



Tiriti Kids

Kia ora,
The Tiritiri Lighthouse has been an important navigation aid in the Hauraki Gulf for over a century. Read the flags and enjoy the quiz.
Stacey.

Tiritiri Matangi Lighthouse is the oldest lighthouse still in operation in New Zealand and is listed as a Category 1 historic place. The two main purposes of a lighthouse are to serve as a navigation aid and to warn boats of dangerous areas.

The Tiritiri Matangi Lighthouse was the third to be built in New Zealand. It was first lit on 1 January 1865 and cost £5,747 (the equivalent of nearly \$1.5m in today's money). Building it was very difficult because it took four months to dig down through 3 metres of thick, boggy, clay-like mud to reach ground that was hard enough to build on.

Separate from the lighthouse, Tiritiri had a signal station. Initially, signalmen communicated with shipping using signal flags, later Morse code and then radio. Flags were flown from a white mast which was taller than the lighthouse and stood just south of it.

To get messages to Auckland wicker baskets were put up the mast because it was too far for signal flags to be seen and read from Takarunga/ Mt Victoria in Devonport. The Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi plan to rebuild this mast.

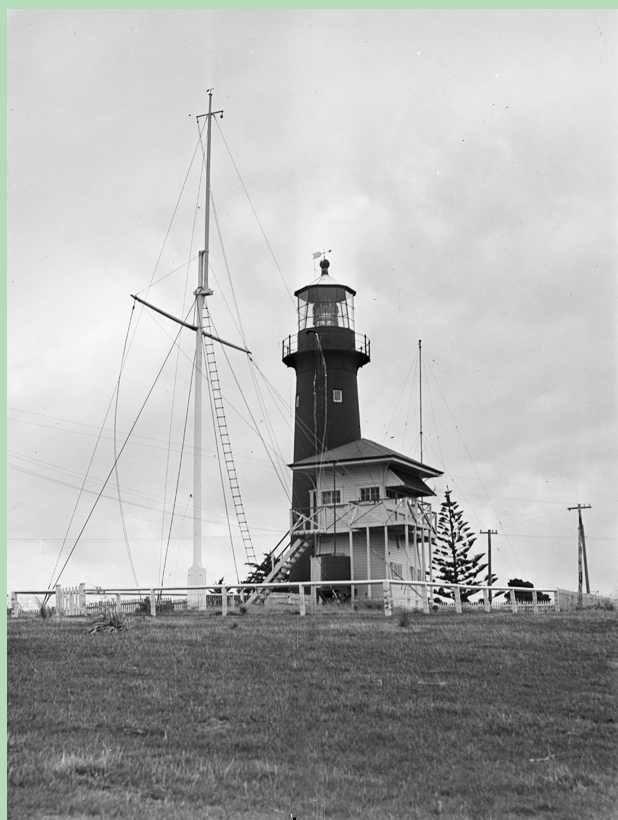


Photo / 1946 NZ Herald photo from Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections

Signal Flag Alphabet

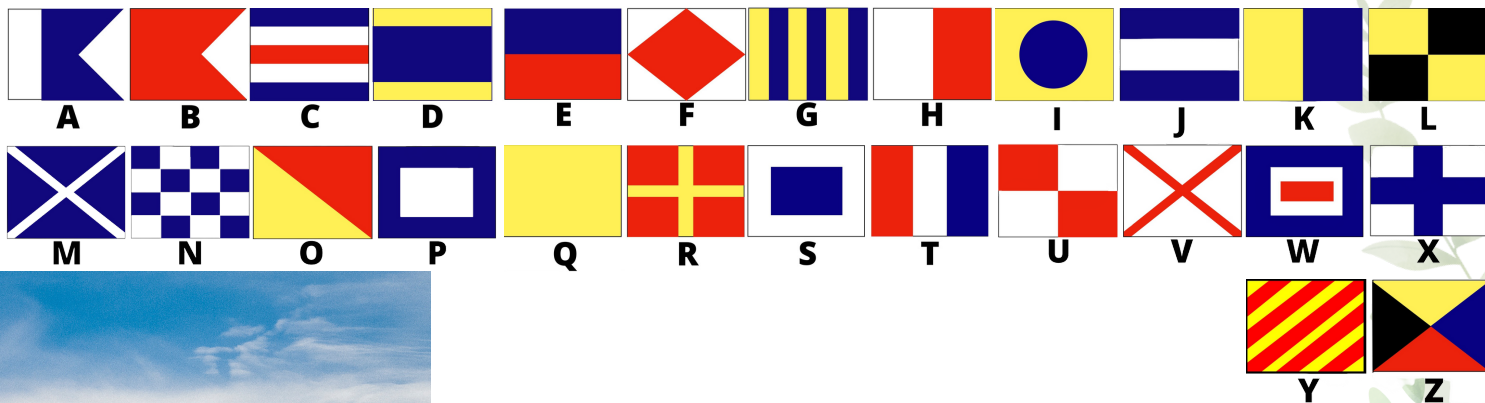
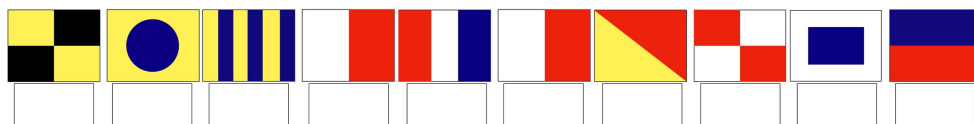


Photo / Martin Sanders

Using the signal flag alphabet above, read the signal below.
What does it spell?



Quiz:

1. How tall is the tower of the lighthouse?
2. What is the power source for the light today?
3. What is the range of the light?
4. What was the population of Auckland in 1865?

Answers: 1 21 metres, 2 Batteries are charged by solar panels, 3 18 nautical miles, 33 kilometres, 4 12,500.