



The iconic Cleveland Point lighthouse which was built in 1865 is one of only two surviving timber hexagonal lighthouses in Australia, the other one is the Burnett Heads lighthouse - old. The interesting timber constructed hexagonal design meant that the entire structure could be easily relocated if required as the sandy channels of the Bay shifted course.

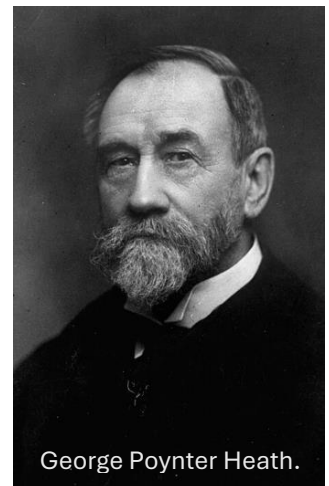
Recognizing the need for a light to be situated at Cleveland Point, local businessman and grazier Francis Bigge had been lobbying for a light to be installed there from the 1840s. This was part of his campaign to establish Cleveland as the Port for Moreton Bay. Bigge also erected several lights there at his own expense, until eventually a government light (which was probably somewhat ineffective) was placed there early in 1864

– the current lighthouse was built by the following year, and it was one of the first lighthouses to be built in Queensland under the direction of the colony's first port master and marine surveyor, Captain G P Heath.

Incidentally it was under the supervision of Captain Heath that 3,357km of QLD coast, numerous rivers and creeks were marked for navigation purposes by means of buoys, beacons and lights. This included establishing 33 lighthouses, 6 lightships and 150 small lights and marking 724 kms of the inner route through the Great Barrier Reef.

Cleveland Point lighthouse had a fixed kerosene light placed on the summit of the 10.6mts tall wooden tower and the lamp was visible 14.5kms away. The lens apparatus from the Comboyuro Point light was placed in the Cleveland lighthouse in 1874 and this was replaced in 1879 with a multi-faceted mirror apparatus made in the UK. A red sector was incorporated into the Cleveland light in 1920, then in 1943 the power source was changed to electricity. Comboyuro Light house incidentally collapsed into the sea in 1960.

The lighthouse was moved from its original location on the established nautical position in 1975 to make way for a new modern lighthouse which was an electric beacon on a concrete plinth. Such a stark difference in design when seen next to the beautiful timber lighthouse. There were some reconstruction works done on the old lighthouse at this time and more works carried out over the years as required. As you have probably noticed the lens apparatus has been rehomed here at the Museum.



George Poynter Heath.

The Lighthouse, which is heritage listed, is significant for its association with the early European settlement of Cleveland, and it was one of the first lighthouses built in the colony of Queensland. Importantly it was a prototype for subsequent timber-structured lighthouses.

### **So who manned the lighthouse?**

James Troy who had worked for Francis Bigge at his sawmill on Cleveland Point took over the role of lighthouse-keeper from Alfred Winship in 1877. Winship moved from the Point to the western end of North Street opposite the Police lock up. House-builder James Troy, together with his family looked after the lighthouse for 50 years from 1877 until 1927. The Troy family were the longest-serving lighthouse keepers in Australia. The Troy's home which was located in the area where the Raby Bay VMR is, was demolished in the mid-1970s. From 1927 Jim Klemm took over the lighthouse-keeper duties, until electricity was connected to it in 1934.

The waters of Moreton Bay have always been treacherous. Very quickly it was deemed that there was a need for some form of navigation light on North Stradbroke Island. In 1825 Major Edmund Lockyer whilst exploring Moreton Bay on the ship the "Mermaid" suggested setting up a lighthouse & signal station at Point Lookout. It wasn't until 1932 though that it was actually built.. and there have been numerous devastating shipwrecks in the waters around Point Lookout. The lighthouse is a square concrete structure which was originally gas-powered. It had a metal dome which was removed in 1988 and replaced with the current light.



Point Lookout Lighthouse  
– built 1932

On Moreton Island the Cape Moreton Lighthouse was built on the northern point of the Island in 1857. It stands about 23 mts tall & is made from local sandstone. It originally had an oil wick which was converted to pressurized acetylene gas in 1930. It went electric in 1937 & solar in 1997. In 1998 it went fully automatic with a laser beam.

Moreton Bay from the mid1800s to the mid-1900s was a busy place. There were small steamers and many other vessels carrying a diverse range of cargo to and from Brisbane, Cleveland and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

Out on Russell Island Mrs Willes known as the Lady with the Lamp understood the dangers of navigating the Bay at night, so for 38 years she hoisted a lamp up every night to guide the sailors and her husband home.

Out in the waters of the Bay one could also see the iconic Moreton Bay Pile light. Operational from 1882 until 1949, these lights marked the entrance to the Port of Brisbane and had two functions: to mark the seaward entrance to the Port of Brisbane through the newly dredged Francis Channel and to record and signal the tides to the passing ships. Interestingly the results were sent to Greenwich for keeping. This was recorded by using different colours which were designated to specific levels of the tide. Changed manually using floats in tubes attached to graphs which recorded the tides and were replaced every 32 days.

The Pile lights early history was directly related to the dredging of the Brisbane River and the cutting of a new channel. The Pile light was moved in 1912 when the bar became blocked again and a new channel was cut. The light was replaced a few times and suffered impact damage from several ships. The first on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1945 when a US refrigerated barge in tow of a tug collided with it then again on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1949 when the 15,000 ton British tanker “Wave Protector” crashed into it. The impact was so great that the three inhabitants of the pile light were thrown into the sea. They were rescued by the crew of the tanker. The remains of the damaged pike light were finally removed in 1966/67.

So much of our local history is intrinsically linked to the waters of this beautiful Bay, on the shores of which we choose to live, work and play, and standing there since 1865 is our wonderful lighthouse, a silent testament to the development of the Redlands and the shipping legacy of Cleveland almost being the port of Brisbane.



1909



1904