

Maritime Heritage at Risk Program

Annual Report: 2018/19



Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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There are about 324 shipwrecks which have been found in Victoria with many threatened by environmental and human interference. The Maritime Heritage at Risk Program aims to identify and protect the most important Victorian shipwrecks at the highest risk.

In November 2016 Heritage Victoria commenced a program designed to identify and prioritise the State's most significant shipwrecks; provide an assessment of their current and future risk and implement a site management program to better safeguard them.

The Maritime Heritage at Risk Program also includes a Shipwreck Risk Register, through which site management activities for protecting those wrecks is initiated. The wrecks in the Register are pro-actively managed with the aim of minimising further deterioration to the site, this includes regular monitoring and the capture of on-site data on the condition of the wreck to facilitate the development of risk management programs.

In 2018/19 there were 23 shipwrecks in the Register (see below Shipwreck Risk Register).

Key Activities: 2018/19

The key activities conducted in 2018/19 were:

ACTIVITY	WRECK SITE
Fieldwork	<i>Amazon</i>
Site Conservation (anodes)	<i>H.M.V.S Cerberus</i>
Site Monitoring	<i>S.S. Alert</i> <i>Clarence</i> <i>William Salthouse</i> <i>S.S. City of Launceston</i> <i>Amazon</i>
Wreck Reporting	<i>Amazon</i>

Fieldwork: *Amazon* Wreck Site

In July 2018, Heritage Victoria was alerted of significant beach erosion at Inverloch and the uncovering of the *Amazon* shipwreck. The wreck was uncovered and there was evidence of both environmental and human interference with the vessel and its artefacts.

Site management activities commenced in November 2018 through a joint archaeological project between Heritage Victoria and Flinders University (S.A).



The fieldwork comprised the limited excavation and recording of the site including a visual and metal detecting survey. A drone was also used to take aerial imagery.

Photo: The *Amazon* (1863) Shipwreck Project Report: M. McAllister, et al.

Site Conservation: *H.M.V.S Cerberus*



Photo: *H.M.V.S. Cerberus*: State Library of Victoria.

Ongoing Heritage Victoria site conservation activities at *H.M.V.S Cerberus* include the maintenance of anodes previously installed at the wreck site.

In July 2018 Heritage Victoria issued a heritage permit to the City of Bayside to conduct public safety works by allowing the infilling of the hull of *H.M.V.S Cerberus* with a marine concrete core to support the armoured breastwork and turrets of the shipwreck.

The infill option is favoured because it mitigates the public safety risk presented by the wreck while at the same time stabilising the wreck and preventing further collapse.

Site Monitoring

Monitoring of Risk Register wreck sites was conducted as part of Heritage Victoria's Community Shipwreck Monitoring Trial.

The trial commenced in November 2018 with Queenscliff and Werribee Volunteer Coastguard Flotillas and Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club.

The trial participants conduct regular patrols of the five designated wrecks from Queenscliff, Werribee and Inverloch. Patrols are on the look-out for any damaging activities including anchoring, fishing and diving.

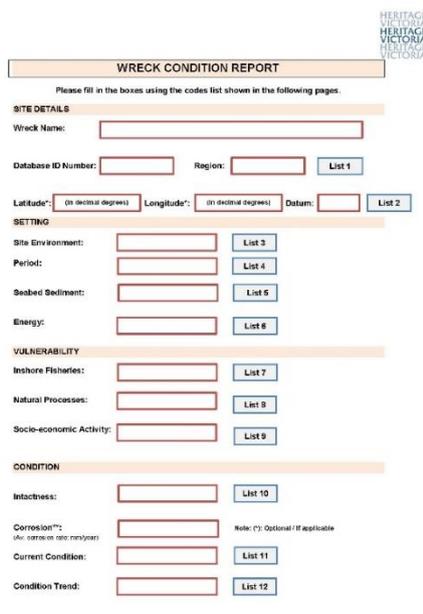


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Photo: Queenscliff Volunteer Coastguard Vessel.

In 2018/19, the participants conducted 55 visits to the wreck sites.

Wreck Reporting



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WRECK CONDITION REPORT

Please fill in the boxes using the codes list shown in the following pages.

SITE DETAILS

Wreck Name:

Database ID Number: Region: [List 1](#)

Latitude: (in decimal degrees) Longitude: (in decimal degrees) Datum: [List 2](#)

SETTING

Site Environment: [List 3](#)

Period: [List 4](#)

Seabed Sediment: [List 5](#)

Energy: [List 8](#)

VULNERABILITY

Inshore Fisheries: [List 7](#)

Natural Processes: [List 6](#)

Socio-economic Activity: [List 9](#)

CONDITION

Intactness: [List 10](#)

Corrosion: Note: (*) Optional / If applicable
Use decimal into min/year

Current Condition: [List 11](#)

Condition Trend: [List 12](#)

Two new reports were introduced to capture information to facilitate risk management activities.

The Wreck Condition Report includes details such as site environment, how vulnerable the wreck is to fishing, natural processes and socio-economic activity. An assessment is also made of the current condition and condition trend of the wreck.

The Site Visit Report describes the purpose of the visit and the activities to be undertaken.

The reports were first used to collect data at the *Amazon* wreck site.

Image: Extract of Wreck Condition Report.

Shipwreck Risk Register

The following were identified to be the most significant shipwrecks at the highest risk in 2018/19.

SHIPWRECK		
<i>Amazon</i>	<i>S.S City of Launceston*</i>	<i>Carlisle</i>
<i>S.S Consider</i>	<i>Clarence*</i>	<i>M.V City of Rayville</i>
<i>P.S Clonmel*</i>	<i>Nautilus</i>	<i>T.S.S Coramba</i>
<i>Loch Ard</i>	<i>H.M.V.S Countess of Hopetoun</i>	<i>S.S Glenelg*</i>
<i>Monumental City</i>	<i>P.S Thistle</i>	<i>S.S Gulf of Carpentaria</i>
<i>Thistle</i>	<i>William Salthouse*</i>	<i>S.S Kanowna</i>
<i>H.M.V.S Cerberus*</i>	<i>Alert*</i>	<i>S.S Queensland</i>
<i>Cheviot</i>	<i>S.S Cambridge</i>	

Note: * indicates Protected Zone wrecks.

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