



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

October 2022 Newsletter

Future Management of the Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve. (NHLR)

At present the NHLR is managed by a Land Manager Board (LMB). Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales Number 33, dated 23 March 2018, appointed the current NHLRLMB for a term of five years, for a term commencing on the date of that notice.

At a recent meeting Crown Lands acknowledged the great work undertaken by the Board over the past 5 years. Crown Lands considers Norah Head Reserve is a much better place due to the efforts of the Board.

To continue the great work undertaken, Crown Lands, in consultation with the Board began a program to review alternate management models. Consideration of alternate management models is due to the expiry of the Board's term. The Board's current term is due to expire on 22 March 2023.

To enable consideration of alternate management models, Crown Lands in consultation with the Board, have agreed to extend the term of the current Board term for an additional 6 months from 22 March 2023. The extension will result in the term of the current Board being extended to 22 September 2023. The extension will allow the Department adequate opportunity to review alternate management models with the objective of ensuring the best possible management for the Reserve into the future.

In addition, Mr Ian Rhodes has resigned from the Board and appointment of an alternate member is in progress. Mr Rhodes has been an excellent member of the Board. The Board wishes Mr Rhodes the best for the future

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Installation of a Ducted Ventilation System to control the humidity level in the Quarters to be installed this month

Condensation and mould have been a continuing problem in the Quarters that the NHLRLM Board has been addressing by various means, without much success for several years. The most important means for avoiding adverse health effects is the prevention (or minimization) of persistent dampness and microbial growth, mould, on interior surfaces.

Mould is a naturally occurring type of fungi that can be found throughout the environment, both indoors and outdoors. Mould produces airborne particles called spores, which have the potential to cause health issues if inhaled by susceptible individuals. Mould may impact the health of people with allergies, asthma, weakened immune systems and/or other health conditions.

In addition to these established health impacts of mould, the prevalence of a condition referred to as Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS) has been described in Australia and internationally as a biotoxin-related illness. In some instances, CIRS and biotoxin-related illnesses have been reported to be associated with exposure to biotoxins such as mould in buildings. Moisture can also enter a building through incoming air or through a build-up of condensation.

The Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Land Manager (NHLRLM) Board is conscious of the heritage significance of the Reserve and the improvements on it. The course of action proposed in this document to control condensation in the Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters was not arrived at without a lot of soul searching and investigation of other alternatives.

The NHLRLM Board understood that this proposal is at direct odds with our stated policy, in our heritage registered Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which states that no new openings are to be cut in the Quarters ceilings.

The NHLRLM Board believed it had followed the Burra Charter principles when considering the installation of a ducted ventilation system to control the humidity level in our heritage structures; that is, we are doing as much as is considered necessary but as little detriment as possible to existing significant fabric of the Quarters.

The crux of this proposal was: **“Is the provision of ducted air necessary to control the moisture level in the quarters.”** The NHLRLM Board reached the conclusion, after lot of investigation and research, that it was necessary because it was the only solution that guarantees that the NHLRLM Board will be able continue with adaptive reuse of the of the quarters. That is, using them for accommodation, the income which is vital for the NHLRLM Board to continue to ensure the heritage of our Reserve is protected and maintained.

Major impact on the fabric of the existing ceilings had occurred in the past. None of the original lath and plaster ceilings are visible because they have been covered in the most part with Masonite sheeting with battens. The ceilings in the Dining Room and Sitting Room in Quarters Q3 have been Gyprocked as had the Kitchen in Quarters Q2.

It is considered that the proposal to alter the much-modified ceilings, by inserting discrete linear slot diffusers in each of the rooms has minimal impact on existing significant fabric or the architectural style of the much modified ceilings.



Supply Air and Return Air Grills



The impact of the outside units has been reduced by their proposed location and the proposal to screen the units.

Crown Lands has supported this proposal by providing funding for its installation. It is believed that this proposal will not have any significant impact on the fabric or alter the architectural style or character of the original buildings. The NHLRLM Board was successful in obtaining NSW Heritage approval to install slot ducting in the rooms of the Quarters. Twin Lakes Air and Solar Pty Ltd will be installing a Temperzone System this month.

MARK SHERRIFF OAM CASTS A LONG SHADOW OVER AUSTRALIA

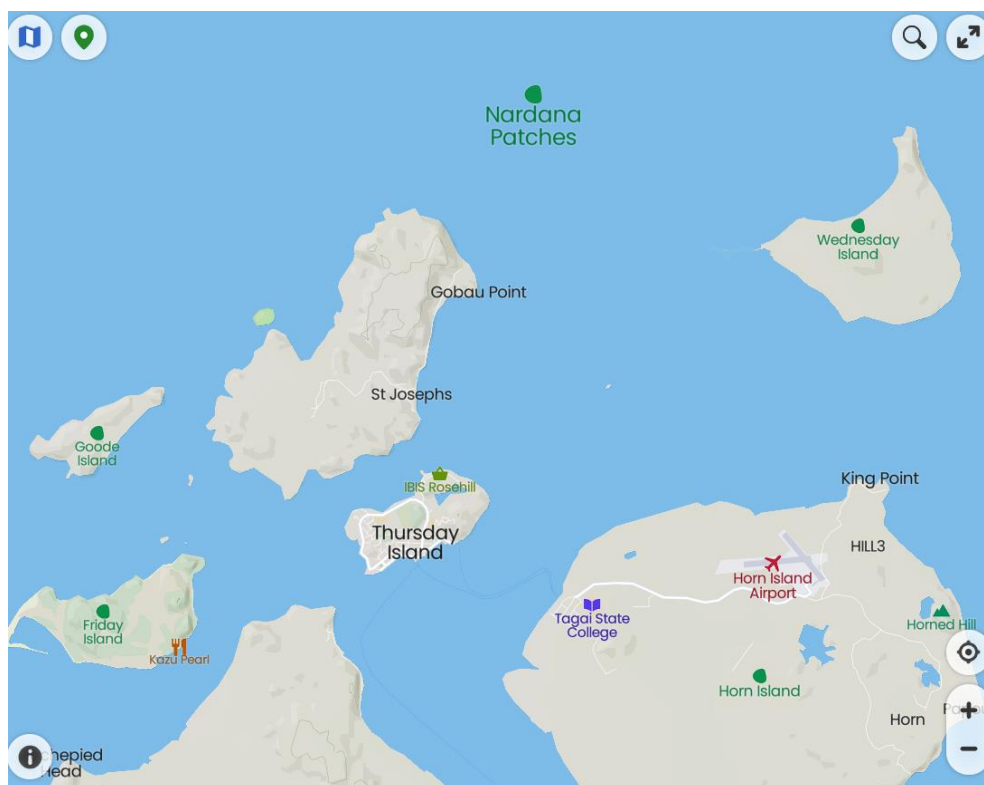


On Wednesday 14th September 2022, Mark emailed us from a faraway, run down, uninhabited light station at Cape Don, located at the tip of the Cobourg Peninsula, Northern Territory, Australia. He advised he planned to continue maintenance on Norah Head Lighthouse again this month.

On 20th September 2022, he was back at Norah Head Lighthouse emailing us that it was a beautiful day and that he was at a beautiful place and starting our maintenance. The visit was short lived. Mark is Australian Maritime Safety Authority's (AMSA) go to, lighthouse maintenance man, and on Monday he was called out to the Torres Straits to board AMSA vessel Coral Knight to undertake navigation aid work.



On 29th September he told us he was at present not far from Thursday Island.



Sitting in his cabin, he advised that at present they could only get onto site for short periods due to wind waves and tides. It involves tricky boat work, needing a good boat man, then once up, they jet blast and haul 10 batteries to the top. Change them out and carry out all these work orders. *“The corrosion control shall take some of me as you swing around underneath, above the water trying to do or attempt to do what is expected of you, easier said than done.”*



The Coral Knight is an emergency tow vessel

Mark's 29th September 2022 photo was taken this morning as they were testing out the fire pumps

We look forward to having him back at Norah Head Lighthouse again soon.

Day Lighthouse Tours are available every day. Tickets available at the Stables Shop where you can buy ice creams drinks and souvenirs.

Important Dates

15th and 16th October, 2022

This is Glass Week when the NHLRLM Board participates in 2022 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLASS which coincides with the 200th anniversary of the use of the Fresnel lens in lighthouses around the world.

12 November 2022

Lighthouse Festival Returns for a fifth time with headliner, John Butler. [Get Tickets Here](#)

15th November 2022

When the NHLRLM Board will celebrate the 119th anniversary of the opening of the lighthouse on 15th November 1903.

Contact our Site Manager, Tracy Stubbings (0452564102) to make a group booking on the Reserve. Email to info@norahheadlighthouse.com.au

📷 @jazziefizzle_16

