

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc

President's Report for the 2025 Annual General Meeting

It is my pleasure to report on the progress of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc from October 9th, 2024, to 8th October 2025. The time span from July 1st, 2024, to 8th October 2024 is covered in the President's Report given on 9th October 2024, copies are available from the Secretary on request.

The report is in two parts. That which is being read and a PowerPoint Presentation.

This report covers the following areas:

1. A summary of the year's activities
2. A record of the year's achievements
3. A preview of what is planned for the next year.
4. Re-statement of the organisation's vision.

The treasurer's report will be given in section 4.2 immediately following the President's Report

COMMITTEE:

President: Greg Bourne

Vice-president: Michael Clark

Project Manager: HS36 Restoration

Secretary: Elaine Boxer

Catering Manager

Treasurer: Jessie Clark

Catering Team

Committee Members:

Michael O'Kane,

Catering Team, and Amenities Block Organiser

Mark Handel

Track Manager and Rolling Stock Manager

Trent Elliott

Vegetation Control and Milestone Recording

MEMBERSHIP: Membership and renewals are on par with same figures of last year. We are grateful to those members who chose to include a donation when the yearly subscription is paid. It is not unusual for a \$100 payment consisting of \$40 membership and \$60 donation.

FINANCES

The treasurer's report will show that we have the funds to pay our accounts when they fall due. It is important to note that during this financial reporting year 2024-2025 the payments from all grants were such that our status with the Department of Fair Trading has changed to a Tier 2 Association.

GRANTS

We are constantly looking for opportunities to improve our facilities and rolling stock.

Grant	Details
Council 356 Funding 2025 to 2026	Vegetation control and Insurance - \$6,228
Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant	Acquitted Facilities in Oberon Yard - \$146,000 Ongoing – end date March 31 2025
Transport Heritage NSW HS36	Return to service - \$184,000. Ongoing – Work in Progress
Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5	Improvements to Hazelgrove Site \$163,000 Ongoing – Work in progress

Vision for 2025 – 2026

Variation to accreditation to run a tourist train to Hazelgrove.

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Veolia Mulware 2024 Grant application	Funding for zero turn lawn mower - \$10,000
2025-27 SHR135 Caring for State Heritage	Funding for repairs to the Station Building \$14,490.00 (excluding GST)

ONRSR

- At the present time OTHR has two levels of accreditation from ONRSR. RIM (Rail Infrastructure Manager) Oberon to Hazelgrove and RTO (Rail Transport Operator) Oberon Yard
- We are currently working closely with ONRSR for variations to accreditation in 3 steps
 1. Variation to accreditation to run section cars (track maintenance vehicles) to Hazelgrove.
 2. Run locomotives to Hazelgrove for training purposes
 3. Run locomotives and carriages to Hazelgrove.
- We have been in regular contact with ONRSR personnel during the year. The most recent was on September 10th for the Annual Regulatory Meeting. We had an official Audit on March 19th and we were given notice of a non-conformance in our documents. One section has been completed and closed. The deadline for the other two sections have been extended to December 31st.

WORKING BEES

- A small group has continued to work every Saturday. There are usually extra weekdays put in by the volunteers who live close by.
- Arthur Robinson has concentrated on mowing in the yard. Barry Webb has found that his knee restricts his movements, but he has continued with his whipper snipper in the yard and routine gardening matters.
- Project Manager of HS36 restoration, Michael Clark, has been continually active in the rolling stock shed. He has restored large sections of the frame and match board covering, internal ceilings and interior woodwork. He has organised the re-upholstering of the leather seats in H3S6 and collected various other items that will be needed in that project. Michael Clark has been assisted on a regular basis by Michael O’Kane.
- Michael O’Kane – New Amenities Block contact and organiser.
- Mark Handel – Rolling Stock Manager has continued to work on both locomotives. We have outsourced brake valve repairs and certification to B7 Rail Consultants in Strathalbyn, South Australia. This involved removal and replacement when the valves were returned to Oberon. 7321 has been removed from service for major servicing, rust removal, and painting. 7307 has been the main shunting locomotive.
- Mark Handel – Track Manger has led the small team of fettlers on various mini and maxi projects. The northern turnout has had more attention and some of the preliminary work has been modified to improve it and bring it up to the required standard. The kilometre and half kilometre posts have been installed and painted. Recently a significant improvement was made to a section of track at 218.600 which included addition of concrete pipes, removal of old sleepers and 3 sections of rail. Sleepers have been replaced, levelled and the raised section has been eliminated. Work has been done on the cess in various places which has improved the runoff of water from the track which of course means that sleepers are drier and will last longer.
- Vegetation Control. Our leasehold is around 6km long and 20m wide Volunteers are expected to keep it neat and tidy. We do spray the line for everything and outside of that where possible remove noxious weeds such as blackberry and St John’s Wort. Fallen trees have been a problem on occasions.

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EVENTS

The committee cancelled the first Saturday of each month the Open Days early this year. The numbers on those Saturdays were very variable and often disappointing. The committee agreed it would be a better use of our time and finances to wait until trains are moving before regularly opening again.

We do take small group bookings as well as larger groups such as car clubs. A small group booking can be made using the president's phone number 0437 389 684. The numbers from the small group bookings have exceeded the previous Open Day numbers. The yard is open to visitors by appointment.

We have been able to have High Teas, Seasonal Lunches in the Heritage Carriages and other similar events during the year. These have been financially successful. The catering team, Elaine Boxer, Jessie Clark, and Mike O'Kane have consistently prepared and served meals of the highest standard.

WEBSITE, FACE BOOK, AND NEWSLETTER

These three are an important part of overall publicity and add to the public perception of the organisation.

Blair Rouxelle of Easy Flow Web Design is the website administrator which is based in Lithgow. Blair has been easy to work with. Newsletters and other essential information are being added regularly.

The OTHR Facebook page has continued with Alex Boromisa being the administrator. Michael Clark posts to the page regularly as events take place. It has a strong following.

We have changed the format of the newsletter and continue to enjoy the positive feedback that has come from increasing the size of the photos and having more information on what is happening in the day-to-day activities of committee members and volunteers.

IN CONCLUSION

This year committee members have had an increased workload. We are constantly applying for grants. These can be time consuming and, in most cases, very demanding especially when it comes to getting together the essential supporting documents. We need to thank our patrons Andrew Gee and Paul Toole who are always ready with a letter of support. The Oberon Council office workers are always most supportive as well.

Documentation for changes to operations and our SMS are also time consuming. The number of hours and days that committee members have spent at home "doing the books" or in the yard and rolling stock shed has been way above the normal commitment of volunteers.

THANKS

I thank.

- The committee members for their continued support and hard work.
- The various line managers who give time and effort to their various roles
- The individual members who support us by joining up each year

Many of them give a generous donation

Many give written support.

Greg Bourne
President
Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway
Wednesday, 8th October 2025.

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