

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## NEW ZEALANDER



S489 NewZealander  
PortlandBay FrontView CG



S489 NewZealander  
PortlandBay AerialView



S489 NewZealander  
PortlandBay Corner CG



S489 NewZealander  
PortlandBay DiverOnWreck  
CG



S489 NewZealander  
PortlandBay SideView CG

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### Location

Portland Bay

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S489

### Date lost

16/12/1853

### Construction material

Wood

### Propulsion

Sail

**Number of masts**

3

**Length/Breadth/Depth**

174.20 Feet / 34.40 Feet / 23.00 Feet

**Year of construction**

1852

**Built port**

Pictou

**Built country**

Canada

**Registration Port**

Liverpool

**Date lost**

16/12/1853

**Cargo**

Coal

**Owner**

A.W. Sharp

**Master**

Captain Brown

**Cause of loss**

Destroyed by fire

**VHR history**

The New Zealander departed from Liverpool on the 23rd August to Australia carrying 465 assisted passengers. The immigrants were mainly Irish (103) and Scottish (362). After unloading the passengers, and 16 days in Portland, the vessel underwent an extensive refit. 18 of the original crew had to be jailed for failing to prepare for the return journey. On the 16th December, after Captain Brown had tried to muster a new crew, the ship was found ablaze at 4am. It was towed to the beach at Whalers Bluff and continued to burn. One theory at the time was that the cook set the ship alight because the crew had wanted to go ashore, whilst another theory was spontaneous combustion of the coal cargo, fuelled by the new varnish which kept the hull burning. The vessel burned for 2 to 3 weeks, and was visible for many years above the water at the foot of the lighthouse. Spruce, pine, birch, iron hanging knees, yellow metal.