

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 20/10/24

UNIDENTIFIED: Cowes couta boat

Location

Cowes Beach, Phillip Island

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S877

Date lost

1917

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Keel - jarrah 9 x 4 in. 21 feet length (eroded, probably was 23-24 ft) 7/8 bung hole towards stern with cork still in it.
Planking - 5/8 kauri pine fastened with copper rose head nails.
Ribs - 1 1/2 in. wide, across top of keel, alt. ribs to b

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

1

Length/Breadth/Depth

24.00 Feet / /

Date lost

1917

Departure

Cowes

Owner

possibly Frank Jansson or George Walton

Master

possibly Frank Jansson or George Walton

Weather conditions

Northerly gale

Statement of significance

<p>The wreck of the Cowes couth boat is significant as an early example of construction of this type ie: representative of a type. It is also socially significant for its associations with early commercial fishing activities in Westernport and Victoria generally.</p>

VHR history

Could be possibly one of two boats according to local oral history:
 1) Fred Janssen bought a small fishing boat after the loss of his trading ketch Vision in 1917. After leaving it tied up at the Cowes jetty one day a northerly wind blew up and smashed the boat on the beach. Fred burnt the remains, but possibly the keel survived.
 2) Fisherman Geroge Walton lived on the site of the Council caravan park in Church St, Cowes west of the Cowes jetty. He moored his boat in this area, known as 'The Moorings' where several fishermen moored their boats. George died in 1941 and his boat remained on the mooring until, according to one fisherman, the mooring chain rusted away and the boat broke adrift and was smashed up on the beach. The boat was clinker built without an engine, but the date it came ashore is unknown.