

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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LEEUWIN

Location

Ships Graveyard, Outside Port Phillip Heads Area, Bass Strait

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S413

Date lost

28/12/1934

Official number

73806

Construction material

Iron

Hull

Single deck, clipper bow, bowsprit, elliptic stern, 2 masts, single funnel, lengthened from 197.2 feet in 1876 to 219 feet in 1896, single bulkhead.

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

219.00 Feet / 24.20 Feet / 13.00 Feet

Builder

Thomas Wingate

Year of construction

1876

Built port

Whiteinch, Glasgow

Built country

Scotland

Registration Number

19 of 1913

Registration Port

Melbourne (formerly Warrnambool)

Date lost

28/12/1934

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Ships Graveyard

Cargo

scuttled

Owner

Warrnambool Steam Packet Co. (1876)
 Western Steam Navigation Co. (1887)
 Melbourne Steamship Co. (1890)
 William Howard Smith and Sons (1896)
 Howard Smith and Co. (1901)
 George Turnbull Bell (1903)
 Melbourne Steamship Co.

Cause of loss

Dismantled and scuttled

Statement of significance

<p>The Leeuwin is historically significant as one of only four wrecks of steamships in Victorian waters associated with the western district of Victoria's coastal steamship trade, along with the Casino, Coramba and Champion. It was built for this trade, and later served the Queensland and Western Australian coastal and mail trades before as the renamed Leeuwin, becoming a hulk and eventually scuttled in the Shipwreck Graveyard in Bass Strait. It is recreationally significant as one of the wrecks in Victoria's Ships Graveyard.</p>

VHR history

The Leeuwin was originally named the SS Julia Percy, and was built in Glasgow, Scotland for the Victorian western district steamship trade to the order of the Warrnambool Steam Packet Company. Ronald Parsons states

that, after being sold to Howard Smith in 1896:
 "Howard Smith used the vessel in the Queensland coastal trades. Sold in 1903, the ship was transferred to Western Australia as her owner had obtained a local mail contract. In 1906 she was sold to Melbourne S.S. Co. and renamed Leeuwin, but continued in the Western Australian coastal run for some time until converted into a hulk in 1910, as a result of damage caused when she was driven against the jetty at Dongara during a gale." (Parsons, 1979: 82)
 Dismantled and sunk in Bass Strait on 28 December 1934 (Argus 29 December 1934). Date of survey: 1925 (Melbourne).