

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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Location

Lonsdale Reef, Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S731

Date lost

26/12/1894

Official number

79265

Construction material

Wood

Hull

1 deck; round stern; carvel built; no galleries; scroll head

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

69.80 Feet / 18.50 Feet / 5.70 Feet

Builder

Edward Higgs

Year of construction

1884

Built port

Toquay, River Mersey, Tasmania

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

33 of 1888

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

26/12/1894

Departure

San Remo

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

None

Owner

Alexander McLeod, master mariner, of Melbourne

Master

Captain Alexander McLeod

Weather conditions

Light ESE wind; ebb tide

Cause of loss

Ran onto reef at Port Phillip Heads

Number of crew

3

Crew comments

including Captain

VHR history

Although a regular trader between Tasmania and Melbourne and along the coast for the previous 5 years, on this occasion chartered for a fishing and shooting trip by 8 young men, mostly from Kew. Left San Remo on evening of Christmas Day after continuous good weather. Passengers retired 'at a late hour' but at 4 am the vessel struck. Ship's boat carrying 8 was launched with some difficulty but most of the passengers were 'comparatively cool and collected'. Captain's behaviour in the crisis was later commended. As dawn broke, the Queenscliff lifeboat appeared and towed the small boat which was trying unsuccessfully to negotiate the Rip. The captain and 2 passengers later left in another boat and managed to steer their way through the rocks to reach shore. Court of Marine Inquiry did not sustain the charge of mis-conduct against Captain McLeod but cautioned him to be more careful in the future. Previous owner: William Joseph Taylor, master mariner, of Launceston (11 Dec. 1888). Vessel only partly insured. Made occasional trips to WA. Loney and Williams give 1894 as the date of building - incorrect. Some confusion by Norman over identity of vessel.