

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/09/24

CHILDREN



S116 Children ChildersCove
SiteView 17/06/1999



S116 Children ChildersCove
ArtifactOnBeach 17/06/1999



S116 Children ChildersCove
ArtifactOnPier 17/06/1999

Location

Childers Cove, west of Peterborough

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S116

Date lost

14/01/1838

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Part pitch pine, felt sheathed, coppered 1837, 2 decks, square stern

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

93.20 Feet / 25.00 Feet / 16.60 Feet

Year of construction

1825

Built port

Liverpool

Built country

England

Registration Number

6 of 1837

Registration Port

Launceston

Date lost

14/01/1838

Departure

Launceston

Destination

Adelaide

Cargo

1500 sheep and a number of cattle and horses

Owner

James Henty & Co

Master

Capt. H. Browne

Weather conditions

Hurricane force winds

Cause of loss

Driven ashore in a gale

Number of crew

Statement of significance

One of the first vessels to be lost in the Western District was the barque Children, which was wrecked to the east of Warrnambool in February 1839. When the vessel ran ashore in hurricane-force winds, 22 passengers and crew were fortunate to escape being battered to death on the rocks. The Children broke up within 20 minutes, sweeping sixteen of those on board to their deaths. After eleven days, the survivors, all of whom were injured, were rescued and taken to Portland.

VHR history

Bound from Launceston to Adelaide, the barque Children stood off the Victorian coast in gale force winds. On the night the vessel was lost, the master had retired to his cabin, leaving the second mate in command. The first indication of danger was the cry from the lookout of "Breakers close ahead". Less than a minute later the vessel struck. The second sea that swept over the stern caused the hull to part at the mizen mast. The passengers and crew, 38 in number, sought shelter on the forward end of the ship, but it was breaking up rapidly. Within 20 minutes it had broken up completely. The dawn revealed that 22 survivors, naked and injured, had been washed ashore on the rocks. The shore was strewn with wreckage and the bodies from the sixteen who had perished and the cargo of livestock. Some of the survivors made an unsuccessful attempt to reach Port Phillip, while another party reached Port Fairy. Help was immediately sent from the whaling station, and all of the survivors were rescued, reaching Portland eleven days after the wreck. One of the passengers, Mr Bryan, was fortunate to escape when he was pinned by an anchor when the deck parted. He held onto a rope to keep his head above water, and only escaped by a struggle that tore the first joint from three of his toes. Later, one of the other survivors had to amputate another of his injured toes using a knife (Sydney Gazette 7 March 1839).