

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 02/10/24

MEG MERRILIES

Location

Entrance to Corner Inlet

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S462

Date lost

23/05/1856

Construction material

Wood

Hull

1 deck, square stern, carvel built, standing bowsprit and a woman's figurehead

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

69.70 Feet / 18.60 Feet / 8.90 Feet

Builder

Alexander Cochrane

Year of construction

1850

Built port

MacLeay River, New South Wales

Built country

Australia

Registration Port

Sydney

Date lost

23/05/1856

Departure

Waab s Boat harbour, Douglas River Tasmania

Destination

Port Albert

Cargo

Coal

Owner

D. Clarke & D. Turnbull, Port Albert

Master

Captain Edward Green

Weather conditions

SW force 2

Cause of loss

Grounded on sandbar at entrance to Corner Inlet

Number of crew

7

Crew comments

Including the Captain

VHR history

The wooden brigantine Meg Merrilies was owned in Sydney for the first part of its career, and traded from that port to Melbourne with sundry cargoes. After being sold to Melbourne owners in 1853, it was employed in the trade across Bass Strait. On 23 May 1856 while carrying a cargo of coal from Tasmania to Port Albert, the vessel

was windbound and forced to anchor on Bentley's Harbour. When the wind shifted to the west, the captain decided to leave. Once under way, the wind dropped and the vessel drifted onto a sandbank. The crew attempted to kedge the vessel free, but when the tide rose, the surf began to break over the deck. The crew took to the rigging to escape the waves, while the crew from the schooner Eclipse attempted to rescue them. The captain, his wife, the cook and a boy were swept away and drowned. The mate and three others were saved.