

# *Cape Wickham Lighthouse 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Programme*

*3 - 7 November 2011*



Cape Wickham Lighthouse

King Island

1861-2011

King Island's  
Beacon of  
Bass Strait  
for 150 years

150th Anniversary  
Celebration  
November 2011

Come climb with us.!



Australian Government  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

[www.kingislandlight150.com](http://www.kingislandlight150.com)

A project of King Island Tourism Inc, King Island Council & the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

# The Story of the Lighthouse

King Island's "Beacon of Bass Strait" is about to come-of-age!

The Cape Wickham Lighthouse on the northernmost tip of King Island started service on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1861 – 150 years ago.

King Island, located at the western entrance to Bass Strait, is an island rich in history with shipwrecks, lighthouses and jagged reefs. It is blessed with an abundance of long stretching sandy beaches and lush green pasture. From this little paradise are produced some of Australia's finest natural foods for which the Island is probably best known including grass fed beef, cheese, crayfish & abalone and yet there is more to this 64km long by 27km wide stretch of land than first meets the eye.

The 48m tall Cape Wickham Lighthouse began operating 150 years ago on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1861 and has been in continuous operation since that first night providing -

- 150 years of saving lives.
- 150 years of guidance and direction for shipping
- 150 years of community capacity building
- 150 years of very unique history.

Cape Wickham is at the northernmost tip of King Island and the 88km gap between Cape Otway (Victoria) and Cape Wickham was often a trap for the unwary Ship's Master seeking entry into Bass Strait. The Western entrance has become the graveyard to at least 18 ships nearing the end of their long voyages. For example -

- The Neva bringing convict women and children from Cork was one of only four convict ships wrecked enroute to Australia. In 1835 the ship crashed into the Harbinger Reefs while trying to enter the strait. Only 15 out of a complement of 241 survived.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1845 the Cataqua with 370 emigrants bound for Melbourne ran aground whilst running before a Westerly gale. Of the 408 persons aboard only 9 survived. The loss of so many lives placed pressure on the government to place lighthouses at both ends of Bass Strait.

## History

Established in 1861, Cape Wickham is Australia's tallest lighthouse and the Southern Hemisphere's tallest granite-built lighthouse. The tower is constructed of local stone, with walls 3.4 metres thick at the base. It has eleven flights of stairs each of 20 steps.

The light was automated in 1918 replacing the original single wick oil burner with an acetylene flasher.

This changed the character of the light from being "fixed" to group flashing, showing two flashes in quick succession every 10 seconds, and increased the candlepower from 7,500 to 13,000 candles.

The light was "de-manned" in 1921 after which the Superintendent's house and the three cottages were demolished.

The original first order "catadioptric" fixed lens installed in 1861 was replaced in 1946 by a modern electric revolving lens and gave an intensity of 170,000 candelas.



A project of King Island Tourism Inc, King Island Council & AMSA

## *All weekend - Thursday to Monday*

9:00am – 9:00pm	Lollipop & Boathouse Exhibitions featuring lighthouses, their keepers and shell collections
9:00am - Late	The Boathouse “Restaurant with No Food” Collections, old records (and working turn-table) and BBQ for use

## *Official Opening - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011*

Research has indicated that the Cape Wickham Lighthouse was never officially opened. To correct this we are delighted to announce that the Australian Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce will officially open the Cape Wickham Lighthouse at 7.30pm.

***Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the  
Commonwealth of Australia***



There will be a public reception for the Governor General and other distinguished guests. This will be held at Cape Wickham and will commence at 6.00pm on Saturday. All welcome.

Following the public reception the official opening starts at 7.30pm and will include a blessing of the lighthouse and a few words from ‘Queen Victoria’ to provide some historical context.

At 8.00pm a selection of local musicians will perform before the lantern parade featuring handmade lanterns made by school students and others in the local community. This will be closely followed by the GREAT Glow-Stick Challenge where we will attempt to break the Guinness Book of World records for the largest glow stick design



**Don't go home before the sun goes down** as this is when the whole of the Cape Wickham lighthouse will be illuminated with amazing designs from visiting artist Olaf Meyer and beautiful sounds from local musicians.

### *Bring a Picnic !*

There will be a bar on site together with food including baked potato, steak sandwiches and tea and cakes or you could pack a picnic to enjoy during the day. Alternatively King Island Foodworks will be happy to make you a delicious hamper with local produce if you place your order the day before – 6462 1144.



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## Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>

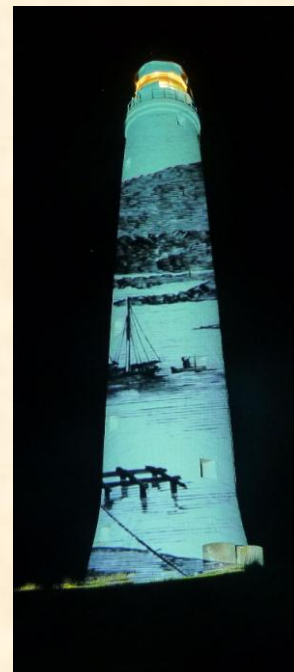
9.00 am – 4.30 pm	Public Tours of Cape Wickham Lighthouse Bookings Essential – 03 6462 9000 – gold coin donation please
9:00am – 5:00pm	Cultural Centre Exhibition
11:00am – 3.00pm	Portside Gallery, Grassy Harbour – exhibition and light refreshments
12.30pm – 4.00pm	Museum Exhibition in Currie – cost \$6-00 pp
2:30 pm	Currie Lighthouse Tour – maximum 10 per tour – charges apply. Please phone 0439 705 610 for further information.
All day	Self guided Quarry Walks (from Cape Wickham Lighthouse)
8:00pm	Lighthouse Ball / Bush Dance at Town Hall Come dressed in period costume (1850 – 1930) Evening will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music Makers</li> <li>• Re-enactment</li> <li>• Barn Dancing with a caller.</li> <li>• Art Auction</li> </ul>

## Lighthouse Projections – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm

Animations, video and images drawing on the history of the lighthouse and shipwrecks will be projected onto the entire height of Cape Wickham lighthouse by multimedia artist Olaf Meyer and producer Sally Marsden.

Olaf will be working with students from King Island District High School and local composer and teacher, John Salzman on the sound composition to accompany the show.

These projections will be taller than the biggest movie screen in the world and will start at 8.30pm



Actual test image from Wickham

## Open Gardens

Look out for signs around Currie with details of which gardens will be open.

# Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>

5:00am	Walking Event - <i>from Stokes Point</i>
6:00am	Ultra Marathon foot race - <i>from Stokes Point</i>
10:00am	Cycling event - <i>from Grassy</i>
9.00am to 4.30pm	Public Tours of Cape Wickham Lighthouse Bookings Essential – 03 6462 9000 – gold coin donation please
10:00am – 12 noon	Cheese Sculpture Display in Town Hall Foyer
11.00am – 3.00pm	Portside Gallery, Grassy Harbour – exhibition and light refreshments
12 noon – 6:30pm	Market – delicious food available onsite or bring a picnic hamper.
12.30pm – 4.00pm	Museum Exhibition in Currie – cost \$6-00 pp
1.00pm	<i>Free bus leaves Currie Post Office - bookings essential 6462 9000</i>
All Day	Quarry Walks led by members of the King Island Field Naturalists. Please call 6462 9000 for bookings.
Weather dependent	Kite Surf – for TKSA members & associates ONLY –from British Admiral Beach to Victoria Cove & the Cape Wickham Lighthouse. For details contact: John – 0427 611 143 - <a href="mailto:tinka67@hotmail.com">tinka67@hotmail.com</a>
2.00pm – 6.00pm	Art & Craft market & gallery at Cape Wickham
2.00pm	Arrival of Seahawk Helicopter from 816 Squadron – static display.
2.00pm – 5.00pm	Family Fun Day – a range of games and activities for all ages.
3.00pm	Performance by Janice Haynes from Cape Otway Light Station
3.30pm	Neva Not Forgotten – calico washing ceremony and information.
4.30pm	Winch rescue by Seahawk Helicopter from 816 Squadron.
5:00pm	Group photograph of all lighthouse keepers' descendants.
6.00pm	Public reception for Governor-General & family picnics
7.00pm	Seahawk helicopter departs from Cape Wickham with fly past of lighthouse
7.30pm	Official Opening and Blessing of Cape Wickham Lighthouse
8.00pm	Musical performances under the light and Lantern Parade
8.15pm	“The GREAT Glow-Stick Challenge”. Can we beat the world record and make the world’s largest glow stick design? Free glow sticks on site!
8.30pm – 9.30pm	Animations, video and incredible light projections on site at Cape Wickham Lighthouse... <b>Taller than the biggest screen in the world!</b>
9.00pm	<i>Free bus leaves Cape Wickham – Bookings essential 6462 9000</i>



A project of the Australian Government, Festivals Australia; King Island Tourism Inc, King Island Council & AMSA

## *Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>*

9.00 am – 4:30pm	Public tours of Cape Wickham Lighthouse Bookings essential – 03 6462 9000 – gold coin donation please
10:00 – 12 noon	Cheese Sculpture Display in Town Hall foyer
½ hourly from 11:00am	Currie Lighthouse Tour – maximum 10 per tour – charges apply. Please phone 0439 705610 for further information. (No tour at 2.00pm)
All day	Self-guided quarry walks at Cape Wickham
10:00am – 4:00pm	Portside Gallery, Grassy Harbour – exhibition and light refreshments
10.30am	Winch Rescue in Currie Harbour by Seahawk Helicopter from 816 Squadron.
11.00 am	Official opening of Bridget Levy solo exhibition, “Wickham And All Its Glory” at the Cultural Centre.
11.30pm – 4.00pm	Museum Exhibition in Currie – cost \$6-00 pp
11.30 am –1.00pm	Currie Stories Walk – with histories and stories relating to specific areas of Currie. Cost: \$6-00 per person. Bookings – 6462 1241
11:30am – 4:00pm	Display of Lanterns at Museum
11:30am – 4:00pm	Neva Not Forgotten Information & Display in Tea Rooms at Museum
11:30am – 4:00pm	Static display of old vehicles and machinery at Museum
11:30am – 4:00pm	Market and Car-Boot Sale at KI Museum Currie – food available.
11:30am – 4:00pm	Museum Exhibition – cost \$6-00 pp
1.00pm	Seahawk Helicopter from 816 Squadron departs Currie Lighthouse
2:00pm	Official opening of the Lens Room at the King Island Museum by AMSA CEO Graham Peachey.

## *Hole-in One – Golf Competition - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November*

At the King Island Golf & Bowling Club

- \$500 for the person who can get a hole-in-one.
- \$100 for “nearest-the-pin”
- Kids – “Hackers” prize



# Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>

9.00 am – 4.30 pm	Public Tours of Cape Wickham Lighthouse Bookings essential – 03 6462 9000 – gold coin donation please
10:00am – 12 noon	Cheese Sculpture Display in Town Hall foyer
9:00am – 12 noon	Cultural Centre Exhibition
12.30pm – 4.00pm	Museum Exhibition in Currie – cost \$6-00 pp
All Day	Self-guided Quarry Walks at Cape Wickham
9:00am – 12 noon & 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Museum Exhibition (including Lens Room) – cost \$6-00 pp
10:00am – 2:00pm	Hole-in-one / Nearest-to-Pin Golf Competition at the King Island Golf & Bowling Club
1.00pm – 3.00pm	Barefoot Bowls at the King Island Golf & Bowling Club

## Story of Original Cape Wickham Lighthouse Lens

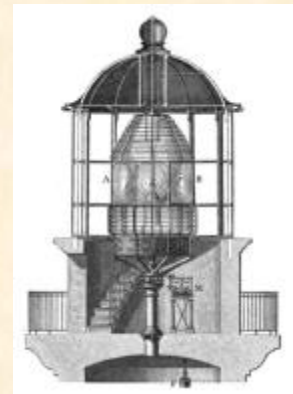


The original Cape Wickham Lighthouse Lens

Cape Wickham and Cape Otway on Victoria's South Coast formed the "eye of the needle" leading sailors into the narrow Bass Strait. After leaving the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa and crossing thousands of miles of sea navigators had to find their way into a strait less than 90 kilometres wide. The shores of King Island became the final resting place of many ships which faltered close to the end of their journey.

The original catadioptric lens was removed in 1946 and installed in Point Quobba, WA where it remained until recently.

The King Island Historical Society and Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) worked closely to ensure the return of the original lens to King Island.



Drawing of a lighthouse lantern room from mid 1800s

**The spectacular and enormous French glass prism will be unveiled at 2.00pm on Sunday afternoon at the King Island Museum.**



A project of King Island Tourism Ins, King Island Council & AMSA



## *"Neva Not forgotten"*

Christina Henri is a conceptual artist from Hobart, Tasmania. Her "Roses from the Heart™" project examines the exploitation of convict women on their way to and on arrival in Australia

Christina uses the cloth bonnet symbol as a signifier of the convict women's worth - their economic value to Australia's prosperity. A servant's bonnet was selected as many convict women were assigned to work amongst the community as domestics.



As the *Neva* carried so many convict women when she was shipwrecked, Christina will bring with her sufficient calico to make bonnets representing the 150 women and their 33 children. This fabric will be washed in the sea at Cape Wickham as close as possible to where the *Neva* is believed to have gone down.

Once the calico has been submerged in the sea, the cloth will be dried and the bonnets will be cut out providing an opportunity for the public to chat with Christina.

In 2012 the cut out bonnets will be sewn and embroidered among some of the communities in Ireland from where the *Neva* women originated. Once the bonnets are made they will be blessed at the Cob wharf from where the *Neva* departed on January 8<sup>th</sup> 1835. Subsequently they will be returned to King Island where they will comprise a permanent installation in memory of the lives lost and the courage of the survivors of the *Neva*.



## *Lantern Parade*

Annie Brennan is a highly experienced craftsperson working with community groups in the medium of lantern making and with communities participating in lantern parades.

Annie will hold workshops on King Island both in the community and in school where lanterns will be designed and constructed to celebrate the Cape Wickham Lighthouse 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations.

The lanterns will be paraded on-site at the Cape Wickham Lighthouse on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>. They will be hung at the King Island Museum, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

## *Sponsors*

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Sid Sidebottom MP

Larsen Cleaning Services

The Hon. Bryan Green MP

Festivals Australia

Tasmanian Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts

King Island Council

King Island Quick Print

Tasmanian Regional Arts

Rocky Glen Retreat

Waverley Station



*More Information available at:*

[www.kingislandlight150.com](http://www.kingislandlight150.com)

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