

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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JULIA



S375 Julia PortlandBay Site



S375 Julia PortlandBay
Artefact

Location

Portland Bay, west of the Fitzroy River

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S375

Date lost

02/08/1863

Official number

31952

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Single deck, standing bowspit, square stern, carvel built

Propulsion

Sail

Length/Breadth/Depth

69.80 Feet / 19.00 Feet / 12.20 Feet

Year of construction

1840

Built port

Manning River, New South Wales

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

58 of 1840

Registration Port

Sydney

Date lost

02/08/1863

Departure

Port Adelaide

Destination

Hobartown

Cargo

In Ballast

Owner

William Dart

Master

Captain Dart

Weather conditions

Gale force winds - stormy

Cause of loss

Steering problems, ran aground after dragging anchor during stormy weather

VHR history

The vessel left Port Adelaide bound for Hobartown with sheep onboard and some valuable fowl purchased in Adelaide for Governor Brown. After leaving Adelaide the Julia encountered heavy swells and the shifting ballast (consisted of dredgings from the Torrens River - river limestone and sea shells) placed the vessel in immediate danger. The Julia later lost its rudder in the heavy seas and the vessel became uncontrollable.
 On Saturday night the vessel rounded the Lawrence Rocks and were then driven up the Narrawong coast and came to anchor. Distress signals were raised in the hope they would be seen at Portland. The Harbour Master, Captain Fawthrop, manned a lifeboat and put out to her assistance. Towards the evening though as the night promised to be stormy, a whale boat with a crew of six men set out to assist the life boat in rescuing the crew of the Julia. The lifeboat reached the Julia at 4pm and returned to shore with the crew. The journey back to shore took over eight hours. "Great praise is due to the gallant men who volunteered so promptly and succeeded in bringing the crew of the Julia into harbour and safety." Those onboard the lifeboat were unaware that the whaleboat had followed them and did not see them during the night at all. Night arrived and the weather became squally and black as pitch. The whale boat did not return. There was nothing that those on shore could do but hope that those onboard the whaleboat were safe.
 The Captain and crew were kindly accommodated at Mac's Hotel. The following day the Captain and crew attempted to salvage what they could from the vessel. Also at daybreak, the upturned whale boat was found on Duttons Beach and near it the body of one of the crew - a young man named MacGregor. Later the five other bodies were found and all were buried at the Narrawong Cemetery.