



## KINGSTON VISITOR INFORMATION OUTLET

29 Holland Street, Kingston SE  
[www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au/discover](http://www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au/discover)

### Opening Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 5:00pm

### Saturday - Sunday

Kingston Foreshore Caravan Park  
34A Marine Parade  
8:00am - 7:00pm

Local Tourism Information  
Regional Tourist Information  
State Tourist Information  
Maps & Directories  
Community Displays  
Free Internet Access  
Current Events & Activities

The Margaret Brock Reef was named after the barque “Margaret Brock”, which was wrecked there on the 20th November 1852. Several other vessels have been wrecked on this most dangerous reef.

The Cape Jaffa Lighthouse was erected between 1868 and 1872 on the Margaret Brock Reef, situated 8km out to sea, 11km West-South-West of the Cape Jaffa township.



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# CAPE JAFFA LIGHTHOUSE



# KINGSTON SE

## BUILDING

Work commenced on the 41 metres (134 ft) high structure towards the end of 1868 and was completed for opening on 24th January 1872. This type of lighthouse is known as Wells Screw Pile and is most durable because of its wrought iron construction and the fact that its narrow foundation piles of 20cm diameter provided little resistance to waves.

The designer, G. Wells, submitted the tender that was accepted for the construction of the lighthouse at Cape Jaffa. W.F. King carried the burden on his shoulders as Superintendent of Works.

The contract time limit for the construction was 12 months, but due to adverse weather conditions, it took 3 years to complete. A clause in the contract stated that the contractor was liable for 10 English Pounds damages per day for non-completion of any portion of the work within the time limit.

The original 13 screw piles screwed 2.7 metres into the solid reef. The original decking and jetty remains intact and can be seen from the foreshore at Cape Jaffa on clear days. A kitchen & workshop was originally placed on the decking but was dismantled with the rest of the lighthouse. The bottom 6 metre section of this 36 metre structure was re-built from original specifications. The remainder of the structure has been re-assembled from the original parts.



## REMOVAL

During 1974 material began arriving ashore at the current site of the lighthouse on Marine Parade, Kingston, under the direction of the Department of Transport. A helicopter removed the top sections and placed them on shore and the 2,000 tonne lighthouse vessel 'Cape Pillar', transported the heavier sections to shore. An amphibious craft ferried the sections to the site in Kingston.

It is the first time in the history of Australia that a lighthouse has been shifted from a site at sea and rebuilt on land. The Kingston Branch of the National Trust undertook the mammoth task of reconstructing the lighthouse.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1976 the lighthouse was officially handed over to the National Trust of SA by the Commonwealth Department of Transport. Approximately 700 attended this function on the same day that it was opened 104 years earlier.



## LANTERN

The lantern room is 3.6 metres in diameter and contains the very valuable light apparatus which floats on mercury and is operated on the weighted chain principle of grandfather clocks. The 142,000 candle power light was visible for a distance of 40 km.

The pressure kerosene burner has a single mantle and used approximately 18 litres of kerosene per week. This apparatus was the last of its type to operate in Australia. The original burner was a multi-wick burner which was replaced in 1909. It operated until 1973.

## DWELLING

The 8 rooms of this dwelling accommodated 2 families and sufficient stores to last several months. One room was set aside as an office and signal room. For a short period there were 6 adults and 11 children living on the lighthouse, but in later years only 2 men lived on the structure. This lighthouse was a weather station until 1973.

## OPENING HOURS



The Lighthouse is generally open between 10:00am and 3:00pm during School Holidays.

Outside of these times tours can be arranged, subject to availability of volunteers. Please contact Alison Stillwell on 0427 854 175 for more information and to make a booking.