

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/04/24

PILOT

Location

Hobsons Bay, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S531

Date lost

07/03/1893

Official number

74673

Construction material

Wood

Hull

1 deck, no masts, no rigging, round stern, carvel built, no galleries, no head.

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Length/Breadth/Depth

62.80 Feet / 13.00 Feet / 6.10 Feet

Builder

George White of Williamstown

Year of construction

1877

Built port

Williamstown, Victoria

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

20 of 1877

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

07/03/1893

Departure

Working at sunken ship (Cape Verde)

Cargo

None

Owner

Alexander Grieve, mariner of Williamstown (48 shares), David

Master

Andrew Johnson

Weather conditions

SW gale

Cause of loss

Foundered against pontoon

Number of crew

5

Crew comments

Including 2 watermen, Burns (engineer), Young, Lyons.

VHR history

Had gone to take back one of cylinders moored to wreck of Cape Verde . While getting line to pontoon, a hawser fouled its propeller and the tug became unmanageable. The two men in skiff who tried to clear line managed to get back on to Pilot 's deck when skiff sank, but with heavy seas breaking over tug it began to sink. All jumped

safely for pontoon except Johnson, the master, who was jammed between steamer and pontoon but was dragged to safety by the others. With waves breaking over them, all except Johnson made for the rigging of the Cape Verde as the Pilot sank on port side of Cape Verde. Steamer Amy sounded alarm and the crew was rescued in a small boat and the customs launch. Johnson, who had remained on the cylinder, was rescued, half unconscious, with crushed ribs and a back injury Vessel's registration cancelled 29 May 1893. Had recently undergone extensive overhaul and repairs - one of strongest tugs of its class in Bay. Like Agnes , had earlier been a 'beer boat', carrying beer from Tasmania and Sydney to Williamstown and Port Melbourne.