

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 26/04/24

EIVION

Location

Rye Pier, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S345

Date lost

1918

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Engine specification

No auxillery engine

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Date lost

1918

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Rye

Cargo

70 tons wood, lime (observed on site)

Owner

Benjamin Stenniken Jnr

Master

Vic Kallic

Weather conditions

Gale force winds from west

Cause of loss

Strong westerly winds and wave action whilst vessel was alongside pier Vessel was pounded onto pier. After storm, Eivion was awash with rigging tangled. Later dynamited to clear wreckage from pier

Statement of significance

<p>The wreck of the Eivion is historically significant as a Port Phillip Bay lime trader and for its association with its owner Benjamin Stenniken, the 'mayor' of Rye. It is archaeologically significant as the remains of the hull and cargo exhibit aspects of stowing of bagged lime, including the use of bulkheads and possibly limewashed holds to minimise water ingress to the vessel. As part of a maritime and terrestrial landscape it is in proximity to White Cliffs at Rye which produced lime and has remains of historic lime kilns. It is recreationally and educationally significant as the coherent remains of a wooden vessel within swimming distance from Rye Pier and lies in snorkelling depth.</p>

VHR history

Coming down Bay, encountered SW weather. Sheltered at Swan Bay, Queenscliff. Towed out by Gertrude (later Cicada). Hoisted sail, arrived Rye about 10 am with weather worsening. Only two trolley loads of wood to complete loading at Rye pier when wind came in from west at gale force, pinning Eivion , with no auxiliary power, to pier. Huge seas battered vessel for hours, carried it up and crashed hull down on leese of wharf. Eivion's cargo burst out. The next morning, after storm had abated, it was awash, half filled with sand, with its rigging tangled. The vessel was later dynamited to clear wreckage away from pier [If the report is correct that the Gertrude (later Cicada) towed out the Eivion, then the latter must have been wrecked before 10 Aug. 1922 (the date the Gertrude/Cicada was wrecked) and probably before 1918 when the name Gertrude was changed to Cicada (see file). Reports of wrecking based on eye-witness recollection - may not be accurate. Reports differ on date of wrecking - early 1920s (and late 1920s)]