

LOCATION: Latitude 35° 22.2'S, Longitude 136° 51.7' E

OPERATOR: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

EXHIBITED: 1879

CONSTRUCTION: Stone

CHARACTER: 0.1 sec flash every 7 sec

LIGHT SOURCE: 120v 1000w Tungsten Halogen Lamp

POWER SOURCE: Twin Diesel Generator sets

INTENSITY: 710,000 cd

ELEVATION: 107 Metres

RANGE: 24 N Miles

HEIGHT: 20 Metres

AUTOMATED: 1991

DEMANNED: 1991

DEACTIVATED: <<add>>

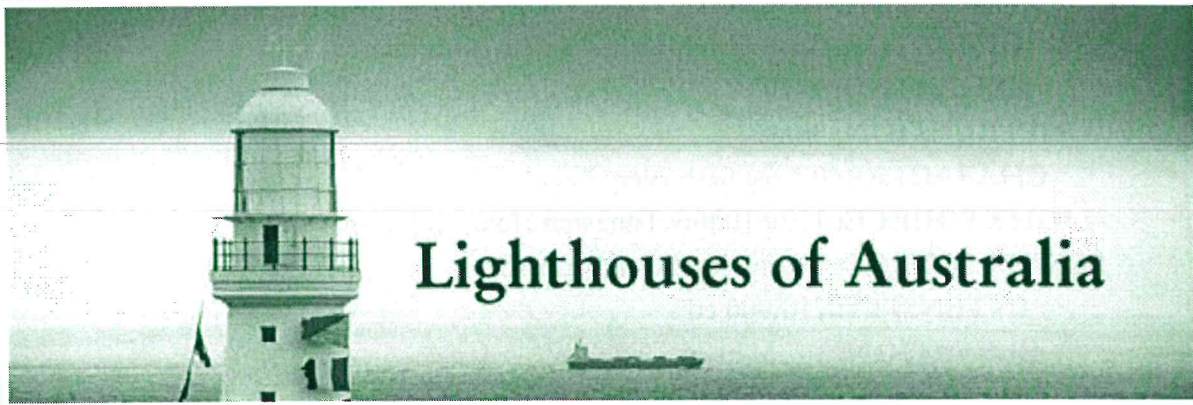
CUSTODIAN: Parks SA



A 1983 view of the tower with engine and store rooms

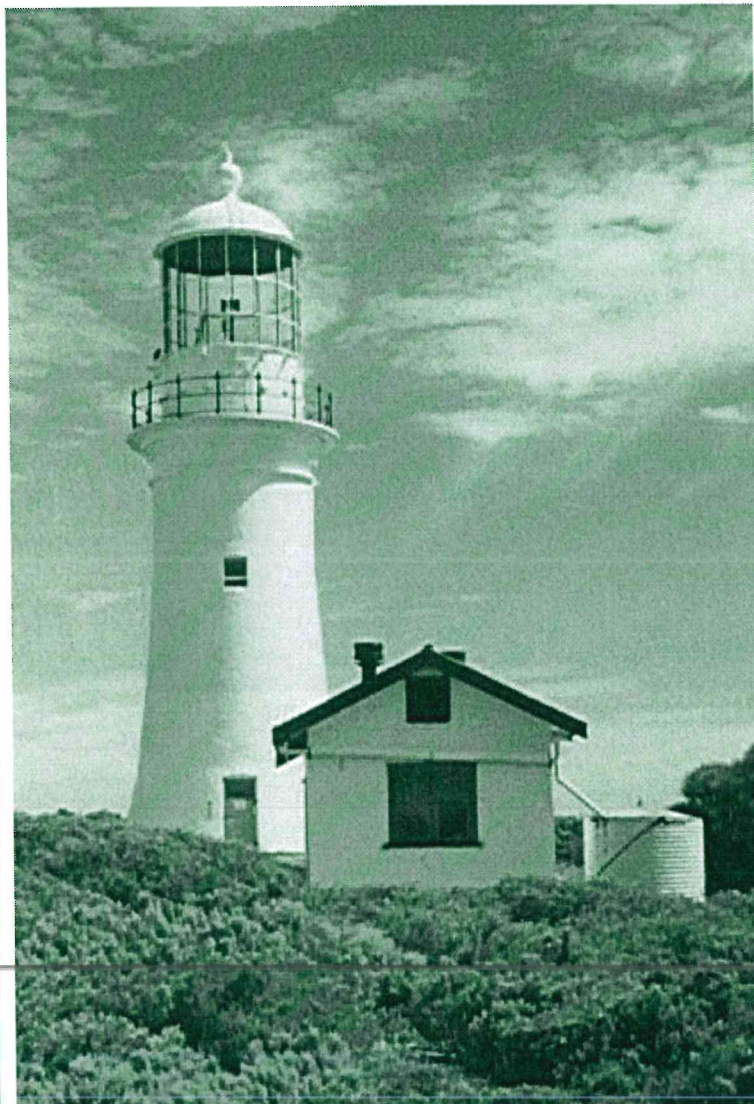
Photograph: Brian Lord

<>



[HOME](#) [SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INDEX](#) [FEEDBACK](#) [ABOUT](#)

The Althorpe Island Lighthouse



<>

[Operation](#)
[History](#)
[Keepers](#)
[Access](#)
[Surrounding
Area](#)
[Features](#)
[News](#)
[Letters](#)
[Other Althorpe
Sites](#)

The Althorpe Island Lighthouse

Photograph: Brad Butler

Operation



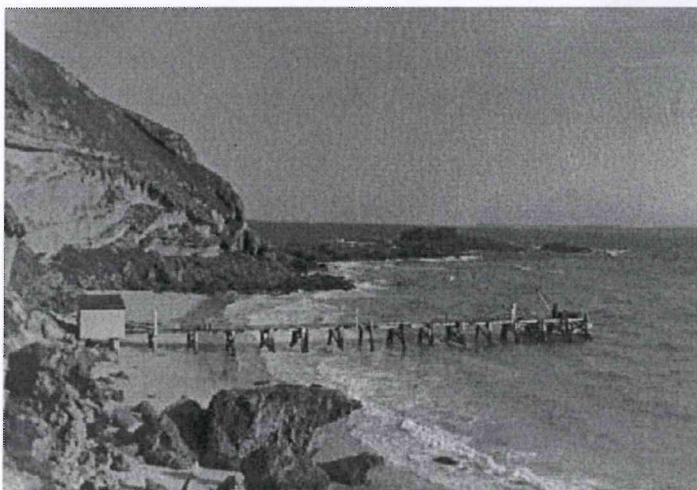
Althorpe Island from the air

Photograph: Michiel Lucieer

History

The island's cultural history most likely began with the Lower Yorke Peninsula inhabitants, the Narungga people, 8000 years before present sea levels rose 120 metres.

It was the English, (Matthew Flinders) and French (Baudin & Freycinet) explorers, who sighted the island in 1802 and named their respective discoveries, 'Althorpe Isles' and 'Isles Vauban'.



The jetty used for landing stores at the base of the 300 foot (87 metre) cliff

Photograph: AMSA

The next known contact on Althorpe Island came in 1838, with the burial of 'T. Peterson', a 42 year old sealer, who is believed to have lost his life during one the sealing expeditions, working along on Althorpe Island's 5 km shoreline.

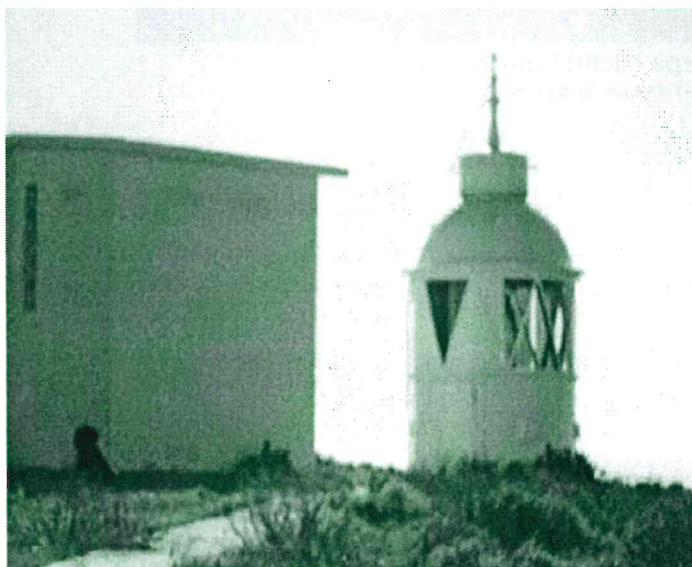
Althorpe Island, is 91.5 hectares, in area, nearly 1.6 km from North to South and 1.2 km wide at the centre and a plateau 91 metres, above sea level.

Reaching the summit is not only an achievement but breathtaking views of Lower Yorke Peninsula with Cape Spencer being the most southerly, 4.5 nautical miles (8 km) from Althorpe Island. The view south is Kangaroo Island and looking west, visitors would note Wedge Island, with Port Lincoln 32 nautical miles further west. To the east, the vast sea



Working of the leading light, 1962

Photograph: Robert Dawson



The Althorpe Leading Light

Photograph: Brian Lord



The Althorpe Island light at dusk

Photograph Courtesy: Michiel Lucieer

horizon of Investigator Strait, where today, Adelaide's loom can be seen.

Althorpe Island Lighthouse Station was one of a group of lighthouses that represented the intercolonial agreement by the States in 1873, which sought the necessity of provisions for lighthouses.

Construction began in early 1877 and after a party of dignitaries from the Marine Board arrived on Althorpe Island during the morning on Friday, February 14, 1879, during which time they had inspected the jetty, the bridge to the 'cutting' the steep inclined tramway, three cottages and finally, the Lighthouse itself.

The President of the Marine Board "emphatically declared it to be a model station", with a £11,000 price tag, of which £1,500 was for water supply. (The total cost was equivalent to one labourers wage of 91 years.)

Construction was not without incident, including the loss of the attendant cutter, 'Young St George', industrial disputation and the strange death of the foreman, killed by a falling rock while sleeping.

The lighthouse was designed by R P Hickson, Engineer-in-Chief for South Australian harbours and jetties.

The lighthouse was constructed with a combination of limestone and hard sandstone, for hard wearing areas, quarried and cut on the island. The spiral staircase is made of solid blocks of sandstone, treads faced with Mintaro slate.

The three Keepers' Cottages were constructed with rendered limestone

rubble and hard sandstone for hard wearing areas.

Water supply was from rain water held in tanks in the foundations of the tower.





