

# Lowly



The Point Lowly beach is just a 20-minute drive from Whyalla (about 34kms) offering beautiful views of the gulf, coastline and across to the Southern Flinders Ranges. Dolphins and birdlife often frequent the waters, while the rocky shoreline is popular for fishing, sightseeing, or a relaxing and leisurely stroll. The Point Lowly beach is a popular spot for a day's outing, although swimmers need to be aware of strong currents and rip tides in the area.

## **Point Lowly Lighthouse**

The initial recommendation for the erection of a lighthouse at Point Lowly was made in 1878 after the conditions were found to be unsatisfactory for the continued use of a lightship at that location. The lighthouse and two cottages were completed in 1883. The Lowly Point Lighthouse stands out on a point jutting into the northern end of the Spencer Gulf.

It is the oldest building in the Whyalla area and was used to assist ships going to Port Augusta and Port Pirie. The construction proved to be difficult as all material had to be transported either by sea from Port Pirie or by rough coastal road from Port Augusta. The city of Whyalla did not exist at the time.

The original structure was 15 metres in height and was made from local sandstone. Its optical apparatus had an eight side catadioptric lens that revolved once every 80 seconds and gave a 2 second flash every 10 seconds. The light source was a wick burner fuelled by mineral oil. Supplies were landed by boat from Port Pirie on the opposite side of the Gulf.

After a number of incidents the height of the light was raised by 7.6 metres to its current level in 1909. At this time a kerosene vaporising light unit was installed. The light was de-manned in 1973 after the installation of a stone chance power beam beacon on the balcony, which was powered by batteries. In 1979, the light was connected to mains electricity and the lens and lamp were upgraded in this process. The two cottages were built for two resident light keepers, who manned the lighthouse for 90 years between 1883 and 1973. In 1979, the Whyalla Uniting Church took over the lighthouse and cottages.

The light was turned off in 1993 by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority as it believed it was no longer necessary. Since 1995, the lighthouse has been owned by the City of Whyalla.

