

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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BOGONG

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.
 1887 George Alfred Carpenter and John Carpenter, contractors of Cunninghame

Master

Captain Stevenson (Loney; a passenger according to the Board of Inquiry).
 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.