

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/09/24

NOWRA

Location

London Bridge, Portsea Back Beach

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S495

Date lost

12/07/1891

Official number

64757

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Wood, round stern, carvel built, no galleries, scroll head, fore and aft schooner Surveyed 1881, not metalled

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

68.40 Feet / 18.70 Feet / 6.00 Feet

Builder

J. & M. Brown

Year of construction

1874

Built port

Shoalhaven, New South Wales

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

29/1874

Registration Port

Sydney

Date lost

12/07/1891

Departure

Penguin

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

Potatoes

Owner

R.P. Lord and C. Crook (1882-3)

Master

Captain Lancaster

Weather conditions

Severe storms at Heads and in Bass Strait

Cause of loss

Experienced very bad weather after leaving Penguin on 2nd July. Unable to reach Heads, was driven onto London Bridge rocks about 3.00pm. Captain Lancaster swept overboard by a sea that broke over the schooner just before it struck. A crew member Gallagher, jumped overboard and managed to reach shore in a very exhausted condition. T Lancaster, a son of the captain, and Robertson, the cook, then jumped overboard. Robertson whose arm had been injured by a falling spar was unable to make headway and drowned. Lancaster was washed ashore unconscious. Key, the telegraph operator at the Quarantine Station was walking on the beach, saw the men jump overboard, waded into the surf and pulled Lancaster ashore. (UIT 495)

Number of crew

4

Crew comments

Including Captain Gallagher; T. Lancaster (son of captain); Matthew Roberston (cook) (UID 9)

Statement of significance

<p>Socially significant for its association with an event that caused loss of life.</p>

VHR history

Experienced very bad weather after leaving Penguin on Thursday, 2 July. Unable to reach Heads, was driven onto London Bridge rocks about 3 pm. Captain Lancaster swept overboard by a sea that broke over the schooner just before it struck. A crew member, Gallagher jumped overboard and managed to reach shore in a very exhausted condition. T. Lancaster (a son of the captain) and Robertson (the cook) then jumped overboard. Robertson, whose arm had been injured by a falling spar, was unable to make any headway and drowned. Lancaster was washed ashore unconscious. Keys, the telegraph operator at the Quarantine Station, was walking on the beach, saw the men jump overboard, waded into surf and pulled Lancaster ashore. Cargo insured, vessel not insured. (UID 9). Unity was wrecked on Sorrento Back Beach earlier the same day. Previous owners: J. and M. Brown; Gippsland Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. Loney gives sailing date as 8 July, but this does not tie in with Argus report, giving Thursday, 2nd July as sailing date. Argus incorrectly reports the vessel as ' Narra '.