Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 08/11/26

CURLEW

Location

Great Glennie Island, Wilsons Promontory

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S150

Date lost

27/09/1915

Official number

122921

Construction material

Wood

Hull

One deck, square stern, carvel built centreboard

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

94.30 Feet / 30.80 Feet / 4.80 Feet

Builder

George Turnbull Nichol of Auckland

Year of construction

1907

Built port

New Zealand

Built country

Auckland

Registration Number

32 of 1911

Registration Port

Sydney

Date lost

27/09/1915

Departure

Nambucca, NSW

Destination

Melbourne, via Sydney

Cargo

41 ironbark piles

Owner

J.B. Ellerker

Master

Captain Charles Edward Young

Cause of loss

24th September 1915 anchored in the shelter of Great Glennie Island in strong NW winds having arrived there on the previous Friday. at 3.00pm the wind shifted to the NNW and strengthened driving the vessel towards the rocks. The crew abandoned the vessel when she was within a few fathoms of the island and made their way to shore. At about 7.00pm they heard the scow strike the rocks. Next morning the vessel had disappeared and the crew spent two nights sheltering on the island until picked up by the SS Manawatu.

Number of crew

6

VHR history

The Curlew was a New Zealand-built scow, a distinctive type of broad, flat-bottomed sailing vessel that evolved for use in shallow water and for crossing dangerous bars at river mouths. The Curlew was sheltering at Greater Glennie Island from a gale. The wind changed direction and the vessel was blown onto the rocks. Wreckage from the vessel is still to be found at a number of locations on Wilsons Promontory. Iron bark piles were seen floating in the vicinity of the Promontory and were a temporary danger to navigation. However report state that the wood was green and tied with chains which would sink.