

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 28/09/24

CHRISTIAN

Location

Apollo Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S118

Date lost

30/12/1856

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

82.00 Feet / 21.80 Feet / 12.70 Feet

Year of construction

1845

Built port

probably Bremen

Built country

probably Germany

Registration Number

29/1854

Registration Port

Geelong

Date lost

30/12/1856

Departure

Geelong

Destination

Apollo Bay

Cargo

Timber sleepers for the Geelong to Ballarat railway

Owner

Previously owned by Chinese subject Ah Hong, Hong Kong.
 1854: J. Sinclair, W. Fisher and G.M. Brodie
On this voyage under charter to the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company.

Master

Captain McPherson

Weather conditions

South-easterly gale, Force 10

Cause of loss

Was loading cargo when it was blown ashore with ELEONORA

Crew comments

number of crew not known

Statement of significance

<p>It is impossible to assess the archaeological significance of the Christian as the site has not been located. As the Christian was involved with the early development of Apollo Bay and the Otway timber trade, it has local historical significance.</p>

VHR history

The brigantine Christian went ashore in a south-east gale at Apollo Bay after dragging both bower anchors. The vessel was damaged when an anchor chain was caught around the bowsprit when the vessel pitched in a sea, starting loose planks and causing the loss of the bowsprit and the foretopmast.
 It was reported at the time that:
 "This vessel, chartered by the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, was driven on shore on the 30th of last month at Apollo Bay, after having nearly completed loading her cargo of sleepers for the Railway

Company. Mr Snell, the Company's engineer, was down at Apollo Bay a few hours previous to the gale of wind coming on from the south-east, which stranded the Christian and another small vessel the Eleonora. On Wednesday last the Christian was hauled off, after taking out her cargo. She is found to be repairable, although undergone considerable damage.....The brig will soon be made again seaworthy, and may be looked for in port daily, with the sleepers, which it is pronounced are not much the worse for the submersion, although the event has considerably delayed the progress of the line "(Argus 19/1/1857)
 There is no mention of the Achilles in this report, which along with the Christian and Eleonora is supposed to have blown ashore in the same gale and become a wreck.
 The Geelong Customs Register notes that the Christian was stranded at Apollo Bay and broken up.
 The Register of Wrecks records that the Christian was driven ashore and became a total wreck. It also records that it was in ballast and its estimated loss was £600.