



Summer Newsletter 2012/13

Join us for Opera in the Otways

Saturday, November 17, 2pm-6pm

Join us at Cape Otway Lightstation for a gala concert starring Jonathon Welch AM and Deborah Cheetham, with Dr David Kram conducting an ensemble of six musicians and four singers. MC for the day is veteran comedian Rod Quantock and the opening act is The Twoks.

Operatic tenor Jonathon Welch and stunning soprano Deborah Cheetham

WORLD-CLASS conductor Dr David Kram will join operatic tenor Jonathon Welch AM and soprano Deborah Cheetham to perform a rich programme spanning 300 years at the fifth Opera in the Otways.

Dr Kram, who has conducted singers from the Met New York, London's Covent Garden and La Scala Milan, will direct an ensemble of six musicians and four singers against the dramatic backdrop of Cape Otway Lightstation and the Southern Ocean.

Mr Welch, best known for his leadership of the award winning Choir of Hard Knocks, has prepared a programme of popular operatic arias, duets and ensembles by Verdi, Puccini and Mozart, from La Traviata, La Bohème, La Rondine and The Marriage of Figaro.

The afternoon's programme will also feature popular songs and ensembles from three of the great music theatre and operetta

composers - with Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story, George Gershwin's Porgy & Bess, plus Lehar's Merry Widow.

The finale will feature excerpts from Deborah Cheetham's enthralling Pecan Summer - Australia's first Indigenous opera. Opera in the Otways will be a reunion of sorts. Dr Kram was musical director for Pecan Summer, and the cast included Deborah Cheetham, Jonathon Welch, Tiriki Onus and Shauntai Batzke who are all confirmed for the open air Lightstation concert.



The Twoks

"The programme has really been drawn from the wonderful talents of the singers that I'm so honoured to have the chance to share the stage with," Mr Welch said.

"Spanning 300 years of music in a two-hour concert is only possible when you have talented singers like Deborah, Tiriki and Shauntai, and we can't wait to sing the beautiful music from Puccini to Pecan Summer.

"The music is very lyrical and underscores so beautifully the very complex issues and journey

of the Cumeragunja Walk Off and the Stolen Generation," said Mr Welch, who performed in the Melbourne 2011 sell-out season and in Perth this year.

Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said veteran comedian Rod Quantock is confirmed as MC and the opening act is The Twoks, with Xani Kolac on electric violin and Mark Leahy on drums.

"Opera in the Otways has a strong following - we draw our audience of up to 450 from across South Western Victoria and Melbourne - and some have never missed a show," Mr Thompson said.

He said the event was an exciting afternoon of fine music and wonderful voices which showcased the best of the Otways scenery, with the chance to picnic on locally produced beers, wines and gourmet food.

To book call the Lightstation on (03) 5237 9240 or go to www.otwaysopera.com.au

Cape Otway Lightstation, via Great Ocean Road, Cape Otway, Victoria, Australia

Phone: (03) 5237 9240 Fax: (03) 5237 9245

Email: keeper@lightstation.com Web: www.lightstation.com Twitter: @capeotwaylight





ALL ABOARD: More than 80 people climbed on the life-size geoglyph for a happy snap



OH BABY! Alyssa Gage gets acquainted with a baby Southern Right.



SEA SHEPHERD: Tommy Knowles

Ships that shaped us

THE SHIPS that Shaped Australia, an exhibition of 27 paintings of vessels that sailed into our history books is on display again at the Lightstation.

Each of the large scale works, on loan from the Maritime Museum of Victoria, were painted in the Seventies and Eighties by the late Jack L Koskie.

Koskie's works capture the high drama of early shipping in Australia.

The paintings, which can be seen in the Lightkeeper's Café until May, are a significant contribution to highlighting and preserving great stories of seafaring, pioneering, and high seas disasters & triumphs.

Little keepers

OVER a thousand children from south west Victoria & Melbourne descended on Cape Otway this summer to try their hand at life as a Lightkeeper - 1850s style.

Many school camps visited for day or a number of days on the Lighthouse Keeper's Quest, run in partnership with Quest Skills for Life.

The Lightstation's experiential learning programs give primary and high school students the chance to experience the pioneering lifestyle & demanding schedule of early lightkeepers, as well as Aboriginal culture.

Sharing the wonder of whales

ECO-WARRIORS, sculptors, musicians and conservationists united at Cape Otway Lightstation - all for The Wonder of Whales, part of the tourist attraction's commitment to promoting whales.

Tourists from across the globe and Otways locals, perched on an 18 metre geoglyph of a Southern Right Whale made from Otways stone and mosaics, and children climbed all over a four metre long Southern Right calf hewn from cypress at the Lightstation's launch of its whale interpretation site on Saturday, October 13.

A trio of ukulele players entertained the crowd in between talks from artists, naturalists and crew members of the Sea Shepherd - who took time out from preparing for their ninth campaign to try to stop Japanese whaling boats from taking the giant mammals protected under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

Sea Shepherd's Tommy Knowles, said he and other volunteers on board the Steve Irwin would risk their lives to prevent further kills of Southern Right and Minke whales in Antarctic waters.

"We will be using non-violent, direct action tactics to save these beautiful, sentient beings," he said.

"Last year they [the whalers] almost killed six of our crew members during one of our small boat actions, who were going after one of their harpoon vessels. They threw grappling hooks the size of bowling balls and two crew were hit," said

Mr Knowles.

"It's something we feel is worth dying for - you haven't lived until you've found something worth dying for," he added.

"The Japanese [whaler's] goal is to take upwards of 900 whales. This year we really hope we can have zero kills.

"They're breaking international whaling laws in the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary - they're taking endangered species out of Antarctic and Australian waters."

Manager Paul Thompson said the Lightstation had commissioned Johanna artist Peter Day and Apollo Bay sculptor Brad West to create the life-size whales, which migrate along Australia's southern coast every year between May and October.

Mr Thompson said the Lightstation was committed to helping people learn more about the whales which inhabited the Southern Ocean, and would add educational and interpretive information to the site.

"The Lightstation is a fantastic spot to see whales and we want to play our part in raising awareness of these amazing creatures and the protection they need - we can all play a role in caring for the planet and the oceans we share," Mr Thompson said.

More than 450 people attended the Lighthouse during The Wonder of Whales celebration.

Heritage on show

THE LIGHTSTATION'S Aboriginal Heritage Trail guide and artist, Brad West, loves sharing his knowledge of the Cape's first people - the Gadabanud.

Brad offers informal sessions about culture, edible plants, and the traditional owners' amazing survival and hunting skills at the Mia Mia.

Children are invited to paint an abalone shell, and explore the heritage trail and keeping place.



Interpretive guide Brad West sharing his knowledge.