

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/07/24

CICADA

Location

Safety Beach, Dromana

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S120

Date lost

09 Aug 1922

Official number

57578

Construction material

Wood

Hull

One deck, elliptical stern, carvel built, no galleries, scroll head, wood frame, not metalled.

Propulsion

Sail

Engine specification

30h.p. Gardiner oil engine added after 1918, 4 cyl. 9" diameter, stroke 6", maximum speed 6 knots

Engine builder

Gardiner, Manchester, England

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

67.30 Feet / 18.00 Feet / 5.20 Feet

Year of construction

1877

Built port

Huon, Tasmania

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

7 of 1918

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

09 Aug 1922

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Sorrento

Cargo

Timber and sundries
 Had previously carried peat fertiliser

Owner

Tootgarook Estate Pty Ltd, Rosebud

Weather conditions

Strong westerly gale about 9 pm.

Cause of loss

Dragged anchors and went ashore (UID 9, 152). Landed high on the beach (Peninsula Post 11/08/1922, p4, c1)

Number of crew

3

Statement of significance

<p>The Gertrude/ Cicada is locally significant for its involvement with various Port Phillip Bay trades (lime, timber, dairying, fertiliser) over its long career, and for its role in the development of the Mornington Peninsula area. It was one of the last sailing ships to be still commercially operating in Port Phillip Bay.</p>

VHR history

Although vessel stood erect, fully rigged, high and dry on beach, little attempt apparently made to refloat it in spite of earlier optimism. Had traded in the Bay since 1888. During lifetime had a succession of owners until 1918. Last owners engaged in attempt to develop a fertiliser industry from peat, extracted from Tootgarook Swamp. Product marketed under name of 'Cicada'- hence name change from Gertrude to Cicada. Project not viable; works closed down. Cicada reverted to the carrying of timber. Early in the 1920's kids would swim out to the wreck and climb all over it.