

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 17/08/24

HERO

Location

Gabo Island, western side

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S324

Date lost

10/1904

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Originally an unpowered ketch, an oil engine was fitted during repairs following a stranding at Cape Woolamai.

Propulsion

Motor

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Date lost

10/1904

Departure

Lakes Entrance

Destination

Gabo Island

Cargo

Timber.

Owner

Jack Barclay

Master

Captain Alex Cameron

Weather conditions

Rough weather

Cause of loss

Blown onto lee shore in rough weather

Statement of significance

<p>The Hero has local significance as a typical coastal trading ketch ie: representative of a type, and for its role in transport to and from Gippsland ports.</p>

VHR history

On 24 October 1904 while loaded with timber spokes, the ketch Hero was sheltering from a north-westerly gale behind Cape Woolamai. Its anchor cables parted and the Hero was driven ashore and wrecked. It was subsequently refloated and repaired at Knights Slip in Williamstown, and had an engine fitted.

 Less than a year later, the Hero was travelling to the aid of the ketch Kiora, whose engines had broken down at Gabo Island. Both ketches were anchored on the western side of the island when a succession of south-west squalls blew them onto the rocks of the granite quarries. No lives were lost though the men had a "rough experience" getting ashore (Age 8/9/1905).

 The engine, cargo and gear were salvaged, but the vessel was a total wreck.