

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/04/24

WYRALLAH



S734_Whyallah_PortPhillipHea
HistoricPhotograph

Location

Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S734

Date lost

04/1924

Official number

93558

Construction material

Steel

Hull

Iron; 1 deck, elliptical stern, carvel built, straight stem; houses on deck 10 tons

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Engine specification

Twin compound surface condensing engines, 45 NHP, coal fired 2 cyl., 16" and 32" Stroke 18" New boiler 1905

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

140.00 Feet / 22.30 Feet / 13.20 Feet

Builder

Mort's Dock & Engineering Co., Balmain

Year of construction

1887

Built port

Sydney, NSW

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

9 of 1900

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

04/1924

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Gippsland Lakes

Cargo

General, incl. confectionery, benzine, timber

Owner

Gippsland Steamers Pty Ltd

Master

Captain Richard Bracken

Weather conditions

Wind: WSW; thick; dark; very cold; flood tide

Cause of loss

Sank after collision with SS Dilkera

Number of crew

13

VHR history

The steamer Whyrallah was on its usual run to the Gippsland Lakes from Melbourne, when it was nearly cut in half in a collision with the SS Dilkera with the loss of six lives.
 Schooner rigged. Chartered from Huddart Parker Ltd. Built for northern rivers of NSW, chartered for other services at times: e.g. Esperance-Albany mail service; New Caledonia; coal from Newcastle to Bairnsdale. Some accidents while in Gippsland trade. Travelling at 6 knots at 10.20 pm, was nearly cut in half by Dilkera, travelling at full speed. Sank within 10 minutes. Searchlights from Fort Queenscliff trained on the area in search for victims and salvage. Wyrallah's master blamed by Court of Marine Inquiry - his first command. Primary cause: vessel on wrong side of Channel. Suspended for 12 months. Master of Dilkera censured for omitting to render upmost assistance after collision. Lifeboat had taken 2 hours to arrive. Court recommended that the lifeboat (oar and sail), be replaced by a motorboat. Wreck located in 43 ft of water. Insured for 5000 pounds. (R.G. Menzies, later Prime Minister of Australia), represented the vessel's owners at the Inquiry). A number of previous owners.
