

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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BEN BOLT

Location

Frankston, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S72

Date lost

07 Sep 1874

Official number

41485

Construction material

Wood

Hull

One deck, square stern, carvel built, no galleries or figurehead

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

1

Length/Breadth/Depth

33.00 Feet / 12.00 Feet / 4.30 Feet

Year of construction

1854

Built port

Schnapper Point, Mornington, Victoria

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

17 of 1863

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

07 Sep 1874

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Schnapper Point

Cargo

Timber
 In 1858 brought a cargo of oysters to Geelong from Corner Inlet. (VPRS 22, Item 5, Inwards Coasters Geelong 1857-1865)

Owner

Richard Leggett, master mariner, shipowner and salvager

Weather conditions

Severe gale; heavy sea

Cause of loss

Went ashore at Frankston in heavy seas. Total wreck (UID 1, 2, 52)

Passenger comments

No passengers

Number of crew

2

Statement of significance

<p>This vessel is historically significant as it represents a type of vessel, being an early Australian built wooden cutter that was employed in the intrastate trades around Australia. Its archaeological significance is difficult to determine as the location of the site is unknown but it could be significant in yielding information about the way in which an early Australian built cutter was constructed if the site is located.</p>

VHR history

Went to pieces in heavy surf. In 1855 was trading between Melbourne and Geelong. In 1858 brought a cargo of oysters to Geelong from Corner Inlet. In 1862 plied regularly between Indented Head and St Kilda pier. In 1867 traded between Geelong and King Island. Captain Richard Leggett, in 1841 a pioneer of Queenscliff trade, owned Ben Bolt and Clara ; salvaged Netherby; won Portland Cup 2 years in succession with yacht Mischief. Actively engaged with brother Thomas (a previous owner of Ben Bolt) in lighthouse and other government services. Salvaged many wrecks.

 The cutter was wrecked at Frankston, Sept 7, 1874. Left Schanpper point on September 5 with a cargo of timber for Melbourne. Vessel encountered severe gale and was unable to stand under canvas. Vessel drifted all night until about 2 miles off Frankston. Sail was raised and an effort was made to try and regain Schanpper point. Cargo shifted and the vessel became unmanageable. Vessel was driven into St Davids Bay and became a total wreck.