

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/09/24

FAIR TASMANIAN

Location

Lady Bay, Warrnambool

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S254

Date lost

27/05/1864

Official number

32001

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Two decks, square stern, carvel built, woman's bust figurehead

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

87.70 Feet / 22.40 Feet / 12.00 Feet

Builder

John Watson

Year of construction

1850

Built port

Hobart, Tasmania

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

8 of 1861

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

27/05/1864

Departure

Warranbool

Destination

Sydney

Cargo

185 tons potatoes

Owner

Valentine Wright and Benjamin Munson, mariner, of Melbourne

Master

Captain Francis

Weather conditions

Heavy south easterly swell, light winds

Cause of loss

Parted one of her chains, and immediately swung round to the other, parted it also and then began to drift towards the jetty. Sail was immediately hoisted in order to beach her head on, but the dragging of her chains prevented her being so straight on as required. When near the jetty she struck, but afterwards drifted westwards and settled north of the jetty. At low tide the crew waded out and took off sails rigging and some of the spars.

Passenger comments

Wife of Captain and 4 year old daughter - (swept overboard from the rescue boat but survived).

VHR history

A heavy south easterly swell in Lady Bay, Warrnambool, caused the schooner Fair Tasmanian to part its anchor cables. Sail was hoisted in an attempt to run it ashore in a safe place, but the dragging chains made the vessel unmanageable. It was soon ashore in the breakers, but the crew and the captain's wife and child were all rescued by the Harbour Master's boat and a line fired from the shore by the rocket crew.