



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway
February 2026

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State Member for Bathurst

Andrew Gee

Independent Member for Calare

Committee

Casual Vacancy

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Elaine Boxer

Secretary, Catering Manager

Public officer

Jessie Clark

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Events Manager

Trent Elliott

General Committee Duties

Line Managers

Mark Langdon

Asset Manager

Alex Boromisa

Facebook Moderator

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 viz 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.

Accommodation is available at a reduced rate for volunteers who need to stay overnight. If you require accommodation call Elaine to make a booking.

Contact: Elaine Boxer Secretary

Email: admin@otr.com.au Mobile: 0409 777 580

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

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

The first two months of the 2026 have been busy ones, with volunteers performing much needed vegetation control, carriage and station works, but also very important administrative works.

Our training and competency documentation is currently at the forefront of tasks being completed. We are reviewing our training documents and bringing them into a consistent format that should make life a little easier for OTHR as well as the Regulator.

We have recently submitted to the Regulator our documents covering our Train Crew Competency Framework as well as our TMV Competency Framework. These were required as part of a Non-Conformance given from our latest ONRSR audit. We will now await ONRSR's findings on this documentation.

On 28th February, THNSW ran a Strategic Plan workshop for heritage groups holding THNSW assets. This workshop was held at Valley Heights Rail Museum and detailed techniques on how to make your Strategic Plan "pop" and what you need to do to separate your business from others in a way that will make people sit up and notice.

This was a very informative workshop and one that we can definitely make use of. We would like to thank THNSW for organising and Valley Heights Rail Museum for making their great facilities available to us.

Volunteering

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

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.

Current work in progress

Grant Applications

We currently have a number of grant applications in progress.

- Under the Federal Grant, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal we are seeking funding for a Starlink Satellite communication system which will allow us to run vehicles along the track in safety. As many locals know, our mobile phone coverage in the district is very patchy, so the satellite option is the most reliable service. We will know in early June if we have been successful.
- The NSW Government Club Grant is a large grant through the Office of Responsible Gambling. Our application is for the fit-out of our new building for kitchen, toilets flooring etc. This grant closed in December 2025 and we should know the outcome in April 2026.
- The Essential Energy Grant is currently open and an application for solar panels and battery back up for our new building is being made. This grant closes at the end of March 2026.
- The second round of Veolia Grants will see an application for the purchase of a backpack style leaf blower to assist the volunteers in cleaning the check rails on the rail line as well as other maintenance projects in the yard. The applications open in June.

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 Saturday April 4th from 10am-4pm. 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 is \$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**

**Contact Secretary Elaine Boxer:
admin@othr.com.au
Website <http://othr.com.au>**



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Mothers Day High Tea



Mothers Day

High Tea

Join us on board our vintage dining car
For a sumptuous High Tea for Mothers Day
At Oberon Railway Station, North Street
Oberon

1pm Sunday 10th May

\$75pp Includes complimentary Bubbles

Tables hold 2 people only

TICKETS

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/oberon-tarana-heritage-railway/the-mother-s-day-high-te-2026>



More information on our web page www.OTHR.com.au

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Supporters of OTHR

OTHR would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the local business community. Without this valuable support OTHR would struggle to attract volunteers and continue to progress to running a tourist train.

Titania Motel

Highlands Motor Inn

Jenolan Cabins

Oberon Council.



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From the Heritage Galley



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

Watermelon canapés with whipped feta and walnuts

Makes up to 30 portions

Ingredients

Whipped feta

- 150g Danish feta
- 60g cream cheese softened
- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 pinches sea salt
- 2 pinches ground black pepper powder

Watermelon and walnuts

- 400g watermelon
- 40g halved walnuts toasted and broken into halves, for garnishing

Dressing

- 1 sprig fresh parsley, leaves only finely chopped
- 1 sprig fresh mint, leaves only finely chopped
- 20g extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 pinch sea salt
- 1 pinch ground black pepper

Preparation

Dressing

1. ***Place all dressing ingredients in a jar and shake well***

Whipped feta

1. ***Place whipped feta ingredients in the bowl of a stand mixer and beat until mixed is light and airy.***

Watermelon and walnuts

1. ***Cut watermelon into slices (1 cm thick), then using a cookie cutter (4-5 cm), cut out watermelon rounds. Place watermelon rounds onto a serving platter.***
2. ***Top each watermelon round with 1 teaspoon of the whipped feta, then garnish with walnut pieces and a drizzle of the reserved dressing. Serve immediately.***

HS36 Update

Work continues on the refurbishment of this car with works based on the east side frame section between compartments B36 and C36. Many nail and screw holes have been dowelled with quite a few sections of rot, as per normal, being cut out and new timbers spliced in. This section is now almost ready for matchboard.

Mike, our resident volunteer painter has been busy sanding down and applying primer. To get a decent finish on the paintworks requires a lot of preparation, especially when working from a new bare timber surface. A lot of sanding and priming is needed. Mike is a true professional when it comes to this. Mike has also put the first coat of tuscan red below the waistline of the previous completed section between compartments C36 to D36.



Station Update

We have recently put our station heritage grant to use by getting all the window sashes replaced to heritage standard as well as new timber flyscreens made. All this custom work was performed by our local joiner, Dave Turek. Unfortunately the repairs did not include painting, so once again, Mike, our painter has been knocking it out of the park.

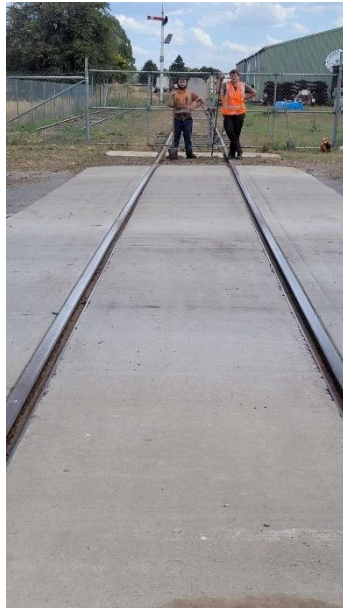


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Volunteer work

Recently we have had two younger volunteers helping out at OTHR. Sam and Logan have been coming in every couple of weeks this year. They have both passed their General Induction and Safely Access the Rail Corridor competencies. Further training will take place as is required. It is great to have some younger enthusiastic volunteers on site. They are full of energy and very eager to volunteer.

Here they are after giving the Albion Street level crossing flangeways a good clean out.



Sam and Logan after giving the Albion Street level crossing flangeways a good clean out.

Volunteer work

Not all volunteer work is as glomourous as replacing sleepers or cleaning out flangeways. Recently, John a volunteer has been very busy filling the pot holes in our yard entrance driveway. The driveway was becoming very rough. John has been filling and compacting our driveway with roadbase by hand. It is a lot more pleasurable to drive on now. Thankyou John.



Vegetation Control

January and February are always busy weed growing months in Oberon. There has been quite a bit of weed spraying in the yard to help keep it neat and tidy. Arthur has been doing a great job mowing the yard, while line was also sprayed from the yard to Hazelgrove. Here we see Jessie pulling the spray cart to help keep weeds down along the track.



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PO Box 299, Oberon NSW 2787
 email: 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.

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:** _____