



Winter Newsletter 2008

Celebrating the history of our lightkeepers

A WEEKEND of ghost tours, theatre, pony rides, live music and historical re-enactments are planned for International Lighthouse Weekend celebrations at Cape Otway Lightstation on August 15-17.

By day, Lightstation visitors can climb the tower to watch for whales, see the Victorian Heritage Police re-enact the sacking of the first lightkeeper, enjoy *The Keeper* - a one-woman show, and test their texting speed against Morse Code operators.

Mainland Australia's most significant lighthouse dates back to 1848 and its rich history is a fertile ground for those sensitive to the super-natural.

Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said a Lightstation Ghost Tour would be offered at 7pm on Saturday, August 16, as

part of the weekend-long party.

"People who want to join the ghostbusters' tour should bring a torch, a warm coat and be prepared for some spooky encounters," Mr Thompson said.

"We've had quite a few ghostbusting teams at the Lightstation and they are all convinced we have supernatural beings in our midst.

"There's the famous Lady in Grey, who likes to tease Lightstation staff and guests by fiddling with the lights and other appliances, and a lot of people are spooked by the Telegraph Station where history has it that a dead infant was kept in a cupboard for a couple of days."

For children there will be pony rides, activity packs, face painting and a craft corner.

Teenagers who consider

themselves speedy when it comes to texting, are invited to pit their skills against veteran Morse Code operators at the heritage precinct's Telegraph Station.

"A lot of people think they're pretty fast at communicating using modern technology, but few can out-message our veteran Morse Code operators," Mr Thompson said.

"We hope someone can beat them though, as there's fantastic prizes to be won including a Telstra phone and a stay at Cape Otway Lightstation."

The weekend's line-up includes a Winemaker's Dinner by Otway Estate - with fine food matched to their wines on Friday, August 15.

On Saturday night, August 16, there will be a dinner and show package with a three course dinner over-looking the floodlit

lighthouse, a rare night tour of the lighthouse, and a performance of *The Keeper* - a gothic tale based on true stories of lightkeepers' families.



The Keeper, a gothic tale

THE KEEPER, a new 50-minute one-woman show, will be a highlight of International Lighthouse Weekend at Cape Otway.

Set on a tiny island in a lonely sea, where human lives jostle and collide like waves on the rocks - *The Keeper* is a gothic tale of light and dark told through the life of Connie, who unwittingly hears a tragic story she must keep secret from her sister.

Canberra actor Chrissie Shaw became fascinated by the stories of lightkeeper families and spent time at lighthouses off Tasmania, gathering stories of the harsh, hard-working lives of the women.

"Because of the isolation and inaccessibility of many of the lighthouses, women had to be everything to everybody - child-carer, housekeeper, teacher, doctor and occasionally

lightkeeper as well," Shaw said.

"Lighthouses were built on dangerous places and many people, men, women and children died there. Because of the isolation also, human relationships were more intense and some horrifying incidents occurred throughout the history of the lighthouse service.

"Many people who lived on lighthouses said it was the best time of their lives, and the children mostly had a lot of fun."

The play will be performed on Saturday, August 16, at 5:45pm. Tickets for a three-course dinner and the show are \$65.

A second show will be staged on Sunday, August 17, at 12pm, with a two-course buffet lunch and the show for \$30.

Admission to the play only, on both days, is \$20 for adults, \$50 for a family and \$10 concessions.

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What's on

Saturday and Sunday, August 16 & 17, 9am-5pm

Telegraph Station (1859) - send telegrams to friends around the globe courtesy of Morse Codian Fraternity and Telstra

Self Guided Tours - entire Lightstation grounds including Telegraph Station, World War Two Radar Bunker, Lighthouse cemetery & climb to the top of the 1848 lighthouse

Radio Operators - contacting lighthouses all over the world

Colonial Infantry Brigade - visit their 1850s military camp

KIDZONE @ The Cape - activity packs, face painting, storytime, craft corner, pony rides

Win a Telstra phone & accommodation at the Lightstation - by texting a friend faster than the Morse Code Operators

Geoff D'Ombra - roving old salt entertainer

Food - available all day in the Marquee (incl. Saturday night)

Friday 7pm Winemaker's

Dinner featuring Otway Estate cuisine, wine & beer, night tour of the 1848 lighthouse

Saturday 9:15am, 2:30pm & 3:15pm Weather Station tours

Saturday 1pm & 3pm

Reenactment of the sacking of the first lightkeeper

Saturday 5-5:30pm Apollo Bay Community Choir

Saturday 5:45pm & Sunday

12pm The Keeper a one-woman play; Sat 3 course Mediterranean dinner, night tour of lighthouse (\$65 incl. weekend pass); Sun two-course buffet lunch \$30

Saturday 7-7:30pm

Lightstation Ghost Tour: meet the ghostbusters, hear their stories and test ghost-finding equipment.

Entry fees

Buy a ticket Saturday & return Sunday for free. Sat/Sun play without meal: \$20 (adult), \$50 (family), \$10 (conc.) - food also available in the Marquee

Last entry for Saturday night's play & dinner is 5:30pm

Bookings for the meals are essential - call 5237 9240

Taxi service

GOR SHUTTLE is providing a taxi service for dinner guests, between Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre & the Lightstation.

Friday pickup 6:15pm, return after dinner; Saturday pickup 4pm & 5:15pm, return 9pm & 10:15pm. \$18 per person. Call 0428 379278 or email gorshuttle@bordernet.com.au



A spooky night out

A GHOSTBUSTING tour of Cape Otway Lightstation is planned to help people experience paranormal activity.

Australian Ghost Adventures will lead ghost tours of the Lightstation, after dark on Saturday, August 16, as part of International Lighthouse Weekend celebrations.

The paranormal adventure company's Gary Sullivan warned people to "expect the unexpected".

"There's no guarantee there's going to be a ghost, but we've definitely had some activity during previous visits to the Lightstation," Mr Sullivan said.

"The team will be able to tell the stories of hauntings that may be there," said Mr Sullivan.

He will be accompanied on the tour by three psychics and a pagan/traditional method investigator.

Mr Sullivan said he was looking forward to showing curious people the technical and scientific equipment his team utilised to detect the paranormal.

The Lightstation's most mischievous ghost is the Lady in Grey, who is often seen or sensed by tourists and people who stay at the lighthouse.

The ghost of Mrs Riches has been known to turn guests'

electric blankets up to high while they're asleep in bed.

The naughty Mrs Riches regularly flicks light switches on and off, and gets a kick out of making the phone ring in the middle of the night.

"We get phone calls from the café in the middle of the night when there's no-one there. Weird things like that happen," said Lightstation manager Paul Thompson.

"It's said that she haunts the Assistant Lightkeeper's Cottage because that's the last place she was happy."

The tour will start at 7pm on August 16.

A match made in heaven

HAVE you ever had the luxury of a chef preparing you a four course dinner and matching each mouth-watering dish with a perfectly complimentary wine or beer?

Otway Estate head chef Duncan Green has developed a menu for International Lighthouse Weekend and each course will be matched with a wine or ale made at the Barongarook vineyard and brewery.

On Friday, August 15, there is room for just 30 people to enjoy Duncan's contemporary Australian fusion cuisine at the Lightkeeper's Cafe.

The meal will start with freshly shucked South Australian oysters served with a vibrant salsa; sugar and five



pepper cured Blue Eye with wasabi aioli; plus seared scallops with an avocado and lime puree. These canapés will be matched with Otway Estate Semillon Sauvignon 2006, Prickly Moses Summer Ale and Pilsner.

The entree is Apostle Whey Bay Of Martyrs Blue, vine leaf and slow roasted quince ravioli with crisped streaky bacon, pesto, parmesan infused EVOO (Extra Virgin Olive Oil) & balsamic reduction, served with either Otway Estate Chardonnay 2005 or Prickly Moses Otway Ale.

The Estate's 2006 Pinot Noir or new French style ale Reserve De Otway will be

served with the main course of twice-cooked Duck Maryland, served on roasted shitake mushroom rice paper rolls.

Those who believe the proof is in the pudding won't be disappointed with Duncan's Chocolate Coated Cherry Liqueur Pudding with vanilla bean anglais. It will be served with a Yahoo Creek Aged Tawny Port or Prickly Moses Strong Ale.

If that's whet your appetite, call the Lighthouse on 03 5237 9240 to reserve a space. The price of \$75 includes the four courses, wine, beer, a night tour of the lighthouse and a weekend pass to the Lighthouse celebrations.