

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/04/24

## 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.