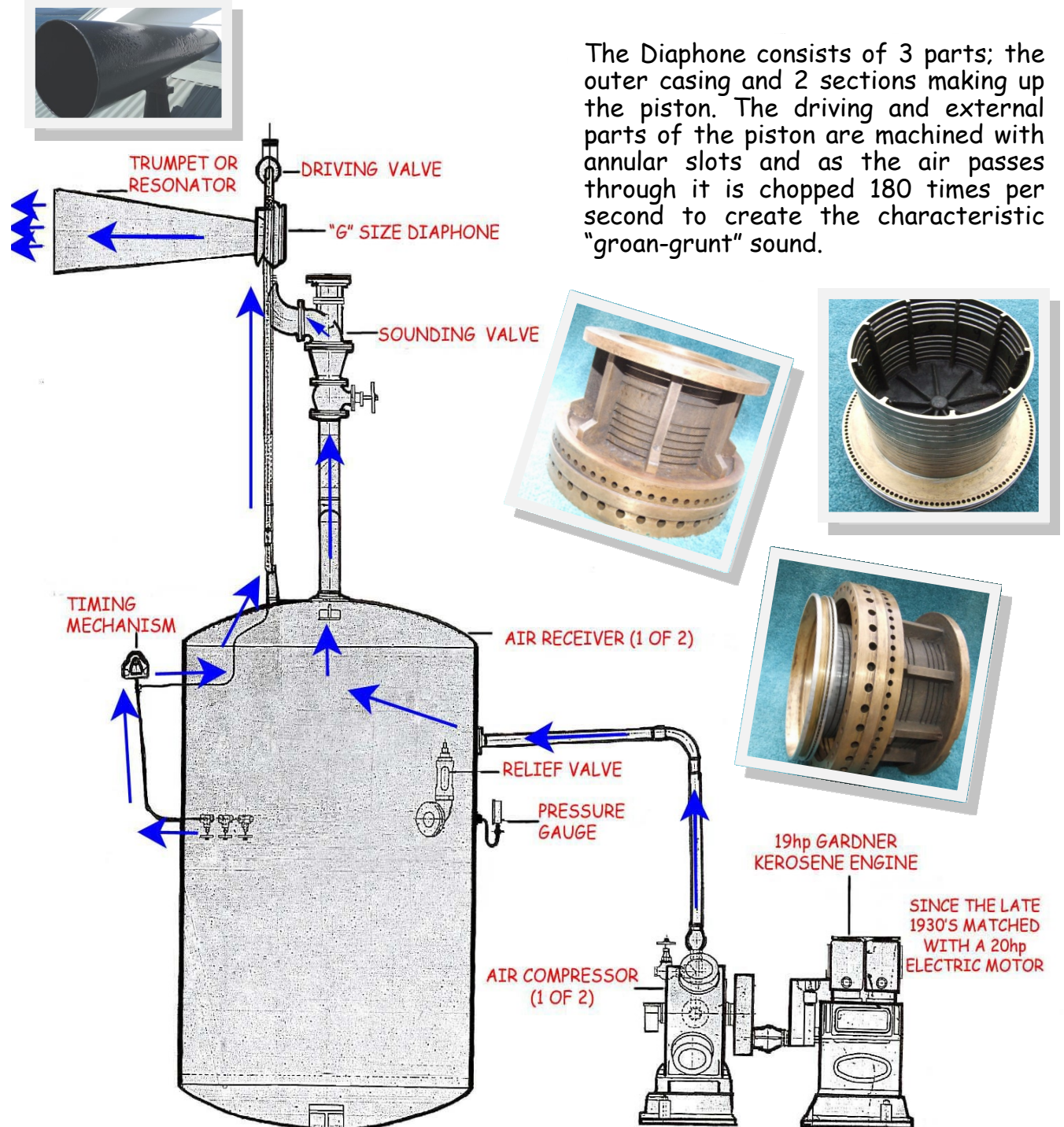




LOW HEAD FOGHORN

THE ONLY OPERATIONAL
"G" TYPE DIAPHONE IN THE
WORLD



LOW HEAD FOGHORN

In 1929 the Foghorn was installed at the lightstation to warn ships' masters, by means of a unique signal, that they were approaching the shore of Low Head, hidden by heavy river and sea fog.

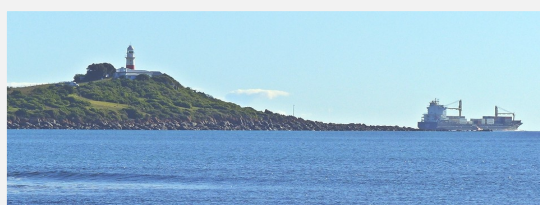
The Foghorn was installed and operated by the Australian Government Shipping and Navigation Authorities.

In 1973 its use was abandoned because of technical advances in navigation.

The Sound Had Gone ...

With responsibility moving from one Commonwealth Department to another, the installation remained untouched for 27 years.

In 2000-2001 a group of volunteers, in conjunction with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Department (the present owners of the equipment), decided to investigate the possibility of restoring the Foghorn to its former glory.



Members of the restoration group encountered a number of challenges including;

- Accessing operating manuals and engineering drawings, located in the Hobart Offices of National Archives and the Portland Lightstation on England's south coast.

- Checking the internal mechanisms, fortunately the external surfaces had been protected by liberal coatings of paint.

- Repairing a small area of corrosion on one of the air receivers.

- Gaining certification from the relevant authorities.

- Locating the technical data to enable the refurbishment of the extremely rare Gardner kerosene engine - Model 2 DCR.

During the restoration it quickly became very evident that, due to the excellent design and precision engineering used in the manufacture, very little work would have to be done to make the Foghorn fully operational again.

In April 2001, using the electric motor, *".....the magnificent roar of a thousand elephants echoed through the Low Head area and beyond....."*

The only Type "G" Diaphone in the world was operational once again!

The Sound Was Back ...

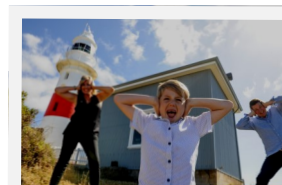
Volunteers continue to sound the Foghorn each Sunday at noon.

Following the character of the lighthouse, the signal timing is 3 consecutive blasts followed by 51 seconds silence every minute.

HEARING PROTECTION IS ADVISED



Hear the Foghorn



Hear and view the Gardner Engine



Visit the Low Head Pilot Station Maritime Museum