

WA Rep LOA 2011 AGM Report (brief).

2010/2011 has been quite a good year for WA lighthouses, generally. In May this year AMSA's contractors (AMS) completed the paint stripping at Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse (which is having a noticeable effect in reducing interior stonework wall moisture issues), corrosion work on that towers metalwork, replaced the asbestos from the (rear of the tower) battery room roof and replaced stone block windows (which were put in the 1960's and cracking) with clear perspex which has improved lighting and visibility in the tower - plus is a great aesthetic improvement. Myself and the onsite staff greatly appreciate the efforts of AMS/AMSA in the Lighthouses R&M. The Augusta Margaret River Tourism assoc. have raised nearly \$200,000 grant money (and have a further application for \$3.5 million) which will go toward complete removal of asbestos / interpretive upgrades etc from all site buildings if all grant monies are received. If not, staged removal will occur as funds permit. They have appointed Heritage Consultants to look at restoration of another cottage as an interpretive centre to tell the story of the keeper's and their families to visitors. I do have some concerns as to his plans for 'remodelling' the existing entry cottage as I feel they are not appropriate in some aspects and do not fully understand the ambience/practical operations of the tourism aspect of the site and some heritage issues. However they are suggestions and not approved for final work yet. I will be keeping a good eye on that as will the other staff at the site. In September AMS carried out external corrosion control and painting of the Moore Point Lighthouse in Geraldton - with great result. Especially as the spring in that part of the world has experienced rain and strong winds at times. With the workers using a 'suspended platform' to work from it did rule out work of those windier days. I was pleased to be able to take time off work and do a very quick/last minute trip up to see the work being undertaken, plus pay a visit to the Geraldton Historical Society's museum at the original keepers cottage a few kms around the coast to the main CBD. Well worth the visit. The original lens taken out of Moore Pt last year is at present being mounted (on it's original pedestal) at the newer Geraldton Maritime Museum for public viewing. With Breaksea Island - I believe the R&M on the cottages has been completed and there is now some talk of possible restoration of the landing jetty etc. Info is sketchy as I have to rely on limited knowledge as my efforts to get details of that project have not been successful so far. I believe access to the island is the main issue with regard to use of the cottages. However the work on them will hold them in good stead for the future. He may have copped some flak in the last couple of years but it is worth remembering that the money for that project (approx \$2 million) came from the Commonwealth Govt through the Minister responsible Peter Garrett. No other news to report on other than I look forward to catching up with whoever attends the King Island events late next week.

Regards Paul Sofilas