



## Plan to put a shine on lighthouse

THE HISTORIC Cape Brett lighthouse will be gleaming again by the end of summer.

The Conservation Department will start restoring the 98-year-old lighthouse in the middle of March when it hopes warm, dry weather will allow the application of specialist primers, sealers and paints.

"We expect the work to take about six weeks, so within the next few months the lighthouse will be back to its beautiful, pristine self," department archaeologist Andrew Blanshard says.

He hopes the restoration project will lead to an upgrade of historic buildings associated with the lighthouse.

"It is the only historic lighthouse, managed by DOC, which still has its internal workings and they are in very good condition. With comparatively little work, the inside could be tidied up and then opened to the public a few days each year.

"We are also going to stabilise the gantry and un-

### Good job for volunteers

cover the tramline which was used to get supplies up to the settlement and the lighthouse."

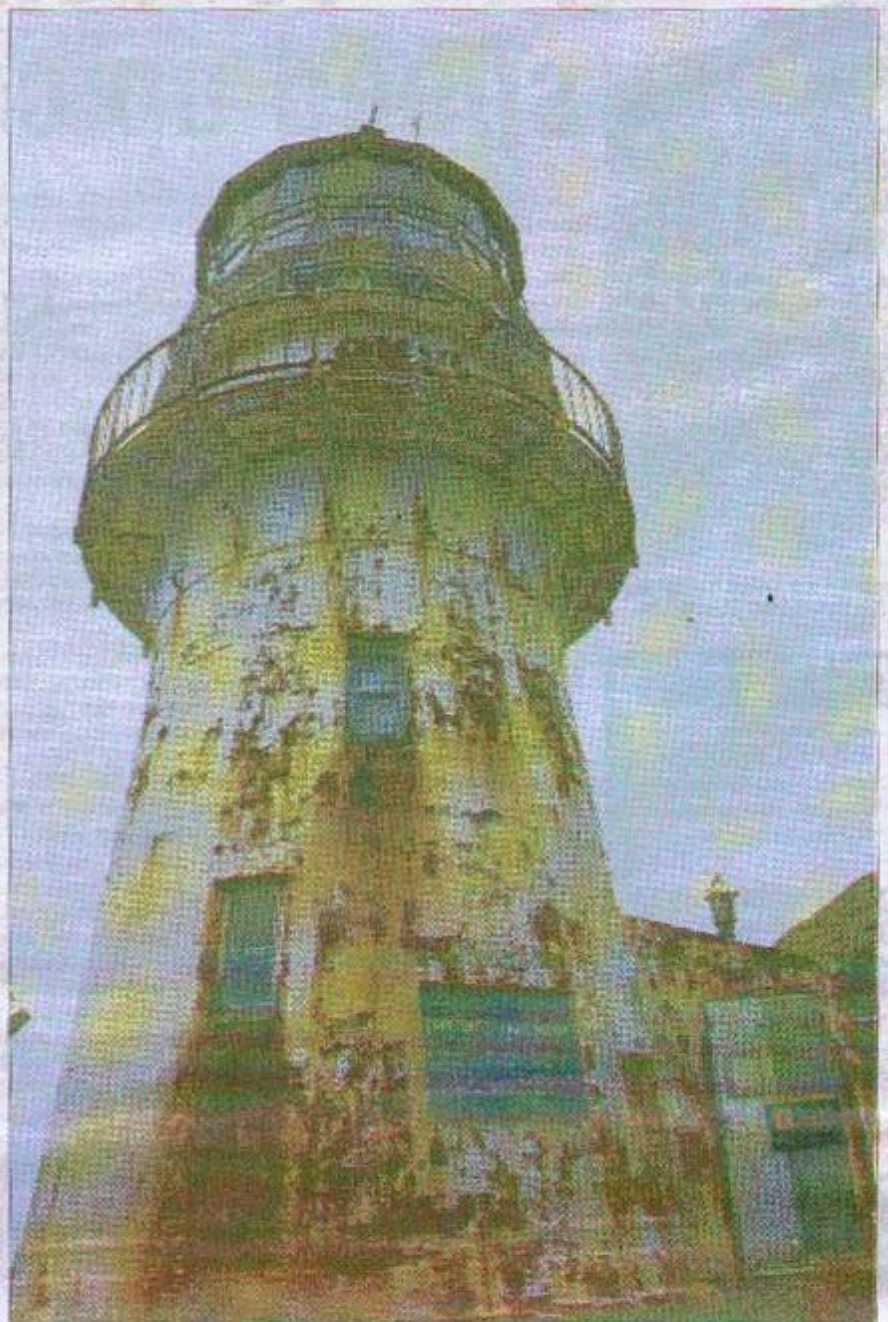
The department will recruit volunteers to undertake much of the work and hopes to eventually have a 'friends of Cape Brett Lighthouse' group to help with ongoing maintenance, he says.

"A big bonus is a few days' accommodation in a fantastic location which many people cross the world to visit."

The 14-metre, cast-iron lighthouse was first lit on February 21, 1910.

It was made from prefabricated components cast in Thames by Chas Judd Ltd and was unusual because it was the first in the country where the light revolved in a bath of mercury.

The lighthouse was manned by three keepers – all of whom lived on-site with their families – until a small automated light was introduced in 1978.



**BEACON TO SHINE AGAIN:** The Conservation Department hopes to repaint the Cape Brett lighthouse by the end of summer.