



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway

August 2026



Hazelgrove West Platform Wall Taking Shape

Patrons

Paul Toole
State Member for Bathurst

Andrew Gee
Independent Member for Calare

Committee

Michael Clark
President

Jessie Clark
Treasurer

Elaine Boxer
Vice President

Michael O'Kane
Events Manager
Timothy Barnes
Committee Member

Elaine Boxer
Secretary, Catering
Manager, Public Officer
Trent Elliott
Committee Member

Line Managers

Mark Langdon
Asset Manager

Alex Boromisa
Facebook Moderator

Volunteer Today. Call Elaine Boxer on 0409 777 580 for details

Our New Committee

July 18th saw the holding of our Annual General Meeting to review the happenings across the previous fiscal year and for the previous Committee to stand down and the election of the new Committee to take place.

It was very gratifying to see a good turnout at this years AGM, far exceeding that of the last few years.

There were twenty people in attendance and online, all of whom stayed on after the meeting to enjoy a cuppa and refreshments.

All positions were filled for the new Committee with all positions having just one nomination.

The 2026/2027 Committee is as follows:

President	Michael Clark
Vice President	Elaine Boxer
Secretary	Elaine Boxer
Treasurer	Jessie Clark
Committee Member	Michael O’Kane
Committee Member	Trent Eliot
Committee Member	Timothy Barnes
Public Officer	Elaine Boxer

Part of the AGM presentations consisted of the recognition of those that had achieved 20 years membership. There were ten 20 year membership certificates awarded. The continued support of these members over the years is amazing and truly appreciated.

As elected President I feel quite humbled to be in this role, and I am very appreciative of the strong team that we have to move OTHR forward. I fully understand we have a lot of work ahead of us to achieve our Mission, and a strong Committee goes a long way to accomplishing that goal.

As we continue to preserve our past and build for the future, I look forward to working closely with our Committee, supporting our volunteers, strengthening our organisation, and keeping the spirit of our railway alive and well for the future to come.

Michael Clark – President



2026 AGM 18th July 2026

Volunteer Today. Call Elaine Boxer on 0409 777 580 for details

Welcome to our August 2026 Newsletter

A lot has been happening over the last two months. We hope you enjoy reading about it in the following pages.

Membership Renewal

Just a reminder for those that haven't yet renewed their membership for the 2027 year, to please consider doing so. Your continued support helps us achieve our end goals and we would like you all to be on board. OTHR deeply appreciates your ongoing support through membership and donations. Our Renewal/New Member form is located on the last page of this newsletter or on our website at <https://othr.com.au/membership/>

Life Memberships

It was with great pleasure that at our recent AGM, our first life memberships were awarded.

Both Arthur Robinson and Barry Webb were awarded Life Membership of OTHR for their incredible volunteer dedication over the past 20 years. Arthur and Barry were quite shocked when presented their awards, something they did not expect. OTHR once again thanks Arthur and Barry for their incredible support over the years.





Barry receiving his Life Membership award



Arthur receiving his Life Membership award

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 vests 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 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.

CONTINUING THROUGH 2026

Onboarding volunteers can be difficult for smaller volunteer organisations. That said volunteering can be a very rewarding and beneficial activity for those willing to take the leap. OTHR are seeking more volunteers to help us achieve our mission of being a tourist heritage railway. Currently we require involvement in track and grounds work with a need to train shunters, second persons and drivers. This will be followed in due course with training in becoming carriage attendants, guards, and station attendants as well as many other important admin roles.

These roles will require other regular forms of volunteering to support OTHR.

If you feel you can support OTHR by volunteering, then please lodge your interest with the Secretary at admin@othr.com.au

MEDICALS

The level of certification depends on your level of interest.

Volunteer Today. Call Elaine Boxer on 0409 777 580 for details

- Driver Cat 2 medical certificate
TMV operator Cat 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.

ONRSR NCR 38951

It is with great relief that we can announce the close out of our Non-Conformance Report 38591 issue to us by ONRSR.

This NCR dealt with OTHR being able to document its competency frameworks for Track Maintenance, Train Crew, and Rolling Stock Maintenance. The final element of the NCR “Rolling Stock Maintainer Competence”, was signed off by ONRSR in late July 2026.

What this means for OTHR is that we are now one step closer to applying for our Stage One variation to accreditation to allow us to run track maintenance vehicles from Oberon yard to Hazelgrove yard. There is still a lot of work to do, but the not to distant future is looking very promising.

OTHR SPRING LUNCH

Our Spring Lunch has just been announced so make sure you book early so as not to miss out on our Premium Lunch fare. Our Spring Lunch menu will be made available shortly.

Please use the link below or the QR code on the flyer.

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/oberon-tarana-heritage-railway/the-spring-lunch-2026>



*Its time to book your Spring lunch on board our vintage dining car. Celebrate Spring with a sumptuous multi 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

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/oberon-tarana-heritage-railway/the-spring-lunch-2026>



Volunteer Today. Call Elaine Boxer on 0409 777 580 for details

CURRENT WORK IN PROGRESS

HAZELGROVE STATION PRECINCT

It is fair to say that the last 2 months since the previous newsletter has seen a concentrated push to complete as far as possible the station precinct at Hazelgrove. Although not yet complete, we have managed to spend all our SCCF5-0733 grant allocated funds prior to our July 2026 deadline. We now have all materials on site and in the yard to complete the project, including our replica PCI station building. All the retaining walls rails are now in place. The ag drainage that sits behind the retaining wall rails has all be installed with gravel placed. This was a very slow and time-consuming task, but we got there. The platform has been levelled with just the decomposed granite top layers to be placed. We have our landscaper lined up to plant out the area once construction works are completed. Our picnic shelter is now complete. We have taken delivery of our push button gas BBQ which will be installed at the end of works along with a rain water tank to be installed off the picnic shelter. Coping timbers are being cut to length, undercoated, painted, drilled and bolted down. All in all, and despite quite a few days lost due to inclement weather, the progress has been amazing. Thanks go to the small handful of volunteers pushing this project to completion.



**East wall retaining
rails being placed**



**First course west wall
retaining rails in place**



North wall ag drain exit



**Picnic shelter
structure completed**



**Geo cloth and
aggregate being
placed**



North wall rails placed



Platform leveling



**West wall, all retaining
rails in place**



**First coping timbers
placed**

WINTER LUNCH

Our winter lunch was held on 25th July. As usual our fantastic catering team did a superlative job keeping our guest well fed and watered. Fortunately for our crew it did not snow this year, although it would have been very nice for our guests. Unfortunately, our crew was too busy to take any images of the incredible menu.





Mike, Jessie and Elaine. Our fabulous catering team.

PINE TREE REMOVAL

One of the perway issues we have been discussing for a long time is what to do with the huge radiata pine just south of Borg Gate 6. This tree is very close to the track, and in fact its roots are lifting the track in some places.

We bit the bullet and got a very competitive quote for its removal. A professional team came in on 27th July and removed the tree. We were able to also obtain all the mulch from the tree for use in landscaping Hazelgrove, so a win win all around. We will still need to correct the track for the lifting by roots, but at least now we don't have a huge pine tree to consider while doing this task.





WATER COLUMN

The 20th of August saw the delivery of a water column to the yard in Oberon. This column had been laying in the grass on the down side of the Wallerawang station platform for a long time. We first noticed it while on an LVR tour trip from Tarana to Wallerawang and back. Enquiries were made as

to whether we could obtain this item for our future possible use. That was around three years ago, and as you know, the wheels of bureaucracy can move very slowly. That said, we are happy to announce that Transport for NSW wrote up a Deed of Gift for us to execute and that they have now happily gifted OTHR this water column. We thank TfNSW for this generous gift as well as the free delivery into our yard. We also thank Mark Handel for his diligence in continually chasing this up as well as Gary Escourt of TfNSW for all his work in helping us obtain it.

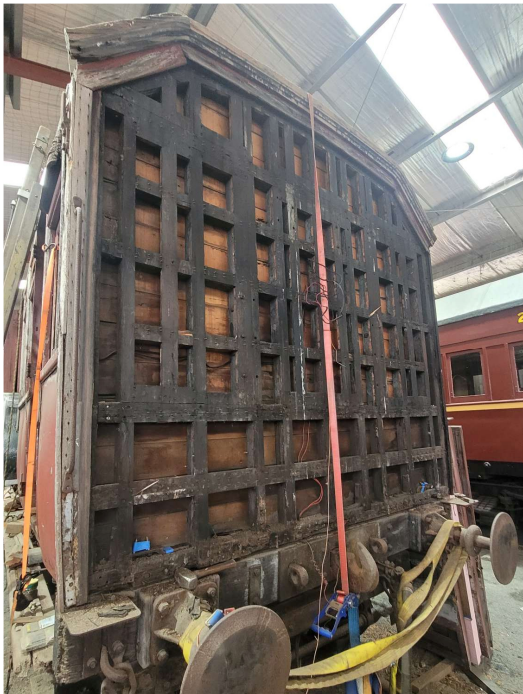


TRAINING

We continue further familiarisation training for Yard Ground Shunter. On job training continues. This is an important role to ensure safe movements of rolling stock within the yard precinct.

HS36 PROGRESS

A little bit of progress has been made on HS36 these last two months given the works at Hazelgrove taking priority. The non guard end wall has had its old matchboard removed in preparation for frame repairs. The frame is generally in good condition but with some rot evident in the bottom sill. The second-class external lavatory wall has been sanded, with old nail and screw holes filled. There is a bit of timber patching required on this section of wall, but generally it is in reasonable condition.



From the Heritage Galley



Missing our famous on board lunches?

Parsnip Blini with Stilton, Walnuts and Honey

Ingredients

- 400g parsnips peeled, sliced in rounds (1-2 cm)
- 50g unsalted butter diced, plus extra for frying
- olive oil for frying
- 2 egg whites from large eggs
- 2 egg yolks from large eggs
- 30g crème fraîche
- 30ml milk
- 2 Tbsp rice flour
- 80g walnut halves
- 1½ Tbsp honey
- 100g Stilton crumbled

Preparation

1. Saute parsnips, butter and oil in a pan until soft. Purée in a food processor. Cool to room temperature, then place in fridge to chill for 1 hour.
2. Whisk egg whites until soft peaks form.
3. Mix together egg yolks, crème fraîche, milk, reserved parsnip purée, rice flour, salt and pepper.
4. Using a large spoon, gently fold reserved whisked egg whites into parsnip mixture.
5. Heat a frying pan with a little oil and butter over medium heat. Drop 1 Tbsp mixture per blini into pan to make 4-5 cm discs, frying a few at a time. Cook until mixture bubbles on top, then flip over to cook other side. Continue cooking blini in batches, adding more butter and oil as necessary.
6. Add walnut halves and honey to warm frying pan then sauté for 1-2 minutes. Top blini with crumbled Stilton then place a honeyed walnut half on top of each and serve immediately.

OTHR

OBERON TARANA HERITAGE RAILWAY



No matter your age or skillset
We have something for you to do.
Join our enthusiastic team of
volunteers as we head towards
running

DETAILS: othr.com.au

NOW RECRUITING FOR TRAINING

DRIVERS · CONDUCTORS · GUARDS · ONBOARD STAFF · CATERERS · TRADIES

GET ON BOARD

Volunteer Today. Call Elaine Boxer on 0409 777 580 for details

EVENTS

Our next **Open Day** will be held on Sunday October 4th from 10am-3pm. Morning teas (\$10) and light lunches (\$15) can be purchased in our Heritage Carriage at the railway station. See more details on our web page www.othr.com.au

Guided tours of the station building and rolling stock shed can also be organised. Entry and tour are \$5.

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



Supporters of OTHR

OTHR would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the local business community. The following entities are instrumental in helping us achieve our Mission. Please support us by supporting them.

Titania Motel

Highlands Motor Inn

Jenolan Cabins

Oberon Council.





PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787
 email: admin@othr.com.au
 website: othr.com.au
 Phone Secretary: 0409 777 580
 ABN: 98 107 506 208

Renewal or Application for Membership
Annual Membership runs from July 1st to June 30th

I/We wish to renew 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	
Address	Street Number _____ Street _____ or Post Office Box Number _____ Suburb/Town _____ State _____ Postcode _____
Phone	Mobile _____ Home phone _____
Email	

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

Payment can be made in the following ways however EFT is preferred.

- **Direct Bank Transfer** – bank details are **BSB: 062 632 Account number: 1004 9851.**
- **PayPal via our website at** <https://othr.com.au/membership/>
- **Cash** - can be paid direct on Open Days

****** Please include your name as 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.

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:** _____