

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 12/10/24

---

## 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)