

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/04/24

DON

Location

Lonsdale Reef, Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S176

Date lost

02/07/1875

Official number

32246

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Wood; one deck; round stern; carvel built; no galleries; scroll head

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

72.20 Feet / 17.40 Feet / 7.20 Feet

Year of construction

1864

Built port

Don River, Tasmania

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

10 of 1871

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

02/07/1875

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

River Mersey

Cargo

In ballast
 Previously carried timber from Torquay, Tasmania (UID 9)

Owner

Jens Anthon (master mariner) of Melbourne

Master

Daniel Anthon

Weather conditions

Wind fell calm

Cause of loss

Struck Lonsdale Reef after drifting too close in a calm. Eddy current took her onto reef (UID 72). Loss of the vessel determined to be the error of not letting go the anchor (UID 9, 175)

VHR history

The Don drifted onto a reef in a calm. When danger was seen, a boat was launched with a kedge to haul the Don away, but an unseen outlying rock caught the vessel on its starboard bow and canted it on to the reef. The crew were taken off by lifeboat. Hopes that the vessel might get off were dashed when the tide lifted it high and dry onto the reef. It broke up 3 days later. (ID 9). The Marine Board Inquiry found loss caused by grave error of judgement of master in not having let go anchor when vessel was drifting in close proximity to reef. Suspended for three months (ID 175). The vessel was insured for £700, reportedly less than its value. It had earlier been engaged in the Tasmanian trade, and had been mortgaged to John Buchanan McIndoe, merchant for

Ã?Â400 in 1874 (ID 102)