T.S.S. GEORGE KERMODE

Location

Off Pyramid Rock, Phillip Island

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S301

Date lost

01/04/1976

Official number

159581

Hull

Twin screw, Steam bucket dredge (Harbour Dredge), single deck, elliptical stern, in/out strakes, steel frame, pole mast straight stem.

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Number of masts

1

Length/Breadth/Depth

230.10 Feet / 44.10 Feet / 17.10 Feet

Builder

Fleming & Ferguson Ltd

Year of construction

1914

Built port

Paisley

Built country

Scotland

Registration Number

1 of 1943

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

01/04/1976

Owner

March 1943: Melbourne Harbour Trust Commissioners

Cause of loss

Scuttled as an artificial reef by Conservation, Forests and Lands

VHR history

The Melbourne Harbour Trust Commission purchased the steam dredge SIR WILLIAM MATHEWS on 10 October 1941 from the Western Australian Government. Although the dredge was described as a suction dredge it was in fact a bucket dredge. After an overhaul, the vessel was renamed the GEORGE KERMODE and commenced operation in Victorian waters on 22 June 1942. The vessel was hired out to the Port of Burnie in 1945-46 but continued in the ownership of the Trust until 1 April 1976 when it was scuttled by the Department of Conservation, Forrests and Lands as part of their artificial reef program. This program resulted in a number of reefs being established in Port Phillip Bay, including one off Carrum containing the wooden steamer URALBA.