to talk with people. The work is rewarding.

Some changes have been made, with the establishment of a professional though small railway interpretive display; an entry fee of \$5.00 pp (children under 18 free), and a pop-up café serving a Devonshire tea for an additional \$10.00.

The result has seen a large increase in visitors comprising locals and tourists.

Your committee is also actively advertising for group visits and we are providing a railway experience bar none.

Groups are starting to line up and results so far have been encouraging.

If you are a member of another group, say a car club or Rotary or Probus or a gardening club, etc. and that group is looking for an excursion, please suggest they book a group visit to Oberon station.



Travelling up the 1 on 25 incline towards Hazelgrove.

Photo supplied by Matt McMahon.

Welcome New Members

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is always looking for new members.

Interested in railways or the Oberon to Tarana line in particular, why not give your support by becoming a member?

Not so well

If anyone hears about any member on the sick list, please let the editor know via President Greg so we can send get well wishes on behalf of the association.

Remembering....

Let us know of the passing of any of our members, so we can acknowledge them appropriately. Contact President Greg with all details.

Say Whaaat???

- Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.
- I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman "where's the Self Help Section? She said if she told me that would defeat the purpose.
- Is there another word for Synonym?
- If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is that considered a hostage situation?

Visit OTHR when next you come to Oberon

Make sure you keep up to date with work in progress at the Oberon Station Precinct and the Oberon branch line.

The heritage listed PC3 station building contains a small interpretive centre consisting of memorabilia and a photo display of the history of the Oberon to Tarana branch line.

The wider Oberon Heritage precinct house a variety of rolling stock most of which is rare and has a story to tell.

Ask any of our enthusiastic volunteers for the low down on the machinery.

OTHR and the Skoda Tatra Museum are open between 10 AM and 2 PM on the first Saturday of each month, coinciding with the Oberon Farmers Market.

Admission \$5 (18 and over), Devonshire Tea \$10. Skoda Tatra Museum entry by way of a donation.

For group visits: see <http://othr.com.au> (contact us) or contact President Greg.

The last few Open Days have not been so successful but that's understandable considering the extremely hot weather.

Hopefully members and the general public will make up for those lost days now that the days are cooler.

Training

Training is an ongoing issue for OTHR.

Some of the training can be conducted in house and some needs to be done externally.

A couple of areas are being examined just now and include:

- Rail Safety Workers Certificate. This can be done online.
- TMV Training. This can be done in house. There is a Medical Certificate requirement.
- Locomotive Driver Training. Once we have identified a permanent trainer, we will be proceeding as soon as possible.
- Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificate can be done externally online.
- Working with Children Certificate. This can be done externally.



At the goods siding, Oberon,

Sponsors

Seeking funding continues to be one of your committee's priorities.

Sponsorships are a very important part of the funding of our activities. It matters not whether a person or company contributes cash or kind, each will be considered as a sponsorship. The reason is that any person or company that contributes in kind is helping us in as much as we don't have to pay for those services and the sponsor is foregoing income. The committee needs to seek cash sponsors and this task is ongoing.

Currently we now have six sponsors on board, all sponsors offer in kind support for which we are extremely grateful.

Would you like to become a sponsor? Contact President Greg to find out how you can participate in OTHR's exciting sponsorship deals. There are a few sponsorship levels available. By sponsoring OTHR and its vision you will become a partner of the programme.

Primary Sponsor Oberon Council



Oberon Council is a proudly independent council which has supported OTHR from its very beginning. The council administers the Oberon Shire and is second to none when looking after the community.

Bronze Sponsor Jenolan Holiday Park

Jenolan Holiday Park offers a range of accommodation in Oberon to suit everyone. Would you like to book your accommodation now?

Mob: 0418 619 709

7 Cunninghame Street, Oberon NSW 2787

Bronze Sponsor Highlands Motor Inn

Highlands Motor Inn, quality accommodation at an affordable price.

We don't work to a budget; we work to exceed your expectations

Contact: (02) 6336 – 1866

77-79 Dart Street, Oberon NSW 2787

Bronze Sponsor Oberon Trash Pak

Oberon Trash-Pak is a family business owned and operated by Wayne & Michelle White.

Services offered are regular out of town garbage service, septic tank and grease trap pump outs.

Oberon Trash-Pak offers Domestic and Commercial Mini Skip Bins, Portable Toilets, Rubbish Removal.

"You don't have to live in town to get a regular garbage service"

Contact: 0427 104 318 or 6336-2049

Bronze Sponsor Haymes Paints

Haymes Paints are a family owned Australian business. The business started in Ballarat in 1935, is now in the hands of fourth generation of the Haymes family.

Over the years, each member has taken care to hand on the commitment and passion for crafting quality products. As they say their name and reputation is on every can.

Bronze Sponsor Orminoid & Lanko

Along with the Australian specialist construction brands Orminoid and Lanko, Davco is part of the international ParexGroup. ParexGroup is a truly global company and a leading producer of speciality dry-mix solutions with 3,905 employees. The group has a strong local focus



Laying the line between Tarana and Oberon in the early 1920's

Photo supplied by Matt McMahon



Steamed up and ready to leave the Hazelgrove Stop.

Photo supplied by Matt McMahon



Official OTHR Merchandise

Buy Now.

OTHR Cap.

Bottle Green with white OTHR logo fits all sizes. Purchase today and be a part of the OTHR team. Proceeds go towards the refurbishment of the Oberon to Tarana line.

Priced at \$29.00 non - members, \$24.00 members. Price includes GST and Postage and Handling anywhere in Australia. Overseas will incur extra postage.

OTHR Badge

New Product. Reproduced from the original OTHR badge; metal and enamel.

Priced at \$15.50 non-members - \$13.50 members. Price includes GST and Postage and Handling anywhere in Australia. Overseas will include extra postage.



Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

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

Merchandise Order Form

Official OTHR Cap \$29.00 non - members \$24.00 members.

Official OTHR Badge \$15.50 non – members \$13.50 members

Price includes Postage and Packing

Product/Quantity:	
Name:	
Mailing address: Street Number	Street
_____	_____
Or Post Office Box Number	
Suburb or Town	
State and Postcode	
Your contact details	
Phone: _____	
Email address: _____	

	Number	Total
Caps at membership price \$24.00	_____	\$_____
Caps at non-members price \$29.00	_____	\$_____
Badge at membership price \$13.50	_____	\$_____
Badge at non-membership price \$15.50	_____	\$_____
Total		\$_____

Payment can be made in the following ways

- **Cheques** - made payable to Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. and mailed to PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787
- **Cash** - can be paid direct to our Treasurer at any of our bi-monthly general meetings or at an Open Day.
- **Direct Bank Transfer** – our bank details are **BSB: 062 632 Account number: 1004 9851**. Please include your name as the reference statement.