

FOSSIL Newsletter # 1 - 2017

Friends Of South Solitary Island Lighthouse

President: Rob Trezise

Secretary/Treasurer: Lee-Ann Taylor

Committee: Darren Squibb, Terrie Beckhouse, Paul Parkinson, Anna Sinclair, Andrew Winter



With 2017 well under way, and the birds now leaving South Solitary Island, I am pleased to advise our members that we have been supplied some dates by NPWS for us to invite FOSSIL members to volunteer on South Solitary Island this year.

It has taken many years and many hours in discussion and working with NPWS Rangers and it is very pleasing to see some light at the end of the tunnel for restoration commencing on South Solitary Island Lighthouse

The following dates and numbers are as follows (several dates are unconfirmed at this stage).

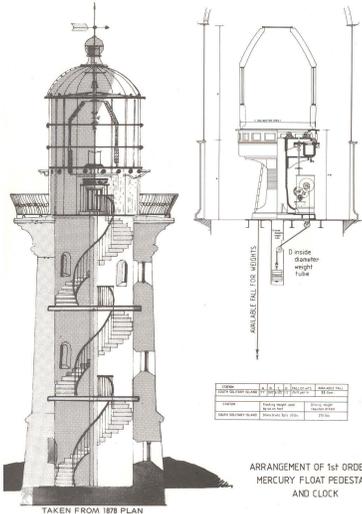
March 17 to March 19, Bush regeneration works for weed removal and seabird habitat enhancement 3 FOSSIL Volunteers accompanied by 2 NPWS Staff.

March 19 to March 25, Building maintenance works assisting a contractor inside the head keeper's cottage with wall preparation for painting. One, possibly two FOSSIL Volunteers required.

April/May (dates to be confirmed) A commercial roofing contractor has been engaged to remove and replace old roofing on the head keeper's cottage. One or two FOSSIL volunteers required.

June 12 to June 16, NPWS helicopter will take up to three FOSSIL volunteers to South Solitary Island to commence interior painting of the Head Keepers cottage.

August- During much of August in conjunction with the Tourist Tours, it is to be hoped that there will be several opportunities for teams of FOSSIL Volunteers (up to 5 per trip) to undertake painting and maintenance duties with NPWS personnel.



In order for any volunteer to undertake one of these trips to South Solitary Island, it is essential for our members to be registered and financial.

Just a reminder that the membership fee is \$15 per member. (Our Annual renewal date is December 1st.)

We appreciate that some members have already paid their membership and they will of course be considered if they apply for these volunteering opportunities.

If you haven't already paid, please do so ASAP by direct deposit to our bank Westpac into "The Friends of South Solitary Island Inc." account:

BSB: 032585 Account Number 231408 & make your deposit notation:

YOUR FULL NAME

If any member is interested in these volunteering opportunities, please email me with the dates that you would be available and what skills you would like to undertake, bearing in mind that most work this time will be for painting and building maintenance rather than weeding.

Several of our members have expressed their interest in the possibility of being permitted access to the First Order lens, (currently warehoused in the former regional Museum), with a view of cleaning and polishing to preserve it until such time as it is removed to the proposed Australian National Lighthouse Museum at Coffs Harbour Jetty.

The Coffs Harbour City Council have now given us permission to put forward names of those people interested in joining this team as volunteers under the direction of the Coffs Harbour Regional Museum.

Members are also invited to join as associates of the Coffs Harbour Regional Museum working voluntarily part time on a rostered basis manning the reception desk and assisting at the museum. Especially if anyone could help on Saturday for a few hours to keep the museum open on Saturdays. If you are interested, please call at the Regional Museum or phone 66484848 or 66484847 for further information and an application form.

The Coffs Harbour Regional Museum has recently acquired some lighthouse equipment from AMSA and that is now on display. Several other items have also been delivered and are waiting uncrating and cleaning.

Every member is urged to visit the museum and see for themselves the growing collection of lighthouse equipment and artifacts.

Don't forget we are part of the wider lighthouse community around Australia as members of Lighthouses Of Australia Inc. and other Friends of lighthouse groups.

Keep up to date with all things lighthouse by joining LOA or visit their Facebook "Lighthouses Of Australia Inc."

Our own Facebook page, "Friends Of South Solitary Island Lighthouse" is our members' page, so please feel free to submit your photos, news and information. If you do not have Facebook, you can email: latitude30south@gmail.com

We welcome sponsorship enquiries; donations etc. and we hope that soon we will be able to accept sponsorship & donations as a tax deduction for donors and sponsors.

Another date to mark on your calendars is April 20 to June 17 when the Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Australian National Maritime Museum and Coffs Harbour City Council stage "EAST COAST ENCOUNTER", a multi arts initiative involving indigenous and non-indigenous artists writers and song writers re-imagining the encounter by Lt. James Cook and his crew with Australia's first citizens in 1770. There will be displays and presentations at the Coffs Harbour Regional Museum, Coffs Harbour Regional Art Gallery and several other venues over this time.

Watch local media for more details closer to the dates.

We hope to have a social gathering in the form of a barbeque (with BYOG), shortly where we can meet each other informally and discuss our interests in lighthouses, South Solitary Island Lighthouse and Coffs Harbour's Maritime history.

Our membership is growing and I would like all members to feel that they are a part of the regeneration of our lighthouse on South Solitary Island and now Coffs Harbour.

Why not invite your friends to join us FOSSILS ?

I am working on having a guest speaker attend who has a long history of involvement with Australia's lighthouses.

KEEPING THE LIGHT BURNING

Rob Trezise
President of FOSSIL

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