



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

January 2020 Newsletter

Norah Head Lighthouse Tours

JAN 11 & 12

Guided Night Tours

Public

Hosted by [Norah Head Lighthouse](#)

The next full moon is on the 11th January, 2020 with an additional tour arranged for 12th January, 2020. All sunsets and moon rises are unique. On 11th January moonrise is at 6.21pm. If the night is clear you have the best vantage points on the reserve to drink in the spectacular view as well as photograph the full moon shimmering over the ocean as well

There are 3 tours each of 20 people planned from 7.30pm, 8.15pm and 9.00pm on Saturday 11th January 2020 (Full Moon tour) and same times for Sunday 12th January 2020. Tours are available at a ticket price of \$20.00 each payable by credit card at time of booking (no refunds). Flat soled shoes must be worn for the tour. Tickets will be allocated to the first 60 callers for each date and are available by phoning Tracy – the Reserve Site Manager on mobile 0452 564 102

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.

Guided Daylight Tours

Public

Hosted by [Norah Head Lighthouse](#)

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.

New Souvenir



Small models of the Norah Head Lighthouse are now on sale at the lighthouse by our Tour Guides for only \$15.00.

They are realistic and a great, memento of the lighthouse,

Volunteering

Norah Head Lighthouse is a working lighthouse. The light itself is administered by the NSW Department of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). The Reserve is administered by the NSW Department of Industry – Crown Reserves, using, with one exception, community volunteers. There are four categories of volunteers overseeing the successful operation of the reserve. There are the Coast Care Volunteers, the Volunteer Maintenance Team, the Tower Tour Guides and the Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Land Manager Board. The success of the reserve is dependant on each of volunteer groups. No one group is more important than any other. Each in their own way contribute to present a first-class Crown Reserve for the public to enjoy.

The Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Land Manager Board.

The Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve is managed by a Crown Land Manager Board (NHLRLM Board). These volunteers are appointed by the NSW Government and consist of six community members plus a Central Coast Council officer appointed by the minister. It is a legal entity established by the Crown Land Management Act 2016 so these volunteers, as members of a board, can manage Crown reserves. A statutory land manager board acts like a company board of directors. Members of the community who are appointed to statutory land management boards undertake a valuable role in the management of these community facilities and Crown reserves.

The exception to the volunteers is the Board's Reserve Site Manager, Tracy Stubbings, who lives on site and is a paid contractor. The Reserve Site Manager takes accommodation and weddings bookings, and has many other duties that keep the reserve safe and well maintained. Her presence on the reserve is the link to the volunteers that ensures the reserve is always as best it can be.

Coast Care Volunteers

Coast Care works the 14.5 hectares of bushland that forms the Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve. There are 10 dedicated volunteers devoted to maintaining the health of native vegetation on the Reserve and eradication of noxious non-native weeds.



Volunteers relaxing for morning tea in the Reserve's Stables. Social interaction is an important part of volunteering.

The Coast Care volunteers do a variety of jobs and are supported by Central Coast Council through their Landcare Division. They provide the team with supervision, support, training and financial resources for tools, equipment and plants.

The health benefits of undertaking conservation activities outdoors have been well documented. Significant research has shown that those participating in volunteering have better health outcomes in relation to physical and mental health, self-esteem, happiness and lower psychological stress. In broad terms it has been suggested that humans have a tendency to seek connection to nature. This would suggest that environmental volunteering fulfils basic human requirements deeply entrenched in our biology.

Education and training give the volunteers the opportunities to increase their skills and knowledge in areas related to environmental management. An ongoing education and training program are offered to active members of the program. There is induction training, an introduction to Bushcare/Landcare as well as other optional training in chemical certification, first aid, snake safety awareness, Aboriginal culture and heritage and the importance of bees, plant propagation and fungi.

When the first Reserve volunteers were appointed in 2002 the site was overgrown with lantana and bitou bush. The Coast Care volunteers work 2 full days per week on the Reserve eradicating noxious weeds and assist in the stabilisation of the cliffs surrounding the Reserve.

Volunteers also learn and develop practical skills through the program, for example which techniques to use to most effectively and efficiently control the weed species on the reserve and how to safely use the variety of tools that they have available to carry out their work.

As the volunteers are spending much of their time amongst the native trees and grasses the NHLRLMB provide special tick resistant clothing to each member of the team. As registered volunteers on the reserve they are covered by Crown Lands insurance.

Volunteer Maintenance Team

The Volunteer Maintenance Team (VMT) are tasked with maintaining the improvements on the reserve. Their work mainly involves some carpentry skills, painting and some stormwater drainage repairs. They renew and maintain the fencing on the reserve, the observation deck, the stairs to the rock shelf as well as minor maintenance of the Lighthouse Keepers Quarters and the Light Tower itself. While not the favourite occupation, painting occupies a lot of their time to keep the fencing around the reserve looking spick-and-span.

They usually work two days a week. There is always a long list of tasks that the services of the VMT team are needed for. They have a well-equipped workshop in the old stables and are provided with work cloths as are all the Reserve's volunteers



The VTM team renewing the deck at the Mariners Memorial.

Tour Guides

There are approximately thirty Norah Head Lighthouse Tour Guides. As the lighthouse is open almost every day between 10am and 1.30pm for tours the volunteers work on a roster system with a minimum of three volunteers on duty each day. Their day begins by turning off the alarm, opening the lighthouse and putting out the open welcome flag.

The Tour Guide welcomes the visitors and take them into the Report Room where they can pay for the tour, buy souvenirs and sign a waiver accepting the risks of climbing the 96 steps to the top of the lighthouse.

The guide usually then takes the visitors back outside and begins the tour by talking about the land the lighthouse sits on. They give a history of the lighthouse and explain how it was constructed. Those on the tour are told of the old days, before automation, of the Lighthouse Keeper's duties. The visitors are then taken up the tower with stops on the parapet and then at the red window and finally onto the observation gallery level to enjoy the magnificent views. They will learn about the machinery that makes the light revolve, the manufacture of the magnificent lenses and how in 1903, when the lighthouse opened, it was all done by a clockwork mechanism.