

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 11/10/24

SPEKE



S627 Speke
PhillipIslandKittyMillersBay
FrontView



S627 Speke
PhillipIslandKittyMillersBay
IronDetail



S627 Speke
PhillipIslandKittyMillersBay
WreckPieces



S627 Speke
PhillipIslandKittyMillersBay
SideView



S627 Speke
PhillipIslandKittyMillersBay
Artefacts

Location

Kitty Millers Bay, Phillip Island

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S627

Date lost

22/02/1906

Official number

97847

Construction material

Composite

Hull

The vessel had two decks, 1 cemented bulkhead, upper decks sheathed in wood. Anchors and chains proved and tested by Lloyds. Poop deck 60.0', Bridge Deck 60.0', Forecastle 38.0'. Freeboard 6.0'. Lower masts steel, topmasts timber.

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

310.00 Feet / 42.20 Feet / 25.60 Feet

Builder

T.R. Oswald & Co.

Year of construction

1891

Built port

Milford Haven

Built country

Wales

Registration Port

Liverpool

Date lost

22/02/1906

Departure

Peru-Sydney

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

1500 tons sand ballast

Owner

Sailing Ships SPEKE Co. (Lim). (R.W. Leyland & Co)

Master

Captain Tilson

Cause of loss

Vessel missed stays in poor visibility and ran ashore. Navigational error

VHR history

The Speke was the second largest ship-rigged vessel ever built. In February 1906 it ran ashore on Phillip Island as a result of poor navigation by the captain. One man was drowned when one of the lifeboats capsized, but the remainder of the crew reached safety. Although the Speke eventually broke up, it was extensively salvaged.
 After battling headwinds on a voyage from Sydney to Melbourne in ballast, the ship Speke was forced ashore east of Kitty Miller's Bay. A boat was launched but capsized in the heavy surf. One man was drowned, but the remaining occupants swam ashore with a line allowing the rest of the crew to reach safety. During the Marine Board of Inquiry, the master stated that a bush fire had obscured the land, and that heavy seas from the south-west caused the vessel to go ashore. He was found guilty of poor navigation and lost his master's certificate for 12 months. According to Lubbock, the SPEKE was the second largest ship-rigged sailing vessel ever built.