

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 19/08/24

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## CICADA

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### 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<br /> 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.