

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 12/07/24

MEDEA

Location

Port Phillip Bay, 200 yards SW of Beacon on Swan Island

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S461

Date lost

10/09/1880

Official number

41868

Construction material

Wood

Hull

One deck (and beams for second deck?), square stern, carvel built, no gallery, woman's bust figurehead. Built under special survey Beams for a second and a half poop deck

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

132.00 Feet / 28.00 Feet / 15.60 Feet

Builder

Joseph John Tucker

Year of construction

1858

Built port

St Johns, New Brunswick

Built country

Canada

Registration Number

15 of 1878

Registration Port

Geelong

Date lost

10/09/1880

Departure

Geelong

Destination

Newcastle

Cargo

Flour, sundries, produce. chaff, potatoes, carrots, hay,

Owner

Huddart Parker & Co.

Master

Captain W. Bartlett

Weather conditions

Heavy weather (UID 72). Wind freshened to a south-east gale (UID 52)

Cause of loss

Ran aground in SE gale. "put back to Port Phillip Heads on the
 night of 10 September through stress of weather. While opposite
 Queenscliff she missed stays and went on to the bank at Swan spit light
 where she remained bumping heavily and with 10ft of water in her hold.
 Attempts to tow her off proving unsuccessful..."

Statement of significance

<p>The Medea is significant for its association with the large coal operators, the Huddarts</p>

VHR history

Coal carrier from Newcastle, return voyages - sundries. Passed through Heads about 8 pm but returned due to gale. Ran ashore but refused help of Queenscliff lifeboat, even though vessel was filling fast. Other efforts failed too - a survey showed vessel breaking up fast so put in hands of underwriters. Only insured for small amount as owners were considering venture of larger steam colliers. Medea, one of their fleet of coal barques, operated mostly between Newcastle, Geelong and Melbourne.