

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 12/10/24

SS CHEVIOT



S113 Cheviot
PortPhillipHeadsCheviotBeach
HistoricView dateunknown



S113 Cheviot
PortPhillipHeadsCheviotBeach
Engine Feb1997



S113 Cheviot
PortPhillipHeadsCheviotBeach
SideView Feb1997



S113 Cheviot
PortPhillipHeadsCheviotBeach
SteamDeckEngine Feb1997



S113 Cheviot
PortPhillipHeadsCheviotBeach
wreck Feb1997

Location

Cheviot Beach, Point Nepean

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S113

Date lost

20/10/1887

Official number

63648

Hull

Schooner-rigged; elliptical stern; clincher built; 1deck; 4 bulkheads 4; double-bottomed after and under 5engine room

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

230.20 Feet / 32.20 Feet / 17.50 Feet

Builder

C. Mitchell & Co

Year of construction

1870

Built port

Low Walker, Newcastle

Built country

England

Registration Number

No. 39 of 1876

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

20/10/1887

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Sydney

Cargo

Metals, wine, foodstuffs, sundries, valued at 8000 pounds

Owner

W. Howard Smith & Sons Ltd

Master

Capt. Thomas B. Richardson

Weather conditions

Night; SW gale

Cause of loss

Drifted ashore after propellor fell off or blade hit floating wreckage

Passenger comments

There may have been an extra two passengers who boarded at the last minute, so the passenger numbers may be 33-35, and consequently the death toll may be 35-37 lives lost.

Number of crew

36

Statement of significance

<p>The Cheviot is historically significant as a typical example of a coastal trading passenger and cargo steamship. It has the tragic distinction of being one of Victoria's worst shipwrecks with 35 lives lost, and is the worst shipwreck to have occurred at Port Phillip Heads in terms of loss of life.</p>

VHR history

Loss of propeller while on outer edge of Rip made the vessel unmanageable. Sails were set immediately but it drifted ashore about 9 pm. Broke in two before going to pieces. Queenscliff lifeboat unable to get out through Heads, due to the appalling weather. A rocket life-line and boatswain's chair were the means by which 24 passengers and crew were saved. Some victims drowned, trapped in the fore cabin; others battered to death on rocks; 8 buried in Quarantine Station cemetery. Captain exonerated by Steam Navigation Board, praised for attempts to save vessel and those onboard. Cheviot bought for inter-colonial passenger and coal-carrying trade in 1876. Had recently been re-classed A1 by Lloyd's after boilers strengthened, engines overhauled and new propeller fitted. Had earlier been in trouble with breakdowns and accidents. Valued at 20-25,000 pounds, insured for 10,000 pounds. The number of passengers and crew differs in the various reports.