

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 20/09/24

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## MAY FERGUSON

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### Location

Maribyrong River, Footscray (Saltwater)

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S460

### Date lost

29/05/1892

### Official number

None

### Construction material

Wood

### Hull

Steam yacht

### Propulsion

Steam - Unknown

### Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet

### Builder

Employees of Mephan, Ferguson & Co.

### Built port

Melbourne, Victoria

### Built country

Australia

**Date lost**

29/05/1892

**Owner**

Nuttall (engineer) and others

**Weather conditions**

Bitterly cold night

**Cause of loss**

Destroyed by fire whilst at anchor

**Statement of significance**

<p>The May Ferguson is significant as an example of a privately built pleasure craft.</p>

**VHR history**

Rig listed as steam yacht. Pleasure craft built in spare time by its<br /> owners, employees of Mephan, Ferguson & Co. Robinson, the crippled<br /> caretaker who lived nearby in the bend of the Yarra and Salt Water<br /> Rivers, observed after midnight that the vessel was on fire. Jumping out<br /> of bed, and clad only in his shirt, he rowed to the May Ferguson.<br /> Standing on a pile, he tried to extinguish the flames by throwing water<br /> from a bucket but was unable to check them. The yacht gradually burnt<br /> down to the water's edge and sank. When Robinson, who was unable to<br /> swim, tried to return to shore, he found his dinghy had drifted out of<br /> reach. Eventually, suffering badly from being three hours semi-naked in<br /> the cold, he managed to drag himself to shore by means of a rope. The<br /> fire was believed to have been caused by embers from the engine furnace<br /> - the vessel had been used earlier that day. (ID 9, 152)