

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/04/24

AGUNA

Location

Port Phillip Heads, Point Nepean

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S28

Date lost

16/07/1950

Propulsion

Motor

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

52.00 Feet / 0.00 / 0.00

Registration Port

Tasmania

Date lost

16/07/1950

Destination

King Island, shark fishing

Cargo

Shark, valued at 300 pounds

Master

John Key(s)

Weather conditions

Dense fog; calm sea; heavy swell

Cause of loss

Heavy rip swell dumped ship on the rocks. (The Sun 14 July 1950).

Number of crew

3

Crew comments

including master
 Norman Robertson of Warrandyte and Keith Shea of Williamstown (UID 9, 152, The Sun, 17 July 1950)

Statement of significance

<p>It is difficult to assess the significance of this site as it has not been located nor inspected.</p>

VHR history

After a heavy Rip swell dumped Aguna on rocks in visibility of 5 ft, the three fishermen made for the side as vessel broke its back and sank. Wave swept them onto reef. John Keys (28) and Norman Robertson (32) of Warrandyte, and Jim Shea of Williamstown (21) (Sun says Bridport, Tasmania) waded by compass in dense fog 250 yards along slippery reef. Keys had wrenched compass from its mountings before leaving the stricken vessel to steer their course over reef, half wading, half swimming. Keys was temporarily trapped in thick kelp when he fell into deep hole. Lacerated, bruised and shocked, they climbed steep cliff after several attempts, and after two hours, finally found their way to a house at Portsea. Vessel insured for 4,500 pounds. Valued at 6,000 pounds.