

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 18/08/24

VIXEN

Location

One mile north of Cowes jetty, Phillip Island

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S703

Date lost

20 Jul 1917

Official number

93531

Construction material

Wood

Hull

One deck, schooner rigged, elliptical stern, carvel built, straight head, no galleries, wooden framed.

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Engine specification

1 high pressure 10 HP

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

58.80 Feet / 15.00 Feet / 5.60 Feet

Builder

James Halstead

Year of construction

1886

Built port

Lavender Bay, Sydney

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

15 of 1888

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

20 Jul 1917

Departure

Cowes, Phillip Island

Destination

Melbourne

Owner

Westernport Bay and Flinders SS Co.

Cause of loss

Broke free while being towed to Melbourne for repairs and foundered

VHR history

The steam launch VIXEN sprang a leak while being towed by the Howard Smith Ltd tugboat SPRIGHTLY. An attempt was made to beach the vessel at Rhyll but it foundered about one mile east of the Cowes Jetty. No lives were lost. The Vixen was being towed to Melbourne for overhauling and repainting. The registry is marked: Registry closed 06.08.1917, vessel was lost about 1 mile out from Cowes Jetty on 20.07.1917 in 9 fathoms of water and is a total wreck.