

South Australian Maritime Museum

# ‘Going to the SA Maritime Museum’ Social Narrative



126 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide, 5015



THE HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS AN AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

---

## Going to the South Australian Maritime Museum

---

The SA Maritime Museum is open Daily 10am — 5pm (Closed Good Friday & Christmas Day).

To go to the museum, you must pay the admission fee. Most people visit with their family or with a group, like their school class. When I get to the museum, I will go through the glass door into the shop area.



The museum has a shop with books, ornaments and toys. Some people might choose to buy something to remember their visit. The things in the shop cost money to buy, so I may not be able to buy what I want. Some people do not buy anything.



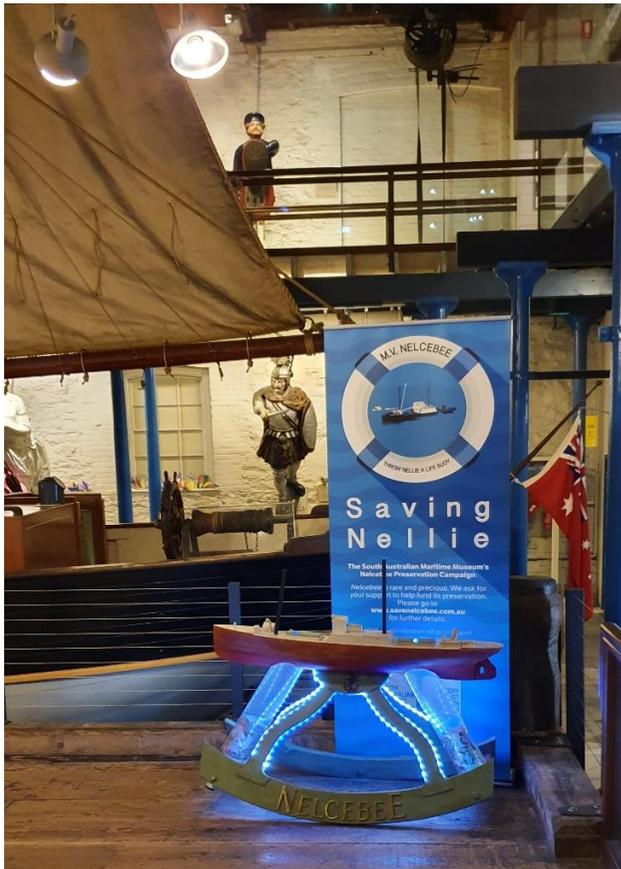
Behind the next glass door, I will see a large wooden ship called the *Active II*. I can explore the ship by walking around on the deck and climbing down the ladders backwards into the cabins. There are also big wooden figures attached to the white brick wall. These are called figureheads and they were placed on the bow or front of ships. In this area I will hear the sounds of a working wharf with men yelling, horses clip clopping, and seagulls squawking.



Sometimes there might be other people visiting the museum too, so I may need to wait for a turn to see something or use the toilet. Waiting in line and taking turns means that everyone will get the chance to see the museum.

The museum can be noisy. I might see bright lights and notice lots of things to look at.

I might like to take my headphones or a fidget toy to help me to feel calm.



The museum has an exhibition about the history of the ABC television series *Play School* on display.





If I need a quiet place to sit, I can ask to spend some time sitting at the tables in the *Play School* exhibition. There are drawings to colour in.



The museum building has three levels that I can move around by climbing up and down wooden stairs. There is also a lift toward the back of the museum as I walk in the entrance.



On the bottom level it is a bit dark and because the building is old, the air there has a different smell. I will see displays about people coming to Australia on ships. I can climb into the bunk beds and listen to stories about their experiences in three cabins from different eras. There is a baby doll wrapped in a shroud being held by a mannequin in the 1830s cabin; this is not real. I can also watch a screen showing a video about the first nine ships to reach our southern coastline.



The other display explores the history of Port Adelaide. There is a box with different smells relating to what was once stored in this building when it was a Bond Store. There is also a big flat screen with the noise of doors shutting and closing that I can play with. By clicking on a dot on the map I can see an object and read a story about Port Adelaide. The big wooden cross is a grave marker from the Torrens Island Quarantine Station nearby. The wooden screen near the model sailing boat shows Aboriginal people talking about their memories of the Port.



On the top floor I will see displays about how South Australians enjoy the beach. There are activities including clowns that move (these can be noisy) and coin operated carnival games. I can put coins in to make them work.



There is also an exhibition about shipwrecks on the southern coast that includes a barrel speaker with the stories of these wrecks. By pressing a button on the barrel, I can listen to a story. There are games in this space that can be noisy. I can pick up artefacts with pincers and wind the handle to lift up the toy cannon.



The exhibition *First Voyages* tells the story of navigators Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin who mapped South Australia's coast. There is a big anchor on display from Matthew Flinders' ship *Investigator*. I can look at it from behind the low plastic barrier. The sound of an Aboriginal woman singing (Susie's Song) plays at intervals near the anchor.



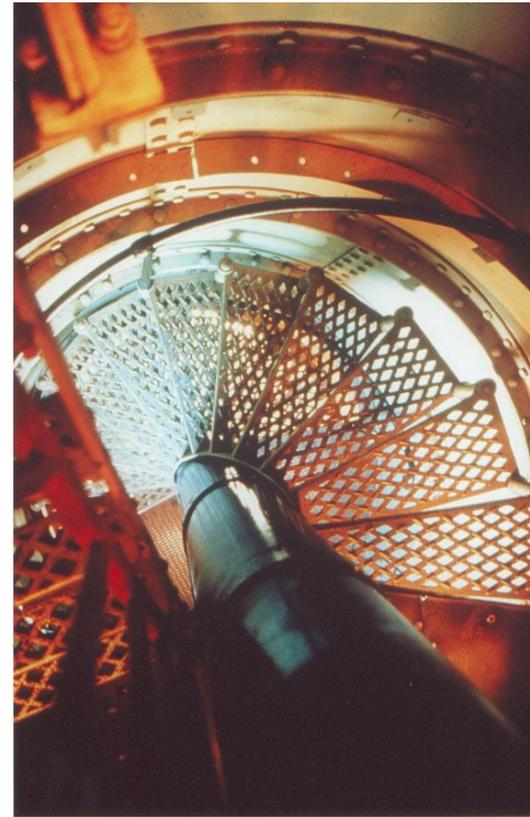
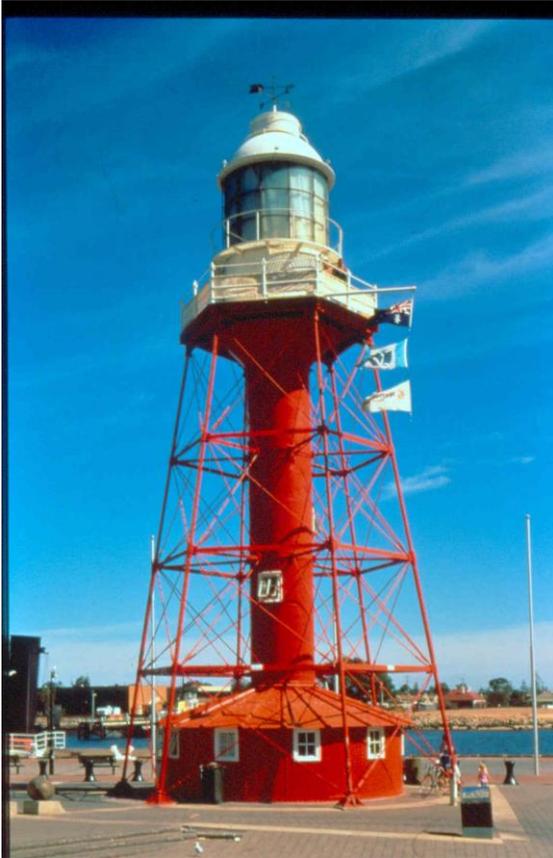


There are machines with globes that show how early explorers worked out where they were on a map. I can turn the wheel to help me understand how they calculated Longitude and Latitude. I may have to wait my turn if there are other visitors.

*Tapestry of treasures* tells the story of the first Port Adelaide Nautical Museum. Near the lift there is a screen showing animations and voices of people talking about the history of the boat building yards. There are more figureheads attached to the wall and two big canoes hanging from the ceiling at one end of the gallery.



The big red lighthouse is also part of the museum. My family or group might choose to climb to the top. It is very high and there are a lot of winding stairs. At the top I will climb a ladder through a small opening. There is a fantastic view of Port Adelaide and the River.



School groups sometimes go on a cruise on the Port River on the museum's boat, *Archie Badenoch*. Museum officers will give me a life jacket to put on. It is a small boat and does not have a toilet, so I might need to go to the toilet before getting on board.



If I, or the people I am with, need help at the museum, we can ask someone who works there.

People usually have fun at the museum, and I might too.

