

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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KINGSWEAR

Location

Ships Graveyard, Bass Strait

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S830

Date lost

14 Apr 1915

Official number

86746

Construction material

Iron

Hull

ex-steamship, iron hull, engines and boilers removed

Propulsion

Steam - Unknown

Length/Breadth/Depth

155.00 Feet / 25.10 Feet / 10.80 Feet

Year of construction

1883

Built port

Campbelltown

Built country

Scotland

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

14 Apr 1915

Cargo

no cargo

Owner

A.T. Harman

Cause of loss

Scuttled

Statement of significance

<p>The Kingswear was involved in the landscaping of Melbourne by its role in reclamation works of the West Melbourne Swamp. It is a part of the Ships Graveyard wecks resource, and is one of the earliest vessels to have been scuttled there.</p>

VHR history

The Kingswear in the earlier part of its career had been involved coastal trade in Queensland (not mentioned in Parsons, Australian Coastal Passenger Ships) and at some point arrived in Sydney.
 The Kingswear was towed from Sydney to Melbourne by the tug Eagle in October 1906, where she was transformed into a floating pumping station. In this role the Kingswear was used in reclamation works at the West Melbourne Swamp, where silt from the old river bed was pumped into the swamp measuring 10 acres in extent. As the water pumped with the silt formed mini-lakes more solid material was required, and clay cut from the Coode Canal Banks was deposited in the river bed for pumping and filling. At the time this was described as "welcome news to bayside municipal councils and yachtsmen, who have for years been complaining that the silt deposited in the bay is eventually washed onto the foreshores" (Age 22/1/1907).
 The Kingswear was described as having been in a "rotten state" with a prodigious amount of marine fouling on her hull when finally scuttled (Argus 15/4/1915).