



Photo Erika Shankley

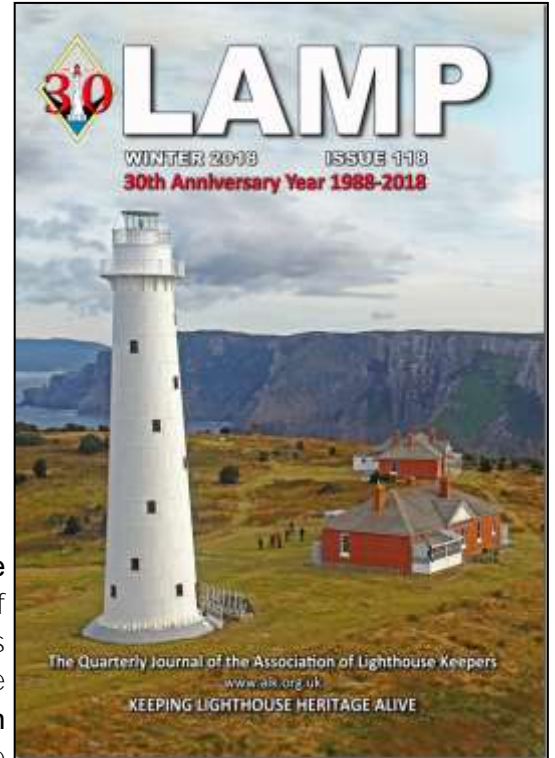
A winning photo ! Coming in to land in 2015, Erika just had time to snap this view of the iconic Tasman Island lighthouse & keepers' quarters. The image recently won first prize in a photographic competition celebrating the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers in the UK.

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Seasons Greetings
 to you all & may 2019 bring more joys and pleasures in your
 volunteering !



News of Tasman Island & FoTI's restoration work has reached the UK, thanks to John Best, one of the Trustees of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers in the UK. On his visit to Tasman earlier this year he purchased a FoTI patch which is now proudly worn on the shirt of the Association's president, former Scottish lightkeeper, Ian Duff. A Lighthouses of Tasmania tea towel also featured in a raffle at the ALK's 30th Annual General Meeting this year. His photos of the event are at left; And, at right, Erika's winning photo (see front page) which appears on the front cover of the winter edition of ALK's quarterly magazine, *Lamp*.

And, to cap off the month, Erika was also judged the winner of the Wildcare Craig Saunders Photo Competition. Her winning entry shows Dave Davenport, Ian Ross and Chris Smith enjoying a moment of levity while being buffeted by a gust of wind, for which Tasman Island is well known. They were working on the restoration of the sunroom & verandah of Lightkeepers' Quarters No 2 in 2017.



TASMANIAN LIGHTHOUSE CONFERENCE LOW HEAD

Erika Shankley



There was a special treat in store for pharophiles, or lighthouse lovers, who attended the second Lighthouse Conference at Low Head recently.

Held every two years, the event is organised by Thomas Gunn, the first one being held in Hobart in 2016. In keeping with the lighthouse theme, a contingent from the Wildcare group Friends of Tasman Island stayed overnight in the former lightkeepers' quarters adjacent to the lighthouse.

The boatshed at the Pilot Station was filled to capacity by the time the conference speakers were introduced.

The first speaker, John Watts, spoke about the Leading Lights which guide ships into the Tamar River. Navigation beacons were put in place at the entrance to the river in 1804 when the area was first settled. However, it was not until 1848 that two stone towers were built, but were unlit and gave no assistance at night. Two new towers, built in 1882, were first lit on 2 December that year. The original keepers' cottages, with their distinctive 4 chimneys, can still be seen close to each tower.

Steve Radford then took us on a Cook's tour of the lights of the Furneaux Group, as seen from the air. This was followed by a historic look at the Eddystone Point lighthouse with Lindsay Dawe. An article in the Mercury on 8 October 1887 described the scene as workmen prepared to build the lighthouse. Over 70 men were camped in the area as they drilled and blasted the local granite for blocks to build the tower which was first lit on May 1st 1889.



It seems that even if you don't have to have anything to do with lighthouses, you can use the image of one as a logo. After morning tea, the conference coordinator, Thomas Gunn, gave an interesting insight into the use of lighthouses as logos. A 'Leading light in baking' boasted the packaging of *Lighthouse* brand flours which have been milled in Fremantle, Western Australia since 1865. Locally, the Illawarra Primary School at Blackmans Bay uses a stylised image of the lighthouse on the Iron Pot as their logo and even needles, manufactured during wartime in England (which claimed to be pre-war quality!) bore the brand name '*Lighthouse*'. And of course, the shirts worn by the conference

team also featured a lighthouse as their logo.

John Lee Archer's name is synonymous with the design of colonial buildings in Tasmania. His second name, Lee, has been perpetuated through his descendants since he arrived in Tasmania in 1827 to take up the post of Civil Engineer and Architect for the fledgling colony. Anne Lee Archer has done considerable research on her forebear, who also designed the original lighthouse at Low Head and the Cape Bruny light.





Opening lighthouses to the public can be a tricky business. Karl Rowbottom, a former keeper at Tasman Island and tour guide at the Table Cape lighthouse, spoke of the trials & tribulations experienced in satisfying the authorities so that the tower at Table Cape could be opened for tours.

The lighthouse at Low Head is not normally open to the public. It was, therefore, a

special treat, thanks to Senior Field Technician with Australian Maritime Systems., Rod Harris, that the tower was opened for conference delegates. Climbing the cast-iron spiral staircase of the 19 metre tower, we reached the lantern room where we were able to watch the Chance Brothers 3rd order lens continually rotating. FoTI's Chris Creese who was assisting with the tours, was kitted out in a lightkeeper's uniform, once worn by long-term keeper at Low Head, Cyril Griffiths. From the balcony there was an extensive 360° view over Low Head, the Tamar River and the waters of Bass Strait and we could hear the Chance



Brothers fog horn, restored by volunteers in 2000, sounding like the *'roar of a thousand elephants'*.



The final sessions included lighthouses during World War 2, researched by Anne Green, and Rod Harris, who spoke about his work with the Australian Maritime Systems Group in maintaining lighthouses around Australia.

A raffle, run in conjunction with a stall operated by the Friends of Tasman Island throughout the conference, was finally drawn. Thanks to artist, David Edgar, Tasman Island Cruises, Sea Change Safety Cove, and FoTI (who supplied the prizes) and raffle winners - former lightkeeper, John Thompson, FoTI members Di Smith and Scott Bell and a member of the conference team—a tidy sum was raised towards work on Tasman Island.

Thomas Gunn closed the proceedings by intimating that a 3rd conference, in 2 years time, could be held at Devonport.



Bricklayer, Mike Manning, has a good turn of phrase both with words & bricklaying. Thank you Mike for your poetry which describes FoTI's volunteers at the November working bee to a "T" ! Thanks also to everyone for the superb effort. The weeds lay down their heads under the onslaught & preparations for the restoration of the verandah of Lightkeepers' Quarters No 3 are now well underway.



I'm on the way to Tasman
I get picked up on the way
I would have taken my own car
But they have no parking bay.

Up in this chopper
An exciting time to be
Across the ridge
And there before me
A lighthouse is what I see.

I'm off on an adventure
To do what, I'm not sure
I'm camping with 10 others
I've never seen before.



Just an ordinary brickie
Looking for a thrill
The first one introduced to me
Is a Coaster, name of Bill.

Now Bill's been everywhere 'cept Mars
Apparently I'm told
On my calculations, he's at least 2
lightyears old.



Our leader's name is Chris
An Islander, no doubt
He goes about his work so cool
He has no need to shout.



There's Jo, pursuing vegetation
Not welcome out this way
She'll dig and pull; if that won't work
She'll hit them with some spray.



Now Mark - he's the Master
A lifetime spent at schools
He's just as handy cooking tea
As he is using tools.



Amanda in her overalls
Snapping anything that moves
With camera at the ready
Leave it up to her to choose!



Ron and Glenda – what a team!
Together most their lives
The connection very obvious
You can read that in their eyes.

Reason these two are together
Ron will tell you why
Glenda's got a sense of humour
And she bakes an awesome pie.



Geoff's the mowing
maestro
Now he cuts even faster
For any grass that
stands erect
It's a natural disaster.

He waited for his time to come
A ride-on at his feet
With no hesitation, he says loud
'My life is now complete'.



Dave, he's the carpenter
A good one, is the mail
No way I can vouch for that
I've never seen him drive a nail.



A cattle man named Brett
Lives in country where it's wet
He takes on tasks, and asks for more
Handles spraying weeds so easily
Cause he's done it all before.

We know he loves his cattle
He counts them up all right
Cause he could not bring them with him
He rings up every night.

I thought 10 days might be too much
But as each day goes by
I'm thinking, perhaps Heaven is
Not only in the sky.

Now my stay is almost over
And coming to an end
A little time on this fair isle
I highly recommend.

Mike Manning

Eleven eager volunteers arrived on Tasman Island on Thursday 8th November for 10 days of fun & hard work. The star of the show was the arrival, by air, of a ride-on mower, thanks to our partners, the Parks & Wildlife Service. As Brett said as it arrived, suspended beneath an Osborne Aviation helicopter, "What chance does a lawn mower have of flying? Similar to a pig I hear you say!" At the official opening ceremony, Pip Gowen (herself on a flying visit) cut the ribbon & Geoff was off — the grass on Tasman will never be the same again!



Amanda, pictured here with a sound recording device, which aimed to identify bird calls, particularly the Lewins Rail, part of study by Liz Znidersic & Michael Towsey

Dave & Mike removing rusted lintels & repairing brickwork on Q3 in preparation for the restoration of the verandah at the next working bee.



Where would we be without our chef, Glenda, who provides sumptuous meals at Hooter's Tasman Island Restaurant!

Thanks to McKay Timber, enough timber was delivered to re-floor several rooms in Quarters 2.





Much work was accomplished. A new tank arrived for the Oil Store; floors replaced in two rooms in Quarters 2; an onslaught to eradicate Californian Thistle and preparatory work to repair brickwork prior to restoration of the verandah on Lightkeepers' Quarters No 3. It was many hands make light work!

Ron's words say it all : "As I look out of the front window of our temporary bedroom in Quarters 3 watching the sunrise, I am reminded that it is a privilege to come on a working bee to Tasman Island." He goes on: "We are all here doing our bit to enhance the heritage and the natural beauty of the Island. We give our time and skills to preserve the efforts of those who have come before us and hopefully leave something for those who will follow."



Thanks to the photographers for the record of activities





FoTI organised two garage sales as part of the Statewide Garage Sale Trail on Sunday 12th October. There was plenty of interesting brick-a-brack at the home of Carol, our President, at Dodges Ferry. And it was thanks to new FoTI recruit, Aneita Erskine-Wise, there was some great signage.



Another venue was organised by Jo Castillo & Mark Dickenson in Lindisfarne. Despite low patronage, a **combined total of nearly \$400 was raised towards FoTI's** work on Tasman. Thanks to everyone for their support.



All our good wishes go to Lyndon O'Grady as he commences his retirement. Our friend & mentor, AMSA's Heritage Officer, says Tasman Island & its lighthouse is one of his favourites. He has been free with his advice and has opened the lighthouse for inspection on Rotary day for a number of years. We've enjoyed your company, Lyndon, on our special island.



FoTI is just one of over 70 branches of Wildcare Incorporated. Check out their web site at <https://wildcaretas.org.au/> & FoTI's branch page <https://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/friends-of-tasman-island/>.



Lighthouses
of Australia Inc.

Thanks to Garry Searle, Lighthouses of Australia Inc has a new web site, at <https://lighthouses.org.au/>. The Tasman Island section has been completely rewritten (by me) and now includes information about FoTI and our work on Tasman Island. My article about the first lighthouse built after the Commonwealth take-over in 1915— at Cape Forestier/Lemon Rock - has also been added to the web site.

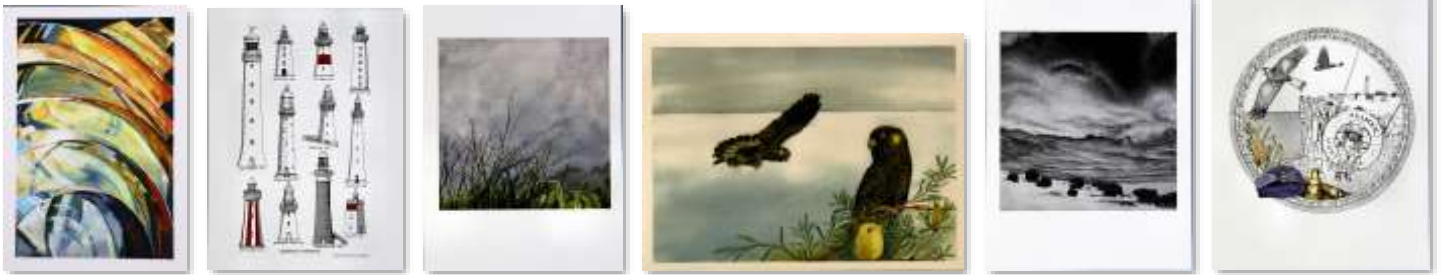
Ever wondered about other options there are for volunteering. In news just to hand yours truly is the subject of a bio in the news section of the Wildcare web site. Read about the number of places which Erika has volunteered and at which you also may be able to lend a hand.

<https://wildcaretas.org.au/group-news/friends-of-bass-strait-islands/who-is-erika-shankley/>



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

<https://wildcaretas.org.au/product-category/tasman-island-collection/> or email friendsoftasmanisland@gmail.com



FoTI ARTISTS' CARDS: This series now includes 10 different cards by Tasmanian artists. Thank you to David Edgar, Ailsa Fergusson, Peter Gouldthorpe, Kate Hansford, Veronica Steane, Luke Wagner, Amanda Thomson, David Davenport & Helen Gee who donated the art work for **FoTI's Artist Series of cards**. Also included is an archival print of Tasman Island, circa 1840, by John Skinner Prout. Luke has printed the cards for us on fine



NEW!

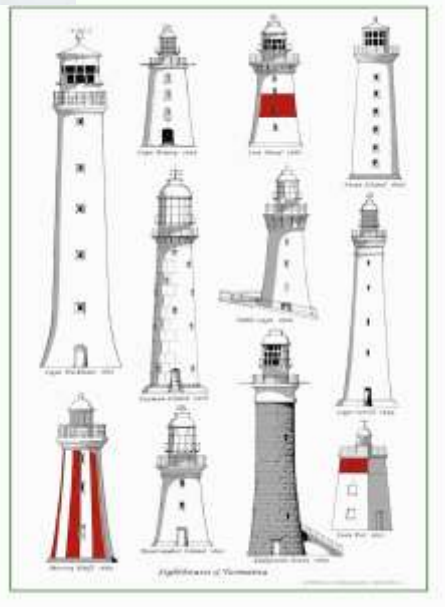
The 12 lighthouses of Christmas Myrtle cut-outs as Fridge magnets, Xmas tree decorations etc \$ 8.50 each



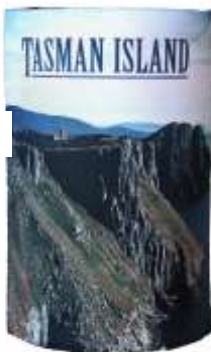
BUY NOW FOR CHRISTMAS



Exclusive to FoTI
Lighthouses of Tasmania tea towel
Designed by Peter Gouldthorpe
\$15



Stubby holder \$15



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

Postage free within Australia



Tasmania has a unique & spectacular landscape. This is especially evident at Tasman Island, where every moment of the day brings fresh wonders. A photographer's paradise.

All these images have appeared on the ABC weather segment, after the 7pm news. The ABC is always on the lookout for spectacular shots. Why not send your photos to weatherphotostas@abc.net.au.

Clouds seen from Tasman Island (above) features in the 2019 ABC News Tasmania Weather Calendar.



Photos Erika Shankley

