

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/09/24

HENRIETTA



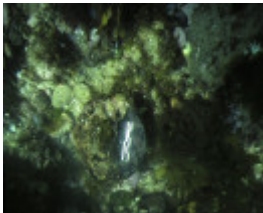
S319 Henrietta
PortPhillipBayPointCookReef
SideView May1998 JH



S319 Henrietta
PortPhillipBayPointCookReef
Artefact May1998 JH



S319 Henrietta
PortPhillipBayPointCookReef
Diver May1998 JH



S319 Henrietta
PortPhillipBayPointCookReef
TopView May1998 JH

Location

Point Cook Reef, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S319

Date lost

29 Sep 1940

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Draught 13.6 feet. Sturdy, with oak beams and huge timbers. Double bottom, iron bolts.

Propulsion

Sail

Engine specification

60 hp diesel

Engine builder

Fairbanks Morse

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

114.00 Feet / 22.10 Feet / 10.90 Feet

Builder

Arthur Dana Story

Year of construction

1915

Built port

Gloucester, Massachusetts

Built country

United States of America

Date lost

29 Sep 1940

Departure

Geelong

Destination

Williamstown

Cargo

70 tons pig-iron ballast

Owner

Pilot Officer Bailey M. (Pete) Sawyer, RAAF, and Doreta Sawyer

Master

Pete Sawyer

Weather conditions

Squally; thick; heavy seas; noon

Cause of loss

Ran into reef because no chart onboard

Number of crew

3

Crew comments

RAAF Officers - A.Dallas Charlton (later RAAF Air), Brett Hilder, John Archer + ship's cat

VHR history

The Henrietta left Geelong before dawn in a SW breeze that soon strengthened. When well under way crew found no chart of Bay was on board (previously removed by a pilot for updating and not returned). Ran aground, with tide falling, on end of reef that runs out from Point Cook for more than 1 mile, buoy marking end of reef not seen in bad weather conditions. Schooner was seen to strike and Ports & Harbors tug Victory arrived to pull schooner into deeper water - attempt unsuccessful. Crew decided to stay on board overnight to await another salvage effort at flood tide. Huge seas during night swept away dories . Emergency flares not seen. Crew and ship's cat finally rescued the next day at 12 30 pm by Victory , but kittens drowned. Henrietta , a 'Bluenose' or Nova Scotia schooner, built for Grand Banks fishery off Cape Cod, Newfoundland, had fished for 20 years, home port Truro. Allegedly used in film 'Captains Courageous', but this is disputed. Bought by Sawyer, an adventurous American master mariner, and his wife (an Australian) in 1935, they had brought Henrietta to Melbourne in 1938 while on a world cruise but had been forced to cancel part of voyage because of outbreak of war. While on a trip to the Great Barrier Reef, the Henrietta recorded 10 previously uncharted navigable passes in the reef. Sawyer had enlisted in July 1940 in RAAF. Schooner had been lying at Geelong for some months and was being taken to Williamstown for overhaul by the airmen on weekend leave. Sawyer killed in air crash on Blue Mountains a few months later - the same weekend that another storm smashed up the remains of Henrietta. His ashes scattered by Hilder and Charlton over the scene of wreck.