

History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway
January 2020



Restoration work on Oberon Station Platform Completed



Restoration of the Oberon Heritage Railway Platform has been completed.

I'm sure you'll agree that Oberon Heritage Station looks a treat.

Our contractors, the Morestone Group, from Bathurst have done an exceptional job. Some minor work will be done sometime this month when the timber has weathered a bit more.

Work is progressing on the rail with the OTHR team replacing some rail in front of the station ready for track certification.

Your Committee is looking forward to bringing the locomotives and carriages up to the station, most particularly for the Heritage Fair scheduled for the 14th March. All members and the broader community are invited to the Fair. The event will showcase a number of milestones for OTHR, years in the making. You will truly see the start of the rebirth of the Oberon to Tarana branch line.

We are excited that life is returning to the very historic branch line.

Patrons

Paul Toole

State Member for Bathurst, Deputy Leaders 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

Martyn Salmon

Vice President/Asset Manager

Secretary

Position vacant - Greg Bourne Acting

John Brotchie

Treasurer:

Graham Williams

Track Manager:

David McMurray

Fundraiser, Newsletter Editor/Publicity

Ken Lingabala

Engineering Manager

Managers

Timo Kanko

Operations Manager
Rolling Stock Manager

Elaine Boxer

Catering Manager

Mike O’Kane

Events Manager

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- Phone: 0437 389 684
- Email: admin@othr.com.au
- Website: www.othr.com.au
- Facebook: www.facebook/OTHR.Inc



President Greg Bourne

Presidents Message

The station platform work is finished. There has been a great deal of very positive feedback on the completed work.

The replacement rail in front of the station platform was the focus of the working bee on the 4th and 5th of December. There was follow up work on Saturday 7th and 14th with some final pinning down left to be completed in the lead up to Christmas Day – that has been completed. There are a small number of sleepers that need replacing and we have a work programme that will see that done before a track inspection on the 6th January.

We have received the draft lease documents for the HOL, north of Albion Street. The matter is progressing well. There will be a meeting with John Holland Rail, Oberon Council and OTHR in the first business week of the New Year to finalise the location of the boundaries in some key areas.

Overall a good month with important milestones being achieved.

Greg Bourne
President/ SMS Manager
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

2020 already – Happy New Year to all our readers! January is a time to reflect on the year ahead and maybe make a resolution or two that always seem to be broken within a week or so.

A resolution is a firm decision to do something.

So, what resolutions have we set at OTHR?

We have set plenty and we don't intend to break any. Here are but a few:

- Put a Heritage Operators Licence in place so we can control about 14.3K if the Oberon to Tarana branch line corridor.
- Get certification of the rail line in the Oberon Railway precinct.
- Start the refurbishment/rebuild of the track Oberon to Hazelgrove.
- Refurbish one of the end carriages as a café for use at open days and special events.
- Highlight OTHR progress with a Heritage Fair at the station.
- Fund new toilet facilities including for ladies and the disabled.
- Fund the refurbish the 1923 Men's Toilet facility.
- Make the Oberon Tarana Railway heritage precinct a great place for group visits.
- Highlight Oberon as a great place for groups and associations to visit.
- Enter a cross promotion arrangement with the Bathurst Rail Museum.
- Service the locomotives and bring them into service.

These are just a few of our resolutions.

We don't intend to fail because we are the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc.

"The new year stands before us like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

Melody Beattie"



Volunteers replacing the line in front of the station at the last working bee.

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.**



New member and volunteer Jessie Bijok cleaning down the station façade after the station platform restoration

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.
- Asset Manager – 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.

Please contact President Greg Bourne on gpbourne@gmail.com or admin@othr.com.au or mobile 0437 389 684 with a CV of experience.

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.

As a result of our recently granted accreditation to shunt locomotives in the Oberon yard we are seeking volunteers who would like to train as drivers or ancillary staff.

Please contact Vice President Martyn Salmon by email at admin@OTHR.com.au

OTHR is a volunteer group so you will be volunteering with a fun group but with serious intent.

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 one: 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.



Our pensive Vice President looking out for trains

New merchandise delivered

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.

Get in for yours now.

An online store is being set up to allow distant members to purchase our merchandise. Look for it soon as part of the OTHR website.

Further additions to the merchandise range will be added slowly throughout 2019.

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.

At the time of writing....

...all States in Australia are suffering the joint calamities of severe drought and bushfires.

The OTHR Committee of Management understands that many of our readers have been badly impacted, especially by the fires, and we stand with you at such a horrendous time. Some of our fellow railway groups nearby have come under threat.

OTHR especially wants to acknowledge the Rural Fire Service and its volunteer officers who have been fighting the fires for weeks without relief. We acknowledge the tragic deaths of two volunteers from the Horsley Park brigade; they gave their lives that others might be saved and have a better future.

Special mention should be made of the Oberon Branch of the Rural Fire Service who has been assisting around the State without fear or favour.

Although heavily affected by smoke, Oberon has opened its doors to our neighbours in the Upper Blue Mountains as a place of refuge. Our local town volunteers are doing what they can to make these fire refugees lives a little more comfortable. They are also assembling personal packs for the fire fighters to help make their circumstances a little easier. Local businesses and residents have been extremely generous in donating goods for the packs.

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway is proud to be part of such a generous community.



A very early working bee scene down at the Hazelgrove stop

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.

Oberon has a long and sometimes quirky history.

Did you know, for example, that Oberon was located about 5Kms to the East of the present town and was originally known as Bullock Flat.

The town was renamed "Oberon" after the king of the fairies in Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" according to the mythology of the Whalan Family.

At the same time of the town's renaming it was moved west to an elevated position and proclaimed a town in 1863.

Most of the modern day business premises were built in the 1950's.

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

Oberon 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 January include:

- Mayfield Summer Festival from Saturday 11th January to Sunday 26th January
- Australia Day Celebrations featuring the community smoko from 9.00AM and Official Ceremony from 10.00 AM Sunday 26th January.

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 week end.
- 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.



*Sailing on Lake Oberon
More than you imagine.*

Date announced for 2020 Oberon Heritage Fair

OTHR Committee has announced the Oberon Heritage Fair will be held on Saturday 14th March 2020.

2020 sees Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. promoting the Fair at the Oberon Heritage Station Precinct.

With two museums and the Oberon Railway Interpretive Display all on site, the Fair promises a very different format to the Fair presented by the Oberon Heritage & Collectors Club Inc. in 2019. Both groups are closely aligned and take it year about to present the Fair.

We are very close to announcing some unique displays.

Your club is invited to visit for a great fun day and display your vehicles. If you intend to stay please book your accommodation early.

Reserve Saturday 14th March 2020 to enjoy a day of all things heritage. This event is not to be missed.



It's amazing what you could find in Oberon NSW.

Next Working Bee.

**Keep an eye on the
"News/What's On"
Section of the
Website.**



*An early working bee featuring
volunteers Matt and Charles*

November/December Working Bee wrap....

OTHR volunteers had a number of mini working bees and the project working bee during the period.

Project working bee 4th & 5th December 2019.

A working bee was held on the 1st Wednesday and Thursday of December, to replace a number of 24' lengths of rail in front of the platform that had corroded foot damage.

Wednesday morning saw eight OTHR volunteers on the day, de-pinning sleepers, moving the old rail out and moving the newer rail in place. After bolting the newer rail to the existing rail ensuring the rail was in gauge and was pinned 1 in 4. Also, the Station building had a bit of a clean on the platform side and inside to remove the dust generated from a month of construction rebuilding the platform retaining wall and coping edge.

Thursday morning saw four OTHR volunteers continue re-pinning the newer rail and recover another 4 lengths of rail from another part of the yard, ready for Saturday's mini working bee.

Other tasks included:

- Vegetation control around the tracks – an ongoing task.
- Internal painting of HLF 854
- Completing the replacement of the 14 lengths of corroded foot damaged rail at the station platform.

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.



Meanwhile moving line at the most recent working bee

Important Dates for Volunteers

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.

Monthly Open Days.

The Oberon Station precinct holds open days on the 1st Saturday of the month, the same day as the Oberon Farmers Markets.

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.



A frosty scene at the Hazelgrove Stop siren in about 2006

OTHR Café on the way.

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 will be part of the OTHR Tourist Train experience when we are operating to Hazelgrove and in due course beyond. It will also be a catering point for special event train tours.

The café is being constructed in such a way that it doesn't destroy the integrity of the carriage; all items removed are being carefully stored and the carriage can be restored to original condition easily in due course.

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



*Building the line 1920's
Photographer unknown, supplied by Denis Chamberlain*

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....

If anyone hears of the passing of one of our members please let the editor know via President Greg so we can make a special mention

Say Whaat???

- A man without a woman is a bachelor.
A woman without a man is a genius
- If you need a shoulder to cry on, pull off to the side of the road.
- Any day this side of the flower bed is a good day.
- A man who wants a pretty nurse must be patient.

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.



Another action scene at the latest working bee

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.



*Loco 1919 leaving Oberon Station for Tarana.
Photographer unknown.*

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:

Asset Manager. This position would suit someone who is meticulous, has some computer skills and lots of patience.

Duties include:

- Maintaining a written record (database) of all OTHR's equipment, tools, machinery, infrastructure, rollingstock, and locomotives. A duplicate copy of the database is to be provided to the Document Controller so that it is available on the OTHR computer for use by Managers.
- Progressively add a photographic record in the above database.
- Carry out regular stocktakes as required by the Committee of Management.
- Utilise the data to advise the Committee of Management on projected needs or shortfalls on assets deterioration and on damaged assets.

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.

My Great Train Trip: The Great Southern loop.

John Brotchie is the Treasurer of OTHR and did what any train enthusiast would do for a holiday – go on a train trip! Here's his story:

"The day was the 30th May 2019 when the adventure began. We arrived at Sydney Central at 4.30 AM for a departure at about 5.15 AM. None of us were really awake.

The train left Sydney hauled by privately owned 42 Class Diesel 4203 to Goulburn where we were joined by steamer 5917. Both locos then took the lovely old train to Junee for our lunch stop and then on to Albury for our first night.

Next morning we arrived at Albury Station, again quite early. From Albury we were hauled by a former Spirit of Progress loco 5313 and another diesel T357 stopping briefly at a number of places, including Seymour, then on to Melbourne where we spent the night.

Next morning early at Southern Cross Station we boarded for our next leg with former Vicrail steam loco R711 and again T357. We moved on to

Seymour where we left the Sydney/Melbourne line and headed west through Kyabram to Echuca where we enjoyed a lunch cruise on the Murray River on board a number of steam propelled paddle wheelers.

Back on the train, across the river to NSW, the first time in many years that a Victorian Train used the track to Deniliquin. In Deniliquin we left the train and travelled to Griffith by road coach as there is no rail link between these two towns.

We spent two nights in Griffith, enjoying a sightseeing trip and a lovely lunch at a farm and also a wine tasting at De Bortoli winery.

Due to track work between Griffith, Temora and Stockinbingal, next morning departed Griffith and travelled back to Junee, to Harden, Stockinbingal then on to Parkes for our last night away.

The last morning, departed Parkes to Orange where 5917 joined us again then on to Bathurst for a great pub lunch then on to Lithgow where we farewelled 5917. The rest of the trip was just 4203. We made an unscheduled stop in Springwood in the Blue Mountains where I disembarked as that is where I had left my car seven days earlier.

The whole trip was organised by a Sydney travel company, Cruise Express, and was exceptionally well run and I highly recommend them to anyone thinking of doing any of their rail trips."



Engine 5917 that hauled John out of Sydney Central on his great rail expedition.

Steam days at Oberon Feeding the crows from a moving train

By Denis Chamberlain.

The Western Advocate, Friday, August 2, 1991

The recent "Central West Sunday" story on the Tarana-Oberon railway created much interest and generated some confusion by the picture of an engine standing at the Oberon platform.

In fact the engine had not just arrived as stated, but was about to depart for Tarana.

The photo is unique as it captured a rare shot of a 19 Class engine operating in the opposite direction from its normal turning order.

A fresh engine would always depart Bathurst for Tarana tender first on the "up road", take on water at Locksley, and change over with the Oberon crew at Tarana.

Engines would remain at Oberon Loco from four to eight weeks before they were sent back to Bathurst for a washout or repairs.

The only time a double headed engine on a train would be seen was when the fresh one was swapped and made use of a double load to Oberon.

This practice was prohibited down the steep grade from Oberon and only one engine would be seen hauling a train to Tarana, the other travelling as a light engine tender first.

It is worth mentioning some of the enginemens that worked on the line in those days. They were: Jack (Curly) Morris, Frank Ryan, George Wilson, Meggie McFadden, Frank Brennan, Merv Paix and Jungle Jim McGrath.

Vic Rivett was the Tarana Fuelman who operated the coal stage – topping up the tender with coal daily assisted by the fireman.

Retired railwayman Lou Stevens grew up on the line where his father Earnest W Stevens worked as a ganger in the 1920s.

Lou remembers that one of the early engine drivers was Bert Hay. The guard was named Lee who was in the habit of throwing scraps of food from the moving train to feed the crows; Les Edmonds was another early worker.

Retired engine driver of 35 and half years, Vince E. Byers worked as a fireman at Oberon Loco Depot from 1958 until 1963.



Engine Driver Vince Byers

Vince worked the last steam hauled goods train in February 1963 accompanied by driver Bill Osborne and guard Victor Willott, whilst the then station master at Oberon was Herb Cunynghame.

Vince said a comfortable load to haul was about 110 tons. But if you had a dull steamer such as No 1957 the crew would stop at the unofficial spot between Fish River Bridge and Carlwood which was nicknamed "Carlgrove".

Here sufficient steam was raised for the determined assault up the steep incline towards Oberon.

Most haulage from Oberon would consist of about six "S" trucks loaded with hardwood timber destined for the silver mines at Broken Hill. The guards van consisted of half passenger accommodation at one end. Sometimes during a busy season weekend goods trains would run, and during the pea picking season a special night train would run.

Incidentally Vince was associated as a driver for many years with the running of vintage steam trains in the Central West.

The last great engine under his able control was the famous Flying Scotsman which he drove from Bathurst to Dubbo in June 1989.

As old memories often fail, and yours truly id no exception to this rule of time for it has been 29 years since I worked a doubled headed train to Oberon under driver Steve Panajotovic.

Vince and driver Osborne worked the lead engine that we swapped over at Tarana.

My old friend Vince produced a print of the last steam train which showed engine No 1919 (and not 1942 as I wrote down in error).

The single was attached to carriages on the Tarana end of the Oberon platform and dated March 2, 1963.



Engine 1945 about to depart Oberon for Tarana. Note this phot shows the station entrance and carpark at the rear of the platform where the Oberon District Museum is now located. Photographer unknown.

Denis Chamberlain OAM is a well-known Bathurst historian and author. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to veterans and their families and to the community of Bathurst in 2015. In 2018 he was awarded the RSL ANZAC of the Year.

Denis has written 14 books ranging in topics from a history of Bathurst to histories of various district families.

In his younger years he was employed by the railways as a fireman and worked in Lithgow, Goulburn and Bathurst and of course on the Oberon branch line.

Summer Special

Firewood grade sleepers for sale

6 x 4 Box trailer load

\$50.00

Contacts

For all enquires

President: Greg Bourne,
0437 389 684

Email admin@othr.com.au

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 number of sponsorship levels available. By sponsoring OTHR and its vision you will become a partner of the programme.

Email: admin@othr.com.au

Phone: 0437 389 684

Proud Sponsors

Primary Sponsor



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 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, 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 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 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

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.



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.

Payment:

Direct Bank Transfer - BSB 062632. Account Number: 1004 9851. Please include your name as a reference.

Cheques – made payable to Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc. and mailed to PO Box 299 Oberon NSW 2787.



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