

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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COMET



S137 Comet BassStrait
HistoricView

Location

Eastern Bass Strait, last seen leaving Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S137

Date lost

06/1862

Official number

36956

Construction material

Wood

Hull

1 deck; 1 mast, but by January 1853 described as having 2 masts; standing bowsprit; square stern; carvel built; quarter gallery; female bust head

Propulsion

Steam - Paddle

Engine specification

29 HP built by G Coke, Bathurst Street, Sydney

Number of masts

1

Length/Breadth/Depth

92.00 Feet / 14.60 Feet / 6.70 Feet

Builder

William Lowe (builder s certificate 30 March 1843)

Year of construction

1843

Built port

Williams River, New South Wales

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

29 of 1854

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

06/1862

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Otago (New Zeland)

Cargo

In ballast

Owner

John McLean, master mariner (mortgaged to James Lawrence,

Master

Captain R.A. Newman

Weather conditions

Not known

Cause of loss

Vanished, totally unsuited for voyage

Passenger comments

gold prospectors

VHR history

Cleared out from Melbourne 14 June 1862, passed through Heads 16 June 1862, laden with diggers bound for Port Chalmers, as result of the gold rushes in the South Island of New Zealand. Never seen again. Comet built for and remained in Parramatta River trade until sold to Melbourne in 1852, when gold rushes caused demand for small tenders. Several changes of ownership (including GW Cole & partners who owned the vessel 1859-1862) while in Williamstown trade. Took over the link from the Hobson's Bay Railway to Melbourne. Left on last voyage, in the company of the Glasgow Citizen in the hope of finding profitable employment or being sold in New Zealand. Was totally unsuited to the trip. Had previously been sunk and repaired (ID 152)