

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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KOORINGA

Location

Bass Strait, 26 miles off Cape Schanck

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S395

Date lost

14/07/1926

Official number

117412

Construction material

Steel

Hull

One deck, fore and aft schooner rigged, elliptical stern, clincher built.
 New steel bulkhead fitted in 1925 to allow for carriage of fuel oils and
 benzine.

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Length/Breadth/Depth

135.20 Feet / 23.20 Feet / 11.20 Feet

Builder

Napier and Miller

Year of construction

1902

Built port

Glasgow

Built country

Scotland

Registration Number

9 of 1920

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

14/07/1926

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Ulverstone (Burnie) and Launceston

Cargo

Oil and petroleum. 6000 cases of benzine.

Owner

William Hollyman

Master

E.W. Kinch

Cause of loss

Caught fire and abandoned

Number of crew

12

Crew comments

Angus McNeil (1st mate), John Lafreneur (Boatswain)

VHR history

 The KOORINGA had been trading between Tasmania and Melbourne for the last 6 years and was previously engaged in the
 passenger service between Adelaide and the South Australian coastal ports. The steel steamer left Melbourne for Tasmania carrying a cargo petroleum and benzine. Just outside The Heads, off

Cape Schanck, the cargo caught fire and the ship was abandoned, following an explosion in the fore ward hold. The crew could not contain the fire and the vessel was abandoned. The crew were rescued by the steamer KOOYONG. Five of the crew were taken to Melbourne Hospital for treatment of severe burns. The Marine Board of Enquiry heard that the vessel had been specially adapted in 1925 expressly for the carriage of Benzine. The Court found the Master, crew and vessel were suitable for the occupation and that the fire was most likely caused by the ignition of gas venting through the wooden decks. The vessel was insured in Launceston. No lives were lost, but some of the crew were badly burned.