

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/09/24

MADAGASCAR

Location

Bass Strait, lost at sea

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S432

Date lost

09/1853

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Blackwaller

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Year of construction

1837

Registration Port

London

Date lost

09/1853

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

England

Cargo

Huge cargo of gold and silver (and passengers). 68,390 ounces of gold dust, one box of specie, 8 boxes of silver and 9 boxes of sovereigns

Owner

R. Green

Cause of loss

Lost enroute to England

Passenger comments

Full passenger list

Statement of significance

<p>The Madagascar is significant for its role in transporting passengers to and from the gold rushes of Victoria, and for the events associated with its loss</p>

VHR history

The Madagascar rode at anchor with a full passenger list and large cargo of gold for about a month. Detectives boarded the ship before it departed and arrested several passengers believed involved with the McIvor Gold Escort Robbery near Kyneton in July 1853. The Madagascar departed Melbourne in September and was never seen again. Theories as to the ship's final resting place range from the Pacific Islands to the coast of Chile or Brazil in South America. Another theory is that the ship and its precious cargo of gold was seized by pirates and all the passengers killed. Captain Gardner who was the master of the Earl of Charlemont (wrecked at Barwon Heads in June 1853) was travelling on the Madagascar with his wife.