Victorian Heritage Database Report

RESTLESS

Location

North of Pattersons River mouth, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S780

Date lost

1903

Official number

54071

Construction material

Wood

Hull

122 ft 9.6" x 28 ft 10.8" x 12 ft 8.4", one deck, square stern, figurehead, brigantine

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Builder

Isaiah Smith

Year of construction

1866

Built port

Maitland, Nova Scotia

Built country

Canada

Registration Number

54071

Date lost

1903

Departure

Williamstown

Destination

Queenscliff

Cargo

Not known

Weather conditions

SW gale 50mph winds

Cause of loss

parted from tow in gale

Statement of significance

<p>The wreck of the Restless is significant as being representative of a type of vessel: ie: North American built sailing vessel involved in coastal trade, and later as a lighter. It has the potential to reveal archaeological evidence of these stages of its life. It is recreationally significant being close to shore, and easily accessed by divers and snorkellers.</p>

VHR history

Wreck reported to the M.A.U. by G. Hamezianos of the H.A.G.S dive club. Site inspected in May 1988 by the M.A.A.V.. Site is that of a large wooden sailing vessel approximately 42 metres long with two or possibly three mast steps. Timber samples removed from the site and identified by the C.SI.R.O. are of North American origin. A photo in the Australasian of 1905 shows part of the bow cut off and lying on the beach. The photo indicates that the wreck had been there for some time. A site plan has been produced by MAAV.

 Wreck reported to the M.A.U. by G. Hamezianos of the H.A.G.S dive club. Site inspected in May 1988 by the M.A.A.V.. Site is that of a large wooden sailing vessel approximately 42 metres(116 feet x 26 feet) long with two or possibly three mast steps. Timber samples removed from the site and identified by the C.SI.R.O. are of North American origin. A photo in the Australasian of 1905 shows part of the bow cut off and lying on the beach. The photo indicates that

the wreck had been there for some time. A site plan has been produced by MAAV.
 Research by MAAV members has since identified the Patterson River Unidentified as the Restless, a former brigantine converted to a lighter.

 The Restless was being towed by the tug Otter to Geelong along with another lighter the Orange Grove (Age 23/1/02) when it met with the full fury of a gale with 50mph winds. The hawser of the Restless broke and the anchor dropped, but did not hold.

 Aboard the Restless were a lighterman and his wife and two children, who suffered exposure and anxiety during the Restless' drift across Port Phillip Bay. Fortunately the Restless went ashore on sand and didn't break up, and the family was rescued by Mr Hamilton, fisherman of Carrum, and a party of oarsmen.

 The Restless was built in Nova Scotia in 1866, registered in Melbourne in 1888 and involved in coastal trade. It was damaged by fire in Melbourne in 1890, and sold and converted into a lighter in 1890-91. It was broken up in 1903
 Research by MAAV indicates the Patteerson River Unidentified is the Restless, a former brigantine converted to a lighter.