

53 William St
Scottsdale
Tasmania 7260
27 February, 2015

The Hon Ivan Dean MLC

Dear Sir,

I am an enthusiastic amateur historian possibly motivated by having nine convict ancestors on one side of my family and am fifth generation on the other. I have visited most Tasmanian historical sites, read widely about Tasmanian history and also written a local history book about the local farming area where I grew up. So I speak with a passion about Tasmania's built heritage.

While Port Arthur is well done, some of Hobart's sandstone buildings and our wonderful bridges are underdone. Launceston, too, has some interesting historical buildings.

However, my main point of interest is the tourist potential of Eddystone Lighthouse and cottages precinct. **Here is an amazing future opportunity just waiting to be utilised.** I know the buildings well and have greatly admired them because in the early 1990s, I initiated school camps there for several years. We hired one cottage from the national authority (The Commonwealth actually owned the area at the time.) and erected tents in the yard. I will never forget the experience of visiting the light at night and how the beams appeared to come right down to the ground around us like we were inside a hurdy-gurdy. I have never understood the science of this effect but it was an incredible ethereal experience!

The area has a rich European history: numerous shipwrecks, the astounding feat of building the lighthouse, the brave isolated lifestyle of the keepers and their families and the sad grave of a child. As we have a family shack at Ansons Bay, I still visit the Lighthouse often, usually to take visitors. Over the years, I have been saddened to watch the deterioration from how I first knew and revered the site. Although, after much government money being spent there, it is presently tidy again but looks unloved and the disregard for the grave is a disgrace.

The buildings should be managed by a heritage organisation before all that history is lost.

May I suggest the committee visits the area and makes up its own mind?

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Jenny Bicanic