

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 12/10/24

ROBERT JOHN

Location

Port Phillip Heads, Point Nepean

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S591

Date lost

19/10/1954

Propulsion

Motor

Length/Breadth/Depth

45.00 Feet / /

Builder

Higgs Bros

Built port

Geelong, Victoria

Built country

Australia

Date lost

19/10/1954

Departure

Routine fishing trip off Three Hummocks and Hunter Islands

Cargo

Possibly fish and crayfish

Owner

William Withers and Thomas Warren, fishermen, of Queens-

Weather conditions

Heavy seas

Cause of loss

Foundered

Number of crew

2

Crew comments

W. Withers and E. Ryan of Queenscliff

VHR history

Shark boat. Experienced fishermen concluded that the boat came inshore owing to the rough weather, approaching too close to the reef and stove in its side. It was believed that the boat then drifted out into the tideway where it sank. Queenscliff fishermen expressed concern that no lifeboat was available when the Robert John was seen foundering off Point Nepean by the lighthouse keeper at Point Lonsdale. The lifeboat had been taken to Melbourne for overhaul and survey 'many months' earlier and had not returned. In the interval, no other suitable rescue boat was available. Loney claims erroneously that 3 drowned. An appeal in Queenscliff raised 200 pounds for families of the 2 victims.