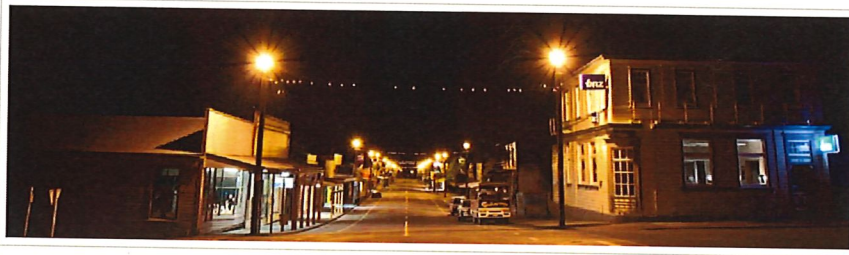


# Reefton Tourism, n.d.

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## The town of light

In Reefton Township on August 1888, about 12 years after the discovery of gold in the area had brought about a population, wealth and technological boom, street lighting was switched on for the first time.



By "switching on" Reefton had not only beaten the rest of New Zealand to this luxury they had beaten the fashionable suburbs of London and New York and become the first town in the Southern Hemisphere to have a street lighting system!



In 1886 a young gentleman named Walter Prince arrived in the town with his small electric generator in tow and held public demonstrations of its use. These demonstrations amazed the public and sparked the locals to form a company and build the Reefton Power Station.

The Reefton power station became the source of the first municipal power supply in the Southern Hemisphere supplying electricity to the booming town of Reefton for over 60 years before being decommissioned in 1949 when the town was connected to the national grid. The station was a hydro scheme generating electricity through the steady supply of water from the nearby Inangahua River. Parts of the original Reefton hydro power station are still there today and can be reached via walking tracks.

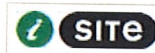
[Learn more about Reefton's history here...](#)

### VISITOR CENTRE

- Itinerary planning
- Tourism information
- Nationwide bookings
- Free map & guides
- Weather forecasts
- Internet kiosks
- Local information
- and much more...

[Read more...](#)

### START WITH REEFTON'S I-SITE



Reefton i-SITE Visitor Centre  
 67-69 Broadway, Reefton,  
 Buller 7930, West Coast, NZ  
 0064 3 732 8391  
[info@reefton.co.nz](mailto:info@reefton.co.nz)

### REEFTON'S TIME LINE

- 1866 Gold discovered
- 1888 Town electricity
- 1888 Electric Street Lights
- 1892 Railway line opens
- 1908 Line to Cronadun opens
- 1912 Reefton "lock out"
- 1967 Rail passenger services cease

[Read more about Reefton's history...](#)

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