

Lighthouses of Australia Inc Vice Presidents Report 2011

The last year has been satisfying in seeing some of our previous work come to fruition.

In last years report I mentioned the poor condition of many of the NSW state controlled lights. On behalf of Lighthouses of Australia I worked with The Department of Land & Property Management to produce a workable plan for the repair of the heritage lights managed by this department to fit within a tight budget. As a result three of these lights have received major repairs & maintenance with others to follow in this years budget. Having recently visited Fingal Head, Richmond River & Tacking Point I can report that the results of this work have got these lights back to the condition they should have been kept in. Follow up work has been allowed for to ensure they stay that way as least for the next few years.

I have been diligently attending the Crookhaven Heads working committee meetings on behalf of LOA. Whilst the wheels of this type of committee do turn painfully slowly progress is being made. The removal of the lantern from the tower to the Dept of Corrective Services local prison will take place shortly, no not as a new observation post but for restoration by skilled inmates. The lift will be undertaken by the last Sea King helicopter to be withdrawn from service. Other aspects of the conservation of this light are still being discussed with much yet to be resolved. In the end I am hopeful that we will see this light back to a condition fitting its history.

Each year International Lighthouse & Lightships weekend gets a little bigger in the number of lights & Amateur radio operators participating.

LOA had a presence at a number of lights this year with two retired lights being exhibited, Point Perpendicular & Wollongong Breakwater. The event drew a large amount of media interest with resulting positive press raising conservation issues involving Lighthouses around the country. This is particularly important for a light like Point Perpendicular which is suffering because of government indifference in its management. It has essentially had no maintenance since being handed to the Department of Defence after being replaced by a solar tower in 1993. ILLW has helped to bring the condition of this site back into the public's attention and ultimately our elected politicians. The other big positive about ILLW is it is good fun!

Work on our web site revamp is proceeding albeit not as quickly as I would like.

I will be recommending at our AGM that we get our state reps & any other interested persons to help with a review of material & information so we can put the new site up with fresh revised material that accurately reflects the current operation & condition of the lights. It is very important to get this project right, as it's the very visible public face of LOA. The platform is ready to go if we can complete this part of the work.

I would like to thank all committee members for their efforts over the last year. There has been a lot of work happening behind the scenes with major progress by Graeme Davis on the archives, Jennifer Carr doing a great job as the postmaster, membership, secretary, treasurer all demanding peoples time, thanks for your effort in what can sometimes seem thankless roles without which LOA would not function.

Ian Clifford
Vice President & NSW Rep