



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway February 2020

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

Roads 3 and 4 Certified as fit for use.



High Rail Tech Services recently conducted a thorough and professional inspection of the tracks in the Oberon Heritage Yard which resulted in roads 3 and 4 being certified as fit for use with certain conditions. A full report is located later in this newsletter.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is delighted that we can now shunt our locomotives in the Oberon Heritage Yard.

Patrons

Paul Toole

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

Andrew Gee

Federal Member for Calare, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister

Committee

Gregory Bourne

President & Public Officer

Ken Lingabala

Acting Vice President
Engineering Manager

Secretary

Position vacant - Greg Bourne Acting

John Brotchie

Treasurer:

Graham Williams

Track Manager:

David McMurray

Fundraiser, Newsletter Editor/Publicity

Manager

Timo Kanko

Operations Manager
Rolling Stock Manager

Elaine Boxer

Catering Manager

Mike O’Kane

Events Manager

Mark Langdon

Asset Manager

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Presidents Message

It has been a very busy January. We have continued the work on the track initially to finish off the work started in December – replacing rail, pinning it and replacing sleepers where needed.

Certification of roads 3 and 4 was the result of the good work. The work identified as needing further attention has been completed.

On Thursday the Track Manager Graham Williams and I met with Chris Schumacher, Council Engineer and Carina Francis, John Holland Engineer on Thursday to tidy up the loose ends around the crossing on Lowes Mount Road and establishing our areas of responsibility near the station.

The Audit reports for 2018 and 2019 came in on Friday and they were immediately sent off to Office of the Community Development Grant for further work on the \$1.5M Federal Government Grant.

Greg Bourne
President, Acting Secretary
Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.
Email: gpbourne@gmail.com
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.

Editor's thoughts

Focus!

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is focussing in one direction and one direction only.

Our vision is to get a tourist train operating on the Oberon to Tarana branch line.

In order to achieve that long term goal, many, many tasks are ongoing and have to be completed. OTHR has to remain a tight volunteer group and

despite natural differences and differences of opinion we must focus on our common goal.

Our goal is medium to long term but there are short term goals to achieve that keep us on track. OTHR can't get side tracked with non-core issues. In other words we maintain focus on our vision.

At this point have a look at the OTHR Immediate goal, the focus of recent work at Oberon, to see how close we are to achieving them all.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. relies on volunteers who share the passion and are always looking for members and non-members alike who can spare some time to help get the job done.

Are you a person who has a bit of spare time, the inclination to help and are enthusiastic and focussed on our vision?

Then contact President Greg and express your interest.

"What you stay focussed on will grow.

Roy T. Bennett"



OTHR Committee wishes all our romantically inclined members a Happy Valentine's Day

A Change at the Top.

Martyn Salmon has stepped down from the position of Vice President.

Martyn intends to remain as an active volunteer assisting in the success of the OTHR project.

In the meantime Ken Lingabala has accepted the position of Acting Vice President.

OTHR Achieves the Highest Local Accolade.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. was awarded the Volunteer/Volunteer Group of the Year for 2020 at Today's (26th January) Oberon Australia Day celebrations. It's fantastic to receive this accolade by the town of Oberon for the hard work the group been involved with in what is a truly monumental project that will contribute ultimately to Oberon's economic future.

Congratulations to all past and present volunteers.



The heritage Oberon Station platform now fully restored.

Track Certification now a Reality.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. has received certification of the track within the Oberon Station Precinct.

High Tech Rail Services Pty Ltd advises:

"On Monday 6th January 2020, High Tech Rail Services' Track Certifier Shayne Kreymborg conducted an inspection of the Oberon Yard. This inspection included inspections of all rail-associated componentry including but not limited to timber

sleepers, turnout componentry, running rails and platform clearances on the 3 road (main Line).

The subsequent reports that were generated from the findings of this inspection have been attached. High Rail Tech Services can report that the number 3 road (main line) between 222.357 (up stop block) and 222.552 (down stop block at country end of platform limit) as well as the numbers 4 road (locomotive line) have been certified as fit for use under the following conditions:

- That a speed limit of 5km/h is not exceeded by rolling stock.
- That all points must be secured by point clips when operating rolling stock.

All other roads remain closed to traffic until subsequent works and inspection have been conducted. During the inspection, some defects were found....”

These defects were rectified at the last working bee and we are seeking certification of the work done shortly.

What does this mean? We are now able to freely shunt the locomotives and carriages within the station yard.

Being able to perform this task is a great step forward.

Look out for movement at the station and get the word out!!



Locomotive movement soon to be a reality.

NEXT MEETING

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

5TH FEBRUARY 2020

OBERON RSL

7.30 PM.

Immediate Goals

Existing goals 1 and 2 have now been achieved as a result of our accreditation recently granted. Your committee has now set a new range of goals to be achieved in the near future as follows:

1. **Obtain track certification for most of the Oberon Yard area.**
2. **Gain approval (having applied) for the HOL North of Albion Street to just south of the Snakes Valley Creek Bridge “stop block” at 208.409Km.**
3. **Apply for variation to existing accreditation for RIM & RSO (for use of TMV’s) to just south of the Snakes Valley Creek Bridge “stop block” at 208.409Km. Time frame 3 – 6 months.**
After the federally funded restoration of Stage 1 being the line North to Hazelgrove.
4. **Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate work trains to Hazelgrove. Time frame 3 – 6 months.**

5. Apply for variation to existing accreditation to operate tourist trains to Hazelgrove. Time frame 3 – 6 months.



Volunteers at the January working bee replacing sleepers and pinning chairs.

Positions Vacant

As you have read earlier, 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 tourism 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:

- Secretary – the position needs to be filled ASAP.
- 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.



*Repaired V nose overflow
January working bee*

OTHR hosts a VIP for Australia Day.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway was pleased to host Oberon's Australia Day Ambassador, Elysha O'Neill, to a tour of the Oberon Heritage Railway Precinct today, 27th January 2020. Elysha played goalkeeper for the Cronulla Sharks in the National Water Polo Championships. She has a gold medal from the Junior World Championships and has travelled the world to play. She has coached Water Polo Teams in Spain, Zimbabwe and South Africa. She is currently sports co-ordinator at Macquarie University in North Ryde, NSW. Elysha is pictured below with David McMurray, Committee member and Greg Bourne, President.

OTHR was awarded the Volunteer/Volunteer Group of the Year at Oberon's Australia Day ceremony 2020. OTHR is proud that the work it does in

bringing the Oberon branch line back to life has been recognised by the local residents.



So... you think you want to volunteer?

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

I want to drive a loco or the tractor for shunting or a track maintenance vehicle to haul materials around the yard.

But what do I do?

Step 1: contact President Greg or Vice President Martyn via our email address and indicate interest.

Step 2: when advised, organise a medical at the appropriate level (there are three levels of rail medical).

Step 3: when advised, our trainer will instruct you in controlling trains, tractors or TMV's to the appropriate certificate level.

For all other volunteers there is a site induction and further training depending on the type of volunteer assistance you wish to undertake.

All this is a requirement because as an accredited rail operator we need to comply with the national health standards and qualifications as set out by the National Transport Commission.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

What you are saying....

Well done to the Oberon team!! Would love to be there for the Heritage Fair, but not really possible. But it will be a great day with the locos being brought out of storage and up to the station. Maybe we will be able to get down when you get the train ride out of town started!!

Cheers all
Sandra & Ron Hass,
Pittsworth, Qld.

Dear Greg, wonderful news after all the hard work put in by a dedicated band of volunteers, great also to have some good news amid all the devastation and tragedy around at the moment.

Oberon will be one of few places where the railway yard will come to; life with shunting movements, a living place free of overgrown weeds and rusty rails.

Kindest regards

Tony Cliff,

Tandarra, Vic.

"Hi Greg and David,

Great to catch up with you both last night at Mayfield. Very interesting to hear of progress with OTHR. I will keep my thinking cap on. Reading your last newsletter it is amazing what you have achieved despite your comments on the average age of volunteers; activity, passion and use of the brain cells drive longevity.

Regards

Andrew McKibbin"

Andrew McKibbin is a councillor with Oberon Council.



*Replaced defective RH switch
January working bee.*

About Oberon.....

Summer in Oberon is a combination of stable, temperate alpine climate with 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 time from approx. 40kms to approx. 149kms. All routes are self-guiding or we can guide you.

Oberon, often overlooked because 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.

Oberon Council activities during February include:

- Oberon Show 8th February
- Oberon Rodeo 29th February
- Oberon Community and Farmers Market 1st Saturday
- Tarana Community and Farmers Market 4th Sunday

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.

2020 Oberon Heritage Fair Cancelled.

Your Committee has made the decision to cancel the Heritage Fair previously scheduled for the 14th March 2020.

We felt that many of our country enthusiasts and exhibitors have been badly affected by the ongoing severe drought and bush fire crises and could better use their time to manage their situation.

This decision will be a disappointment to some but we thought the decision was only fair to them.

Cars and Coffee Event.

To offset the cancellation of the Heritage Fair Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. will hold a "Cars and Coffee" event at the North Street, Oberon Railway car park on Saturday 4th April from 9.00 AM.

This event will cater to all types of cars, hot rods, bikes, trucks in fact anything on wheels.

Depending on its success it will become a regular occurrence in Oberon.

For those unfamiliar with an event of this type, it is very laid back. You can come for 5 minutes or two hours. The idea is to display your vehicle, enjoy great company with like-minded enthusiasts and have great coffee and a B & E Roll in a very different setting in a wonderful Central Tablelands town just 90 minutes from Western Sydney.

What a great destination for a club run.

See you there.



Next Working Bees.

February Wednesday 5th
February Thursday 6th

Gather 8.30 am

Finish 3.00 pm

Task List

- Check level and re-pack sleepers on Roads 3 & 6 where necessary
- Coal store road – replace 6 sleepers/timbers under switch and 1 timber under walkway
- Road 3 remove and replace 4 sleepers just north of walkway
- Road 2 remove and replace 4 sleepers north of walkway
- Select and isolate sleepers and timbers for installation at turnout frame at southern points Scotia Avenue end of road 3 – Ready for Saturday February 15th and April 1st and 2nd Working Bees

Keep an eye on the “News/What’s On” Section of the Website.



Road 6 jacked up reading for repacking.

January Working Bee wrap

There has been a great deal of activity in the Oberon Rail Yard following the good progress made during December.

Track work, vegetation control and painting of interior and exterior of HLF 854 were on the agenda.

In the first few days, the rail replacement in front of the station continued mostly re-pinning. However 10 defective sleepers were identified and replaced. The finished work looked good and everything was ready for the visit by High Tech Rail Services for certification Monday January 6th.

The certification process was thorough and professional and resulted in sections of road 3 and 4 as fit for use with some conditions.

Other roads were need extra work

Road	Defect description
3&4	2 defective turnout timbers
3	2 defective standard timbers
4&5	Defective RH switch tip
6	Low superelevation on up rail
4	V-nose overflow causing tight gauge

Mini-working bees followed starting on the 7th. Importantly these weekday activities continued on Saturdays 11th and 18th. The 18th being the first Saturday working bee for a few years. Five fettlers attended and we were close to finalizing the extra work outlined in the table. There is a minimal amount of checking and perhaps some extra re-packing of sleepers on sections of road 3 and 6. This will be part of the February working Bee.

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.

We would like to see anyone with railway trade experience but that’s not a requirement.

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.**



*Replaced 2 sleepers near frame.
Restored station platform in the background.*

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.

OTHR Café nearly here.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is constructing a new café in one of the 1897 End Platform Carriages.

The café will be stabled at the Oberon Heritage Station during open days and special events to cater for visitors who would enjoy a cuppa and a light meal or Devonshire tea experience when they visit us.

The café is yet another innovative way guests and visitors can enjoy our railway journey.



We can't wait to host you at High Tea in our new café!

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???

- Lady who goes camping must be aware of evil intent.
- Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.
- War does not determine who is right, it determines who is left.
- Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

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 five sponsors on board, all sponsors offer in kind support for which we are extremely grateful.



*Replaced 4.1m timbers in runout.
January working bee.
Original Oberon lockup in the background.*

Visit OTHR every time 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.



*Yes, those sleepers really needed replacing!
January working bee.*

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?

So, what do these jobs entail? Let's look at a couple this month:

Curator Oberon Station Interpretive Display. This position is a significant job that entails managing the display of railway items within the station.

- Ensure that the display items are kept in a tidy fashion and a suitable description accompanies each piece.
- Maintains the display area in a tidy fashion that includes dusting and cleaning.

This position would be ideal for someone who wants to volunteer on a part time basis. We would envisage that they would tend the Interpretive Display every couple of weeks.

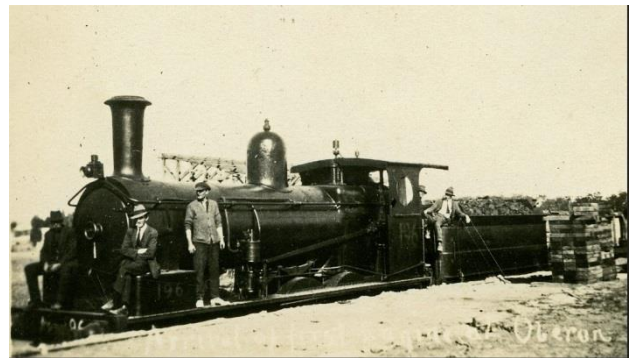
Finance Manager. This position is very well suited to someone with an accounting background. Duties include:

- Complies with OTHR's Safety Management System provisions and related standards and procedures.
- Prepares annual Financial Plans with the Treasurer and the Finance Sub-Committee.
- Prepares accounts for audit and annual financial statements for the Office of Fair Trading.
- Chairs the Finance Sub-Committee.
- Applies for grants from funding bodies.
- Organises raffles and other fund-raising activities.

- Organises promotional goods for sale in collaboration with the Publicity Officer.
- Co-ordinates the preparation of OTHR's Business Plan.
- May carry out random audits to ascertain compliance with Safety Management System.

If you have skills suited to either position and would like to become a part of a professional association initially as a volunteer, then we would love to talk to you.

Please contact President Greg for a discussion.



*Locomotive at Oberon Station, date unknown.
Photo supplied by Denis Chamberlain*

Alan Barham Maintenance Team Award.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. is indeed in distinguished company when you mention Acting Vice President and Engineering Manager, Ken Lingabala.

Within railway circles, Ken is a revered authority on track maintenance amongst other qualifications. Ken is a Permanent Way Institute Member and a lead judge on the committee that judges the Alan Barham Maintenance Team Award. This is a prestigious award that railway maintenance teams strive to win.

Alan Barham commenced service as a trainee Civil Engineer with the NSW Government Railways in 1965.

He spent time at Cowra as a District Engineer before becoming Division Engineer Tamworth, a position he held for several years.

When FreightRail was created in 1989 Alan became the Infrastructure Engineering Manager and continued in that position until June 1996 when he joined the newly created Rail Access Corporation as Senior Asset Manager for the Hunter, North Coast and North West areas.

Alan died in 1997 from cancer.

Alan was an advocate of the importance of the local routine maintenance performed by fettling gangs to deliver safety and reliability for the Railway. It was for this reason that the PWI named the Maintenance Team Award for Best Kept Length as it was formerly known in his honour.

The award was established to recognise Maintenance Teams and the pride taken in maintenance of the track and associated structures. While Alan was a Committee Member of the PWI he promoted the Award throughout New South Wales and was involved in the judging.

A typical Routine Maintenance team undertakes surveillance inspections, servicing, minor corrective maintenance and emergency response, for track, bridges, right of way assets and possibly signal assets. The team needs to be operating in NSW.

Judging Criteria. The period under consideration is based on the financial year preceding the annual convention (2018/2019). Applicants are assessed against People, Organisation and Leadership, and Achievement criteria. Judges evaluate outcomes and conditions which are within the Maintenance Team's control as far as possible. It is recognised that track configuration, investment programmes, operating parameters and to a large extent general infrastructure condition are outside the Maintenance Team's control

The Judges seek to identify the best use of management and technical expertise, and the most effective use of resources in maintaining the track to meet operational requirements. This year the Judges also attended the Visual Management Centre (VMC) meeting for each nominee, giving an

opportunity to see how teams were engaged from the commencement of their shift.

Both with their nomination and during judging Maintenance Teams describe the reasons why they deserve to be recognised for excellence in Routine Maintenance, and provide supporting documentation where available. The judging criteria is detailed as follows:

Team Leadership, Readiness and Engagement:

- Capability
- Responsiveness and Commitment
- Engagement
- Succession Planning
- Leadership

Productivity (Effectiveness and Efficiency)

- Scoping
- Short work plan (2-3 weeks)
- Long term work plans (12+ months)
- Strategic Engagement
- Efficiency strategies

Compliance and Assurance

- Workplace Safety
- Infrastructure Compliance
- Operational Assurance
- Environmental Compliance

Achievement

- Innovation
- Challenge

Entrants in 2018/2019 were:

- Sydney Trains -City East Track Team
- Sydney Trains - Western Territory Civil Team
- ARTC - Taree and Dungog Provisioning Centre
- ARTC - Broken Hill Provisioning Centre
- JHR CRN – Nyngan Routine Maintenance Team

We are indeed fortunate to have Ken as part of our management team. We know that when we produce documents they are knowledgeable and we know that our resulting work is exact.

Johnston's efforts brought about Oberon Railway line

By Denis Chamberlain.

The Western Advocate, Wednesday 6th July 1988

Many stories have been written on this particular branch line that starts at Tarana and terminates about 24.137km distance away at the town of Oberon.

The railway line to Oberon has for many years been in disuse, and now the State Rail Authority is calling for tenders for the purchase, demolition and removal of the station buildings in Oberon.

All this brings to mind the name Carl Johnston, MLA, who is the Legislative Member for Bathurst from March 24 1917, until February 17th 1922.

Today many people may not realise the fact that it was through the untiring efforts of this Labor Politician that the Tarana – Oberon railway became a reality.

The first steam train arrived at Oberon on October 3rd 1923 – the last steam train left Oberon on March 9th 1963, prior to diesel engines being introduced to the line that would only continue a short number of years before the line would finally close down permanently.

It was about the same time that Carl Johnston was born near Oberon in the O'Connell district, and after serving during the Boer War, and upon his return he joined the Labor movement when still very young.

He became actively involved in the amalgamated Miners Association, working at Burruga, Lithgow and the Portland mines.

As soon as Mr. Johnston became the Member for Bathurst, he pushed for the rail link.

A step closer was the Bill or Act authorising the work to be done was introduced by the Government on November 20th 1919, and finally on Saturday, May 28th 1921, Oberon residents

witnessed the first sod turned of the proposed railway by the Minister for Works, Mr. Estell.

The ceremony took place on the approximate site of the present station that shall shortly be just another memory.

The beautifully encased and inscribed silver spade, was presented to Mr. Estell, by Mr A.E. Butcher, president of the Oberon Railway League as a reminder of that auspicious day.

But the cloud of the depression had a tight grip on Australia in the 1920's, and many believed that the turning of the sod would be the last they would see of their railway.

At the ceremony, Mr. Nicholls, MHR, did not attempt to hide his doubts – honest or dishonest – about the completion of the railway at an early date.

He certainly would like to see the railway a fact, as he stressed that he had personally seen sods turned many, many years before the lines were actually built, and at that time there were many kilometres of unfinished railways in New South Wales.

In proposing success to the Oberon Railway League, Mr Johnston said that his efforts in support of the line were not prompted by political motives, as he stood to benefit little practically.

He said that he was born in the district in 1880, and that he wanted to be able to say that he had done something of real value to his native place.

At 14 years of age he had carried his swag in and out of Oberon, and was not ashamed – rather he was proud – to say it. As most politicians were not on office long, I want to do something while I'm there.

Carl Johnston was true to his word and kept up the battle to have the railway established despite severe family diversities that saw his wife Eva die suddenly in September 1921, leaving him with two small boys.

It was shortly after this that Mr. Johnston had to make the decision, to continue politics or raise his young sons, of which he chose the latter.

He never remarried again, but entirely devoted himself to the upbringing of his boys, gaining employment back in the work force.

Mr Johnston lived at Annandale until 1927, and then Manly.

Later in 1938 he moved in with his youngest son at Balgowlah until his death on February 11th, 1957.

The last wish of Carl Johnston was to have his ashes spread over the railway lines in front of the Oberon Station.

This wish was carried out by his family, as he felt the railway line to Oberon was his greatest achievement that he had ever worked for.



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 five 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

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

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Bronze Sponsor Oberon Trash Pak

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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.

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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

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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.

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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