

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 13/10/24

JOANNA

Location

Joanna Beach between Moonlight Head and Rotten Point

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S366

Date lost

22/09/1843

Official number

None

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

38.80 Feet / 12.90 Feet / 6.30 Feet

Builder

William Cassidy, Launceston?

Year of construction

1843

Built port

Gravelly Beach, River Tamar, Tasmania

Built country

Australia

Registration Port

Launceston

Date lost

22/09/1843

Departure

Launceston

Destination

Port Fairy

Owner

James Jellie of Port Fairy/ John Cassidy of Launceston?

Master

Captain Joseph George Irving

Cause of loss

Leaking at sea and driven ashore

Passenger comments

John Gooch, William Seller & F Hurvie

Crew comments

The surviving crew walked to safety along the coast, and were the first Europeans to have walked the coast between Moonlight Head and Geelong

VHR history

The maiden voyage of the schooner Joanna proved to be its last. It left Launceston bound for Port Fairy, but encountered bad weather. Leaking badly, the vessel was driven ashore at what is now known as Joanna Beach. Waves swept the deck, washing away the boat and one of the crew. The survivors landed on the beach at daybreak, and after a seven day journey, made their way to Geelong (Geelong Advertiser 2 October 1843).
"The part of the coast lying between Moonlight Head and Geelong was thought to first have been trodden by Europeans in 1843, by the shipwrecked crew of the Joanna" (Bellair, 2001)