



Tiritiri Matangi Kids,

by Stacey

The Tiritiri Matangi lighthouse is the oldest lighthouse still in operation. Search the diagram to find the words highlighted in the text below. Visit the blog on our website to find out more about the Davis light. Have fun!

The Tiritiri Matangi Island **lighthouse** is a listed Category 1 historic place. It comprises the **tower** itself, as well as three keepers' houses, a workshop, three **foghorns**, and a **signal** tower.

It was first lit in 1865, brought over from England on a sailing **ship**. The prefabricated **cast** iron tower and light were designed by Maclean & Stillman and manufactured by Simpson & Co. Construction. Twelve bullocks hauled the 75 tons of material up the **Island**.

The second-order dioptric light used a **Fresnel** lens with thick glass **prisms** to focus the relatively weak light from an oil **lamp**. The lamp initially burned **canola** oil and was fixed so the light shone in all directions. The lamp was progressively upgraded to **paraffin**, pressurised kerosene in 1916, an automatic acetylene lamp in the 1920s, and **electricity** in 1955. In 1882, a **red** glass panel was fitted over a portion of the light **beam** to warn shipping to avoid Flat Rock near Kawau Island.

From 1965-1984, Tiritiri was the **brightest** light in the southern hemisphere. The old Fresnel lenses were replaced by the **Davis** Marine Light with a xenon **bulb**. Every 15 seconds, the Tiritiri Matangi light swept a brilliant beam across the bedroom walls of **Auckland's** North Shore.

The lighthouse was automated and demanned in 1984. Ray Walter was the last lighthouse **keeper**, but he remained on Tiritiri Matangi to manage the restoration project and was the DOC Ranger until he retired in 2006.

Today, **solar** panels and batteries supply electricity to a 1.2-million-cp light, with a diesel generator backup.

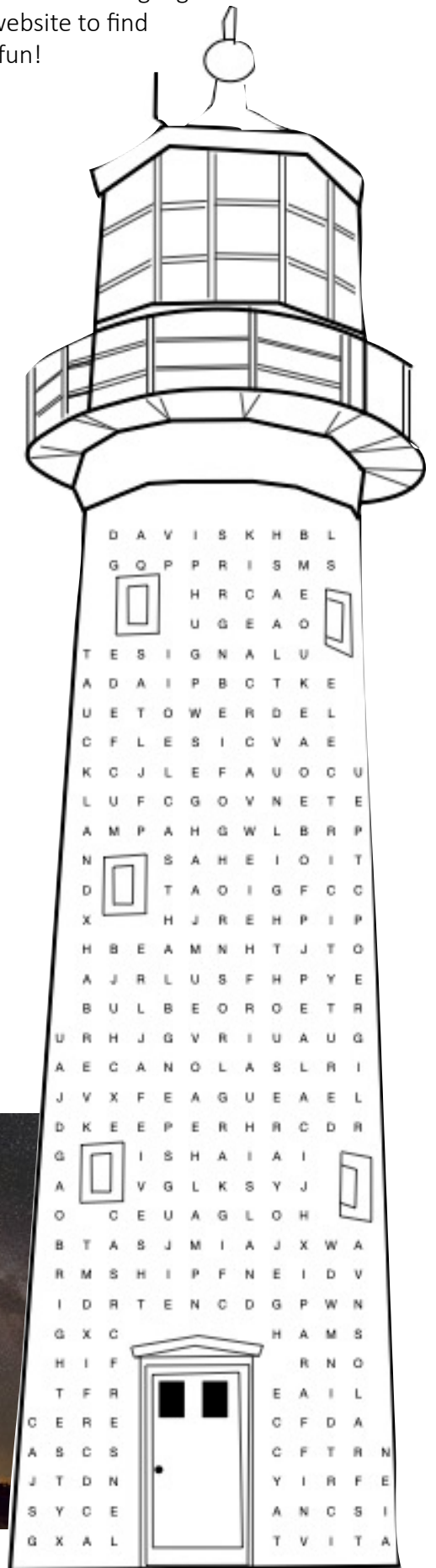


Photo: P Taylor

The Davis light men, 1965.



Photo: Geoff Beals

Tiritiri Matangi lighthouse lighting up the night sky.