(handwritten, circled) 1888
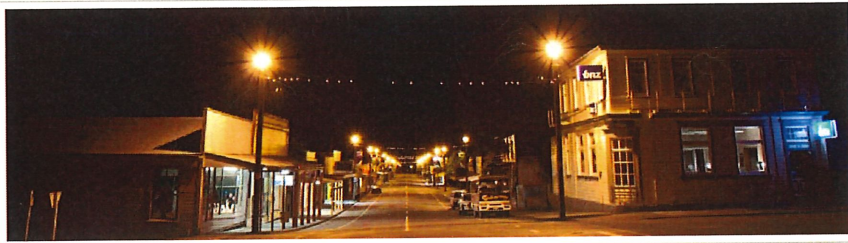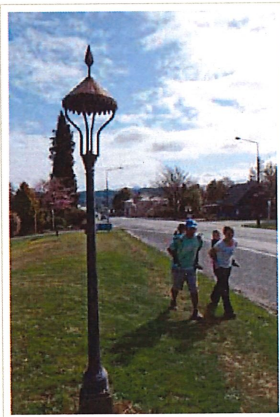
Reefton Tourism, n.d.

HOME   REEFTON   WHAT TO DO   WHERE TO STAY   WHERE TO EAT

The town of light

In Reefton Township on August 1888, about 12 years after the discovery of gold in the area had bought 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,

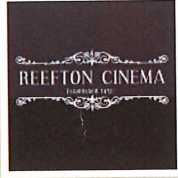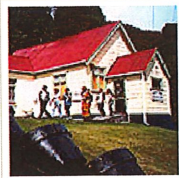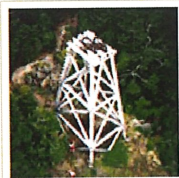Buller 7930, West Coast, NZ

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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 Reeftons history...

Home > Reefton > The town of light

VICTORIA PARK   WAIUTA   BIG RIVER   MUSEUM   LIVING HISTORY   HERITAGE TOURS   REEFTON CINEMA

(handwritten) 3rd