



Norah Head Lighthouse Land Manager Board  
P.O. Box 4 Toukley, NSW 2263 Australia

## December 2019 Newsletter

# Merry Christmas

*The Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Land Manager Board wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.*

**DEC 11 & 12**

### **Full Moon Tours**

Public

· Hosted by Norah Head Lighthouse

The full moon is on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2109. The tours have proven to be very popular and because the Tour on the 12<sup>th</sup> is sold out an additional tour has been arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. Each month and like all sunsets and moon rises are unique every time. On 11<sup>th</sup> December moonrise is at 6.58pm. Our tour guide Kerrie is an astrologer and moon lover and will be walking us through the astrology, the astronomy, the sunset and the moon's position and influence. And of course taking you to the best vantage points on the reserve and drinking in the spectacular view of the full moon shimmering over the ocean.

The Keepers Watch Cafe food van will be open until late and we invite you to bring a picnic blanket and enjoy nature putting on a show for us. Our last tour also featured whale watching as they breached right in front of us!

Tickets are \$20 per person and include a tour to the top and time to spend photographing the beautiful light and the moon. The tour on 11<sup>th</sup> December is also almost booked out! To purchase your ticket please contact Tracy 0452 564 102.

For more information visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2695063630524825/>

## **Daylight Norah Head Lighthouse Tours**

Step back in time to feel what it was like to be a Lighthouse Keeper at Norah Head Lighthouse. Climb the 96 stairs and enjoy the 360 degree views from the tower balcony. Marvel at the optics prism and imagine polishing the 700 lenses of the prism. Learn about the duties of a Lighthouse Keeper. Learn how the light was originally operated, compared to how it works today. Hear the stories of shipwrecks in days gone by.

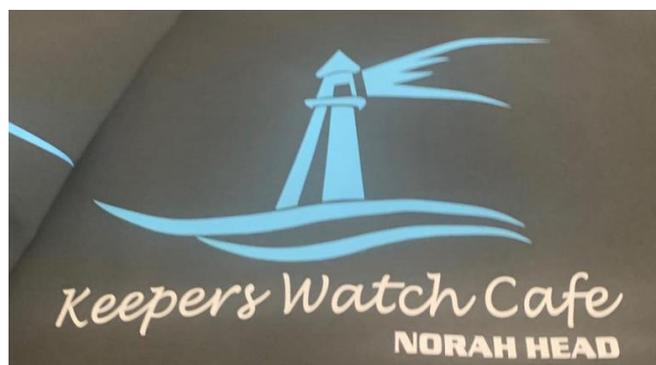
Operating Days and Times

Operating hours are from 10:00am to 1:30pm.

Norah Head Lighthouse is open for tours every day of the year (except ANZAC Day and Christmas Day).

Duration of the tour is 30 minutes.

## **Keepers Watch Café**



The Keepers Watch Café is open from 8am in the morning - come on out for Breakfast!



## Lighthouse Festival 2019



The Board Chairman Neil Rose reported:

"The Concert was amazing. The police were all smiles and reported no incidents. Keepers Watch Food van was flat out and Barbara and Michell were both exhausted but happy. There have been a number of requests to stage another concert early next year (during Autumn)."



A limit on numbers was set for safety reasons. Approximately 1600 people enjoyed the concert

### **Maintenance and Restoration**

The Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve is managed, maintained and where possible restored by a team of Volunteers. The Reserve has had limited benefit from the funding that has been available to other NSW lighthouses. Government at all levels is limiting the available pool of funds for project grants or funding assistance. There has been dollar-for-dollar grants and large borrowings (Government lending) by the Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Land Manager Board to provide new and maintain and restore existing assets on the Reserve. An example of this borrowing is the construction of a Public Toilet block on the Reserve that is wholly run and maintained by the Board.

A harbour bridge mentality has been adopted to deal with the areas in the Lighthouse Tower as they arise. This is cost effective, manages contaminants better, is less disruption and keeps the structure in in very good condition.



The Norah Head is a hostile environment with little protection from wind, rain, salt spray, UV rays and human use, that breaks down everything. In addition to the day to day running and maintain the reserve the Board has identified the need for the urgent expenditure of \$100,000.00 on items that are urgently needed to be addressed. State Government funding for this urgent work has not been forthcoming and the Board is exploring its options to have this work undertaken in 2020.

### **White Ant Infestation Of Stables**

The work of the Volunteer Maintenance Team (VMT) who use the stables as a base, was severely curtailed on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November when all their energies were engaged in stripping their benches, shelving, tools and equipment from the stables because of white ant infestation.

Lakes Pest Protection Pty Ltd inspection revealed that the amount of white ant damage is quite extensive. It is believed the termites got in though the wet ground at the tap adjacent to the outside sink. They have attacked the northwest garage door post from the inside of the stables. They have also attacked the architrave that runs around the doorway between the stables about the middle Curl House. It is anticipated the garage extension to the stables will have to be demolished. A shipping container has been hired to temporarily store the VTM's large amount of tools and equipment safely.

## WATERPROOFING THE LIGHTHOUSE PARAPET



**Volunteer Ron Currie with Mark Sheriff OAM standing on the original compass rose.**

For many years the Boards' Maintenance Volunteers have been patching water leaks in the concrete slab of the parapet which forms the roof of the office and plant room below. One of the many achievements of the Board in 2019 was to convince the Department of Industry to undertake the necessary repairs. It was a large job involving the careful removal of an asbestos layer and as well as many layers of attempted waterproofing that include on of fibreglass. The parapet was carefully stripped back to the concrete slab that was laid in 1903. It revealed that there were large cracks in the concrete that made it leak like a sieve. Then we had heavy rain while the work was going on and the rooms below were flooded. Thankfully there was little water damage. A cement screed was pumped onto the parapet and multiple layers of new waterproofing material was laid over the screed.

The Board employs former Seal Rocks lighthouse keeper, Mark Sheriff OAM to maintain our lighthouse in pristine condition. For Mark it is a labour of love. Mark was working on the tower in November and is programmed to be on site again in December 2019 as part of the continuous maintenance the lighthouse requires. The Board has approved Mark reinstating the compass rose that once graced the parapet.