



History on the Move

Newsletter of Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway

June 2026



3265 at Thirlmere during our Sector Meeting

Patrons

Paul Toole
State Member for Bathurst

Andrew Gee
Independent Member for Calare

Committee

Casual Vacancy
President

Jessie Clark
Treasurer

Michael Clark
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

Welcome to our June 2026 Newsletter

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

Just a reminder that the fiscal year will be coming to an end soon and so will your current membership. Please consider renewing your membership before year end and continue to support OTHR. As always, 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/>

Regarding year end, our AGM will be held early this year on Saturday, July 18th at 1:30pm in the Oberon library. Further details will be communicated to members closer to this time.

Finally, don't forget about our Premium Winter Lunch. Treat yourself and someone special to our high end, high class seasonal lunches. Details within.

OTHR Management Committee

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:

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- ✓ 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.

- 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.

Casual Vacancy Appointment

It with great pleasure that we wish to announce that at our last Committee meeting, Timothy Barnes was appointed to the position of Committee Member, thus eliminating the casual vacancy in this position.

Tim brings a wealth of project management experience along with railway heritage construction experience to OTHR. We know Tim will be of great benefit to our group. Thankyou Tim for offering your services to our Committee.

OTHR Winter Lunch

Our Winter Lunch is selling out fast. Seats are extremely limited so don't miss out. Last year it snowed. Maybe it will again.



Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway presents

The Winter Lunch

Saturday 25th July 12 noon

Oberon Railway Station North Street Oberon NSW

Join us on board our heritage dining carriage for a sumptuous
4 course lunch with all the trimmings
Includes wine beer and beverages

\$120 pp

Tables hold 2 people only, tables must be booked for 2

Bookings

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



Artwork from a photo by Martyn Salmon

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Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Winter Lunch Menu

25 July 2026

\$120 per person

Wine, beer and soft drink included

Appetisers

Prawn and Saffron Arancini

Spinach and Smoked Salmon Roulade

Parsnip Blinis with Stilton, Walnuts and Honey

Entree

Double Baked cheese Souffles with Pea Sauce

Soup

Parsnip and Pear Soup with Cheesy toast

Entrements

Kaffir Lime Granita

Main Course

Beef Cheeks with Vanilla Carrot Puree and Thyme glazed Carrots

Dessert

Date, Orange and Olive Oil Cake with White Chocolate Ice Cream

Tea, Coffee and Chocolate.

CURRENT WORK IN PROGRESS

Station and Toilet Painting

Mike O’Kane, our resident master painter has been busily painting our new sash windows, frames and new fly screens along with parcel room rear doors for the Oberon station. They have come up a treat. As you would know we received a grant from Heritage NSW to repair the windows as they were in very poor condition. Mike has been busy getting paint on as the window was closing (excuse the pun) for painting due to the wonderful Oberon winter cold coming around again.

We also had one toilet door on the old Men’s toilet replaced by Dave Turek, local joiner, and the other repaired. These have also been primed and painted with heritage brown. Although not very glamorous, the Men’s toilet on site is believed to be possibly the only one left of precast concrete design and construction in NSW.

Hazlegrove Station Precinct

During a fortnight of unpleasant and wet weather volunteers laboured to complete stage one of the platform work at Hazelgrove being the hole drilling, post insertion and concreting of all posts. This was a solid amount of work, and it shows what a group of co-ordinated volunteers can achieve under a minimal budget.

The engineering plans called for 2400mm long posts. Given that only around 800mm maximum is above ground then there were some pretty deep holes bored with our 500mm auger. We managed well with all but one hole was giving us grief by not playing ball and being off centre. This hole happened to be the very first. We learnt quickly after that.

The picnic shelter is also progressing with the roof framing in place and is now ready for roofing and guttering.



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June Open Day

The June long weekend open day was again a great success with many visitors, young and old from across the region. The morning tea in the carriage was popular with many taking advantage of the scones and cakes. The weather was kind to us and it was a lovely sunny day so enjoyed by the visitors.

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New Building Progress

We have our construction certificate from Council so we can commence erection of the building. Due to the wet weather the commencement of the building construction has been delayed as our builder copes with jobs being pushed back. We hope to see progress in the near future.

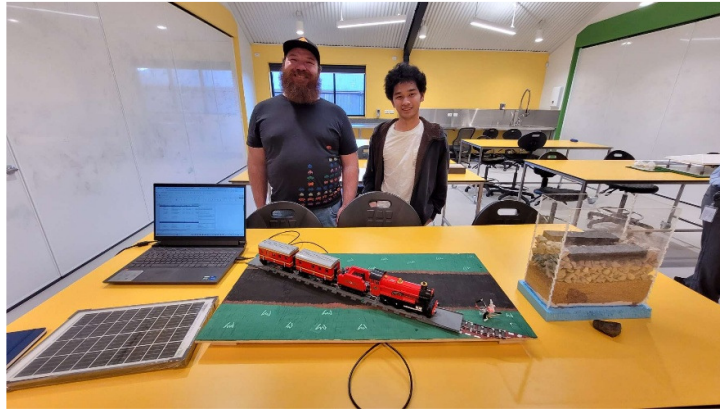
Training

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.

CSU Students

Once again OTHR has had the privilege of hosting students from the Charles Sturt University in Bathurst as part of their engineering curriculum. This year we had two groups working on the removal and replacement of the Lowes Mount Road level crossing and one group working on a rolling stock inspection pit withing the rolling stock shed. All three groups delivered great results. It is worth noting that their lecturer insists on the students treating us as a client for whom they are performing engineering work. This gives the students real life experience in dealing with external parties, something that is difficult to teach in the classroom. All students said they thoroughly enjoyed the exercise. At the end of their work they present OTHR with plans that, although are not certified (as they are not yet engineers) can become a great point to start from in pushing these projects to fruition if we so decide to.





HS36 Progress

Not a lot of progress has been made on HS36 these last two months due to the pressing works needed at Hazelgrove. That said the top sill coping timber was removed to reveal significant rot behind it. The sill beneath was scraped clean of this rot and can be repaired, however it was discovered that the ends of three roof members that traverse the car and sit in mortises in the sill have rotted up the end grain to a point where they are no longer structurally engaged with the sill. This issue will require further investigation with THNSW.



THNSW Sector Meeting

Every six months THNSW holds a sector meeting where representatives of various heritage groups gather to discuss all sorts of things. This also becomes a great networking opportunity. The executive of the Committee attended this meeting at Thirlmere Railway Museum on Saturday 30th May. It was an informative and interesting day, particularly meeting other heritage rail operators and museums. There were presentations from THNSW on recruitment and retention of volunteers and locomotive conspicuously using lights, Byron Bay Solar Train and Ladysmith Tourist Railway at Ladysmith, Wagga Wagga.

The museum also provided a train ride during our lunch break to Buxton behind P class 3265, as well as a picnic lunch. Definitely a worthwhile and enjoyable day.



3265 after returning from Buxton.

Track Certification

It was a cold, wet and windy day as OTHR engaged On Rail to inspect and certify the line in the yard and out to Hazelgrove. Following inspection, the yard was certified for use at speed of 10kph except for the goods line. This has been locked out.

The remainder of the line to Hazelgrove needs additional work with around about 200 sleepers needing replacement. A single length of track near tip road was identified as having a cracked foot and will have to be swapped out. On Rail were very concerned re the lack of ballast in the four-foot as well as many areas of shoulder being unsupported. OTHR are investigating the process to get some light ballast to fill the four foot and shoulders. It's all not bad news though. The section of track from the yard to Hazelgrove has been certified for light track maintenance vehicles (Wickham, TIC). This is good as it supports our ability to apply to ONRSR for an RTO to operate TMV's to Hazelgrove for maintenance purposes.

AGM 2026

The Annual General Meeting for OTHR will be held on Saturday July 18th at 1.30pm in the Oberon library. Nomination forms, agenda and previous minutes will be sent in a separate email shortly to all members.



From the Heritage Galley



Missing our famous on board lunches?

Coronation Chicken Sandwiches

Ingredients

- 500g chicken breasts, poached and shredded
- 5g fresh parsley leaves
- 50g raisins
- 50g unsalted peanuts
- 250g mayonnaise
- 2 tsp curry powder
- 1tsp ground turmeric
- ½ - 1 tsp fine sea salt to taste
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper

Preparation

1. Chop parsley, raisins and peanuts add to a bowl.
2. To the bowl add, mayonnaise, shredded chicken, curry powder, turmeric, salt and pepper and mix.
3. Divide between 6 sandwiches and serve.

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. 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.





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:** _____

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