

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## BOGONG

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### Location

West of the Snowy River Mouth

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S80

### Date lost

23/09/1896

### Official number

79506

### Construction material

Wood

### Propulsion

Steam - Screw

### Engine specification

One, high pressure, direct acting steam engine of 20 H.P 12.5"(diam) x 13"(stroke)

### Engine builder

Robibson Bros and Co, Yarra Banks

### Length/Breadth/Depth

64.00 Feet / 13.00 Feet / 6.00 Feet

### Builder

George White

### Year of construction

1878

**Built port**

Williamstown

**Built country**

Australia

**Registration Number**

3 of 1878

**Registration Port**

Melbourne

**Date lost**

23/09/1896

**Departure**

Gippsland Lakes

**Destination**

Mallacoota Inlet

**Cargo**

160 baskets of fish and 2 cwt of sand tailings in bags (both property of the owner)

**Owner**

1879 Thomas Cox Monger, Shipowner, Sale Victoria and Arthur White, Shipwright Williamstown.<br /> 1887 George Alfred Carpenter and John Carpenter, contractors of Cunninghame

**Master**

Captain Stevenson (Loney; a passenger according to the Board of Inquiry).<br /> Captain Gallience (Snowy River Mail)

**Weather conditions**

South westerly squall

**Cause of loss**

The vessel sprang a leak and was being beached when the vessel struck 80 yards from shore and foundered.

**Passenger comments**

Non-paying, 1 fisherman (Leonard Stevenson) employee of owner of vessel and Edward Huysman, being transported due to request by police as a warrant had been issued for him.

## **Statement of significance**

The vessel is significant in that it represents a type of vessel, an Australian built wooden steamer and is historically significant in the fact that it was a regular trader around the Gippsland coast and inland waterways and was constructed for the Lakes Navigation Company. It is difficult to assess the archaeological significance as the site is not known and has therefore not been inspected.

## **VHR history**

The SS Bogong was a well-known trader on the coast and inland waterways of Gippsland. It was also engaged in the fishing industry, and it was in this capacity when wrecked near the mouth of the Snowy River. The vessel sprang a leak and was being beached when it sank in the surf, drowning five of the seven on board. When the S.S. BOGONG put to sea, there were at least seven people on board, including Edward Huysman against whom a warrant had been issued. He was given passage under direction from the Cunninghame Police. When about 3 to 4 miles off shore, west of the mouth of the Snowy River, the vessel was found to be taking water. The leak was thought to have been caused by the Bogong striking a floating snag. The leak could not be located and it was decided to run the ship ashore. Whilst crossing the outer surf break, the vessel foundered in 14 feet of water with the loss of 5 lives. The wreck occurred one and a half miles to the west of the mouth of the Snowy River (Bairnsdale Courier). The Marine Board Inquiry did not attach blame to master, owner or crew. The wreck of a steamer with twin 'boilers' located to the west of Pearl Point was previously thought to be the Bogong. This wreck is now regarded as unidentified pending further research. Originally built for the Lakes Navigation Company of Sale.