



## Summer Newsletter 2007/08

### Our excursions a hit with schools

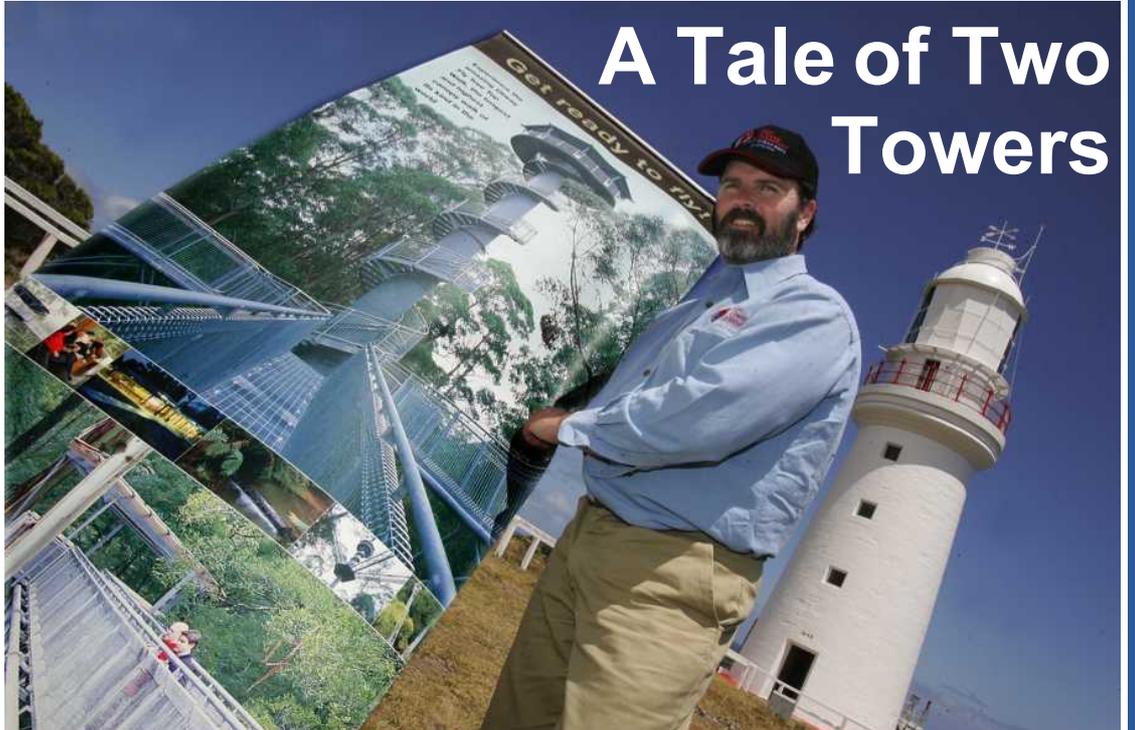
ALMOST 2,000 school children from across Victoria attended education programs at Cape Otway Lightstation during 2007.

Outdoor education specialist and Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said: "This is our biggest year with schools, with almost 450 children undertaking the Lighthouse Keeper's Quest - a one to five day experience tailored to meet the Victorian Education Learning Standards."

Both primary and high school students and their teachers had high praise for programs offered at the Lightstation.

Mr Thompson said the history and adventures of early lightkeepers inspired students who loved the physical challenges of the rugged topography at Cape Otway and found the Koori culture, maritime history, navigation, early communication stories, and hardships of colonials fascinating."

Early bookings mean the Lightstation is in for another busy year with schools.



### A Tale of Two Towers

THE Otway Fly tree-top walk and Cape Otway Lightstation have joined forces to offer a discounted pass to tourists who want to visit the Otways' premier tourist attractions.

The pass is \$30 for adults and the promotion is a success story for the iconic destinations.

Elaine Burrige who manages the 600 metre long, 25 metre high elevated walk near Beech Forest said the promotion also had benefits for locals entertaining friends and family from further afield. The Lightstation offers free entry to Colac Otway Shire residents, while the Otway Fly offers free entry to residents when

they bring visitors from outside the Shire.

Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said the promotion meant locals could show off the region's top man-made attractions for free.

"It's important for the visitor and it's great for the attractions to work together. There's a good contrast between the old stone-built light tower and the Fly's new steel tower."

Mr Thompson said the Lightstation was committed to forging partnerships with other accommodation providers and attractions to boost the local tourism industry and improve the Great Ocean Road experience for tourists.

### Paranormal investigators 'catch' the Telegraph Station's ghosts on film



IT'S official - Cape Otway Lightstation is a paranormal hot spot according to Haunted Australia.

They're so excited by the "orbs" captured on infra-red film and electronic voice phenomena recorded during their August visit to the Lightstation they have withheld the story from their

regular Channel 31 TV slot.

Haunted Australia's Gary Sullivan said the footage will appear in a special edition DVD box-set.

"We caught quite a few orbs on film and usually we can explain them - they're dust or moisture or insects," he said.

"But when we examine the evidence frame-by-frame you

can work out that it's not any of the usual suspects.

"In the Telegraph Station we had an orb that floated across the top of two of our team members and went straight into the pantry," he added.

"The verdict at this stage is, I certainly believe there's something of a paranormal nature there."

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Highlight of the Great Ocean Road - Café Tours Accommodation Events Schools

# Journeys of Discovery



CAPE Otway Lightstation is about to go on sale around the world.

From March, international and Australian travel agents will be able to sell tourists a two-hour adventure tour, including four wheel drive travel into the Great Otway National Park, as part of the Lightkeeper Shipwreck Discovery Tours.

Geared to take tourists off the beaten track and to

immerse them in the natural and man-made history of the Cape, the tour will include koala and wallaby spotting, plus sites of significance to the early lightkeepers.

The tour will take in the Parker River inlet, the original difficult landing point for infrequent lighthouse supplies.

The Cape's sands and tides regularly reveal the ribs and an anchor of the shipwrecked *Eric the Red*.

Tourists will also visit Blanket Bay where the stone chimney ruins of a lighthouse storage shed stand in the dunes, and the rotting timbers of a Lightstation jetty.

After scones, jam, cream and a pot of tea or coffee in the Lightkeeper's Café, the guided tour will continue in the Lightstation grounds - including a climb to the top of the lighthouse, the Telegraph Station and World War Two

radar bunker.

The tour package, which can be extended with meals and accommodation in the historic lightkeepers' cottages, will be sold by travel agents and visitor information centres.

Prices are \$35.95 for adults, \$32.95 for concessions and \$20.95 for children.

Businesses wanting to offer Discovery Tour packages to their guests should contact the Lightstation.

## Tasty temptations for walkers

GREAT Ocean Walkers registered with Parks Victoria can now take advantage of discounted entry to Cape Otway Lightstation where a special takeaway menu has been developed for hikers.

All that beach and hill-walking builds a fearsome appetite and thirst, so walkers are encouraged to take a break at the Lightstation and enjoy a coffee or meal before getting back on track.

The Lightkeeper's Café has a nutritious Great Ocean Walk menu for walkers spending the night at Cape Otway's campsite.

The take-away menu includes three-course options with a hearty soup and



**Great Ocean Walk**

savoury scone, plus a range of meat and vegetarian curries, goulash and pastas.

There is also a selection of salads, cakes, biscuits, slices and fruit. Meals can be booked before walkers begin their journey, or by 4pm seven days a week.

Parking is available at the Lightstation for those who want a short or half-day hike east or west of the Cape. Secure parking is available in the grounds (fees apply).

Accommodation is available at the Lightstation. Our friendly staff can arrange transfers and guides.

**COMING SOON: Cape Otway Lightstation will launch tailor-made guided tours of the Great Ocean Walk. We'll cater to your schedule, fitness level and interests.**

## Did you know?

MODERN communications such as mobile phones and terrestrial television haven't quite made it to Cape Otway and yet in 1864 Morse Code operators could get a message to Melbourne in minutes.

Mary Anne Bedford, arriving on the *Champion of the Seas*, said in 1864: "We were awakened about 4 o'clock by the shouting of land. It was Cape Otway about 100 miles from Melbourne and there is a lighthouse on it. As it is we have been rocking about all day and they have turned the vessel around eight or nine times today to keep us off the land. They have gone very close to it and we could see the lighthouse. Our captain put up many flags. They put up theirs and they let us know that the Anglesea had landed on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> ... They telegraphed from here to Melbourne to let them know of our arrival. They would hear from us in four minutes from the time they telegraphed Melbourne." (Source: Beacons of Hope)

### NEED TO GET AWAY?

The latest addition to the accommodation at Cape Otway Lightstation is the newly refurbished Manager's House. It's a great stopping off point for exploring the Lightstation and the Great Otway National Park.

