



# FRIENDS OF TASMAN ISLAND NEWSLETTER No. 19 May 2018



Next project: The restoration of the façade of lightkeeper's Quarters 3

Photo Erika Shankley

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Edited by Erika Shankley



- FoTI has over 450 people on our email list,
- More than 200 people have volunteered on Tasman Island;
- We have over 1700 Facebook followers;
- FoTI featured in an episode of the BAFTA award-winning Coast Australia with a film crew spending a full day on Tasman Island in March 2013;
- Tasman Island is viewed from The Blade on Cape Pillar by thousands of people each year as they walk the Three Capes Track;
- FoTI has contributed over 20,000 hours of voluntary work on Tasman Island;
- FoTI's contribution to the community would be worth well over \$1,000,000;
- Our 26th working bee in November 2017 was financed through a *Pozible* crowd-funding programme.



<https://pozible.com/project/tasman-islands-lighthouse-heritage>



Photos Erika Shankley, Dave Davenport & Brad Williams

- Over 200 supporters donated to the *Pozible* campaign which helped us restore the verandah & sunroom of Quarters 2. Work on this project was completed during our 27th working bee in March/April this year.
- FoTI plans another crowd-funding programme to help fund work on the façade of Quarters 3.
- The iconic Tasman Island lighthouse is the highest operating lighthouse in Australia & the final turning point for yachts in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.
- FoTI is just one of a number of volunteer groups which are part of Wildcare Incorporated, the largest & fastest growing incorporated environmental volunteer organisation in Tasmania with a membership of over 6000.

**These are just some of the reasons why YOU should join us to help restore Tasman Island & its lightstation to its former glory!**



In 2004, the inaugural Coast to Coast conference was held in Hobart. Fourteen years later, it returned to the city where it all began.

The 2018 conference attracted 250 delegates from government, research, natural resource management, consultancy, community organisations & volunteer groups. It provided a great opportunity to build & strengthen connections & participate in great conversations about many environmental issues.

Among those at the conference was FoTI's weeding wonder woman, Josephine Castillo (3rd from right in photo), who was sponsored by NRM South. She was well placed to speak to delegates about the Tasman Island Weed Eradication Programme. Jo said that she was inspired by the conference & had great feedback from her presentation along with many contacts which could be useful to FoTI .



Photo NRM South



Erika Shankley

Congratulations to Rachel Chesmer, one of FoTI's active volunteers, who was one of six people awarded internships at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney this year.

Rachel was keen to participate & observe the museum's education & visitor programs as well as design & marketing, with the aim of setting up a travelling exhibition about Tasman Island to promote the cultural & natural heritage. Rachel aims to further connections with ANMM which houses Tasman Island's original Chance Brothers 1st order lens. She also hopes to display information in the Maritime Museum of Tasmania about Tasman Island & a range of other venues around the state.

Rachel is pictured, front row 2nd left, with other FoTI members at Tasman Island.



Don't forget to have a look at FoTI's exhibit at the Maritime Museum of Tasmania - just upstairs outside the Carnegie Gallery. Thanks to MMT's John Wadsley & Rona Hollingsworth for their help in setting up. Photos Erika Shankley



**PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS** was on the agenda as FoTI core members gathered at the Low Head lightstation in early March.



A timeline foreshadowed a number of activities, including our memorable working bees on Tasman Island. Another crowd-funding campaign is also planned to raise funds to continue the work on the brickwork of all three keepers' quarters & the oil store.

But it was not all work & no play! The itinerary included a walk on the beach & proceedings were interrupted on Sunday for the sounding of the fog horn at the Low Head lighthouse. Sales of *Lighthouses of Tasmania* tea towels went like hot cakes as Carol, Jo & Karl mingled with the tourists.



Photos Erika Shankley



Quotations about lighthouses abound in literature.

*"I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They are only built to serve."*  
George Bernard Shaw

Sharp eyes noticed a sandwich board outside a shop in Dunalley recently: *"Lighthouses don't demand attention, they just shine"* (Origin unknown)



**CALLING ALL PHAROPHILES:** Convenor, Thomas Gunn, has confirmed that the **2nd Lighthouse Conference** will be held at Low Head on Saturday 6th October. The lighthouse will be open, thanks to Lyndon O'Grady from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority & it is hoped that the fog horn will also be operational on that day. To raise funds for work on Tasman Island, a raffle with fabulous prizes, will be conducted in conjunction with the conference. More details closer to the date.

**SEE US ON THE WILDCARE WEB SITE** <https://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/friends-of-tasman-island/>  
**CHECK OUT OUR SHOP AT** <https://wildcaretas.org.au/product-category/tasman-island-collection/>

**FACEBOOK** A fantastic collection of anecdotes, historical & up-to-date information & photos about Tasman & other lighthouses around the world. Have you got something to contribute, add a comment or just click to like us!  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTasmanIsland>



FOTI's Easter working bee, our 27<sup>th</sup>, was a resounding success with volunteers again ticking off an impressive list of work. A big THANK YOU to everyone ...

Here's the action in pictures!

*Photos Erika Shankley, Dave Davenport, Scott Bell & Brad Williams*



Thank you to Glenda, our cook/chef extraordinaire & her offsidiers, for keeping the team well fed.



Weeding team, Jo & Scott used the electronic wizardry of Fulcrum to locate errant weeds



Heritage consultant & archaeologist, Brad, samples paint at Q1



More please?



From the kitchen window



Erika curates the historic artefacts in the Q2 Museum



A line squall approaches



Heritage engineer, Peter Spratt, Heritage builder, Dave Davenport & PWS Heritage officer, Peter Rigozzi with the ABC's cameraman, Scott Ross



Mick & Chris check the mowers



On the main track



Bricklayer, Andreas Duenow, repairs brickwork above the Oil Store window



Dave scarfs some sound timber on the bottom of verandah posts at Q2. Supervised by Ron & Scott!



Morning tea?



Birthday boy, Geoff, cuts the cake



No corner shop! Chris devises a level



For Sale? No, just Rotary Day!



Taking in the view over Cape Pillar & the Blade



Photographer at work!



Nature put on its best colours



Team 2  
3 - 7 April

Scott, Andreas, Chris, Erika, Geoff,  
Dave, Glenda, Ron & Mick



Team 1  
29 March - 3 April  
Mick, Jo, Glenda, Ron,  
Brad, Dave, Chris, Scott,  
Geoff & Erika



The Rotary team confer at Safety Cove



Carol & Elaine at the stall at Safety Cove



Take-off from Tasman Rotary Day Saturday 7th May

**TASMAN ISLAND TRIPS - ROTARY'S ANNUAL VISIT:** As if to compensate for last year's aborted trip (due to thick fog) this year's annual visit to Tasman, a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Tasman Peninsula, was held in bright sunshine & light winds. Those who missed out last time swelled the bookings to 130 - double the number usually on the trip. However Rotary & Helicopter Resources, together with PWS, ran a tight ship & everything went according to plan.

There were many satisfied customers by the end of the day. One was John Best, who had travelled from the UK especially for the trip. As a Trustee with the Association of Lightkeepers <http://www.alk.org.uk/> visiting lighthouses is high on his travel agenda. John says that, although he had no prior association with lighthouses, he had always lived by the sea & as a young boy could hear the foghorn from the lighthouse on the Needles off the Isle of Wight if the wind was in the right direction. These days he gets to visit many lighthouses on trips with the ALK.



Former Tasman Island lightkeeper, Karl Rowbottom with John Best, a Trustee with the Association of Lightkeepers  
*Photo John Best*



"A fabulous day," wrote John on our Facebook page, "and thanks to everybody who worked so hard to make it special."



AMSA's Lyndon O'Grady & UK visitor John Best arrive on Tasman Island

*Photos Erika Shankley*



La Presidente Carol on film ...

**ABC NEWS TEAM VISIT TASMAN ISLAND**

Cameraman, Scott Ross & Reporter, Peta Carlyon, visited Tasman Island during our April working bee to prepare a news story for national distribution on the ABC news network. In brilliant sunny weather FoTI volunteers were filmed at work around the lighthouse precinct, highlighting projects such as painting, weeding, the museum & future plans to improve the integrity of the brickwork of all 3 keepers' quarters & the oil store. Morning tea on the newly restored verandah of Quarters 2 was followed by more filming across the island to the Haulage. The sun was low in the sky by the time we waved farewell.

The segment went to air on Sunday 15th April & we received many positive comments. A video about their visit can still be viewed at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-15/volunteers-repairing-ravages-of-weather-on-tasman-island/9659154>

Andreas Duenow & Dave Davenport filmed by the ABC on the scaffold outside the Oil Store



*Erika Shankley*



FoTI's heritage builder, Dave Davenport  
*Photo Peta Carlyon, ABC*

**CHECK OUT OUR MERCHANDISE  
NOW AVAILABLE IN THE WILDCARE SHOP**

<https://wildcaretas.org.au/product-category/tasman-island-collection/>



**NEW!**

Thank you to David Edgar, Ailsa Fergusson, Peter Gouldthorpe, Kate Hansford, Veronica Steane & Luke Wagner who donated the art work for FoTI's Artist Series of cards. Luke also printed the cards for us on fine archival paper. Thanks, Luke! **Set of 6 cards** now available at the special introductory price of \$35.

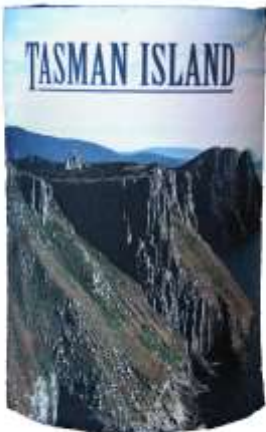
Look out for Luke's exhibition of Tasman Island paintings at the Colville Gallery, Salamanca Place, opening in July.



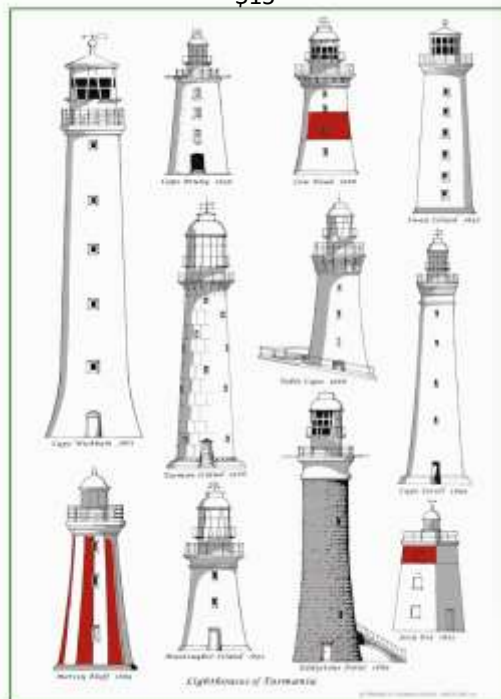
Exclusive to FoTI

**Lighthouses of Tasmania tea towel**  
Designed by Peter Gouldthorpe

\$15



Stubby holder \$15



**Supporter's Pack** includes:  
Lighthouses of Tasmania tea towel,  
Cardboard Lighthouse kit,  
Tasman Island pocket book,  
FoTI supporters patch,  
Tasman Island bookmarks & cards  
\$50



**Supporters Patch**  
Featuring FoTI's logo, designed by  
Gavin Reynolds  
\$15

All prices plus postage





Brushcutter king, Geoff Robertson, celebrated his birthday on Tasman Island with a hand-drawn card by artist/heritage builder & FoTI volunteer, Dave Davenport. Afterwards Geoff couldn't resist proving that, at 71, he was still fit & nimble!

*Photos Erika Shankley*



One volunteer is worth ten pressed men  
(It's a naval expression used again and again)  
So here's to the Friends and their mission bold  
And time well spent in Tasman's fold!  
*Helen Gee, March, 2010*