

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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S.S. KANOWNA



S389 Kanowna
WilsonsPromontory
FrontViewHistoric



S389 Kanowna
WilsonsPromontory
HistoricSideView

Location

Twelve miles SW Cleft Island, Wilsons Promontory

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S389

Date lost

18/02/1929

Official number

114743

Hull

3 decks, rigged as fore and aft schooner, elliptical stern, clincher built. First Class accommodated on Upper and Shelter Decks. Second Class in 6 and 8 berth cabins on Upper Deck aft. Main Deck fitted to carry cattle. Part of the cargo spaces were refr

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Engine specification

Quadruple expansion steam engine 2 x 23", 2 x 37.5" and 4 x 31" cylinders x 48" stroke. 375 NHP. 4 single faced boilers, 180lbs, 16 ridged furnaces, 300 square feet grate, 1185 square feet heating, refrigeration machinery. Howdens three bladed propell

Engine builder

Denny & Co. Engine No. 533

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

415.60 Feet / 52.20 Feet / 28.60 Feet

Builder

W. Denny and Brothers

Year of construction

1903

Built port

Dumbarton

Built country

Scotland

Registration Number

5 of 1921

Registration Port

Adelaide

Date lost

18/02/1929

Departure

Cairns, Queensland

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

Valued at \$200,000, included a racehorse, three cars

Owner

Australasian United Steam Navigation Company

Weather conditions

Fog

Cause of loss

Hit an uncharted rock during fog

Statement of significance

<p>The Kanowna was one of the first large steamers to appear in Australia after Federation and allowed the AUSNCo to properly compete with large overseas companies such as P&O. It played a distinguished role in Australia's war effort in World War I and illustrates aspects of the growth and decline of coastal shipping of Australia in the early 20th century. It is archaeologically significant as it sank with all cargo and is likely to be intact.</p>

VHR history

The large interstate passenger liner SS Kanowna was built in 1903 for the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company. It had a varied career running between Australian and Asian ports, and also served as a troopship and hospital ship during World War I. The Kanowna was lost in 1929 when it ran ashore off Wilsons Promontory in foggy conditions. All on board reached safety, but the vessel was abandoned, drifted into Bass Strait and sank in deep water.