

SHIPWRECK DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Shipwreck Wreckage
Rame Head 2 Beach, Victoria



Introduction

In September 2021, Heritage Victoria commenced the Shipwreck Discovery Program aimed at facilitating the reporting of shipwreck discoveries by maritime industries. Following is a report based on an observation by an abalone diver and information provided by a hiker who subsequently sighted shipwreck wreckage in the area.

Description

Possible shipwreck site at Rame Head 2 Beach, Croajingolong National Park, Gippsland, Victoria.

Status

First sighted by Greg Johns, a hiker in 2010. Also referred to by John Black (abalone diver) in an interview transcript reference to Petrel Point.

Background

The information on the wreck's possible location is derived from a blog on the Hiking Fiasco [website](#) describing a hike from Thurra River to Wingan Inlet on 4 September 2010 and an email from Greg Johns dated 13 December 2023.

Rame Head 2 Beach Wreckage

Following is an extract of Greg Johns blog on his sighting of shipwreck wreckage at Rame Head 2 Beach.

“In order to reach Wingan Inlet, I'd have to do another session of rock hopping across a section called Petrel Point.”

“In the end, I was so enthusiastic to get off the rocks, that as I stepped down, I promptly fell over... At least I was back on the beach... [And further along the beach, rain hit as] I'd just stumbled across pieces of old, rusted metal on the beach, which I assume are from 100 year old shipwrecks?”



Figure 1: Main shipwreck wreckage (Source: Greg Johns)

“They certainly had a ‘ye olde’ feel about them, but I can’t seem to find out their origin anywhere online. I’d liked to have fossicked a bit more, but the rain began to pound and during these times, I tended to keep the camera out of the weather. I was now rapidly approaching Wingan Inlet, but I needed to do a little inland walking first.”

Additional information provided by Greg Johns in an email dated 13 December 2023.

“From memory, the rusted pieces were all on the beach area starting from -37.770159, 149.452711. There was a small section of rocks I clambered over and then once onto the sand the pieces were along there. That seems to make sense in my memory! I seem to remember they were all a few hundred metres apart. I assume that the cylinder was separate from the other pieces.”



Figure 2: Main shipwreck wreckage - side view (Source: Greg Johns)



Figure 3: Main shipwreck wreckage site - other wreckage (Source: Greg Johns)



Figure 4: Cylinder wreckage (Source: Greg Johns)



Figure 5: Cylinder wreckage - closer view (Source: Greg Johns)

Location

Based on the co-ordinates provided by Greg Johns, the estimated location of the wreckage is at the start of Rame Head 2 Beach. Co-ordinates: Latitude: -37.770159, Longitude: 149.452711. See map below.



Figure 6: Estimated location of the wreck site at Rame Head 2 Beach, Victoria.

Located Shipwrecks

There are four located shipwrecks within 21 kilometres of the Rame Head 2 Beach site, as described in the table below.

Table 1 Located shipwrecks in the vicinity of Rame Head 2 Beach.

Shipwreck	Date Lost	Latitude	Longitude	Description
SS Riverina	Jan 1890	-37.777698	149.430801	Iron steamer wrecked on the west side of the island at Petrel Point.
Romeo	Feb 1882	-37.772499	149.384994	Iron barque wrecked between Rame Head and Point Hicks.
SS Kerangie	Feb 1879	-37.802394	149.270416	Iron steamer wrecked at Point Hicks.
SS Saros	Dec 1937	-37.800854	149.271667	Iron steamer wrecked at Point Hicks.

There are two located shipwrecks in Bass Strait in proximity to the site (see table below).

Table 2 Located shipwrecks in Bass Strait in proximity to wreck site.

Shipwreck	Date Lost	Latitude	Longitude	Description
Savcor	2006	-38.066665	149.625000	No details, lost 36 kms south of Wingan Inlet.
SS Federal	Mar 1901	-38.122475	148.730865	Steel steamer lost in Bass Strait.

Following is a map with the GPS locations of *Kerangie* (Orange), *Saros* (Blue), *Romeo* (Green) and *Riverina* (Yellow), in relation to the Rame Head 2 site (Red).



Figure 7 Location Map: Kerangie (Orange), Saros (Blue), Romeo (Green), SS Riverina (Yellow) and Rame Head 2 Beach wreckage (Red).

The closest located shipwreck is the *SS Riverina*, see Figure 8 below.



Figure 8 Location Map - SS Riverina (Yellow) and Rame Head 2 Beach wreckage (Red).

Identification

Further information and site recording is required to assist with identification. The Rame Head 2 Beach site may be wreckage associated with one of the known and located sites in the Section above or associated with an unlocated shipwreck site in the water. It may also be the main site of an unidentified iron shipwreck.

Directions

Rame Head 2 Beach is located between Mueller and Wingan Inlets in Croajingolong National Park, East Gippsland, Victoria. There are campgrounds at both inlets. Rame Head 2 Beach is about 13 kms east of Mueller Inlet.

Mueller Inlet Campground is located approximately 39 km from Cann River and a 6.5 hour drive east of Melbourne. To access the campground, turn off the Princes Highway at Cann River and follow Tamboon Road before turning onto Point Hicks Road. One final turn onto Bald Hills Track will lead you there. The campground contains eight unpowered sites, three of which are walk-in only.

Wingan Inlet Campground is approximately 17km east of Cann River, turn down West Wingan Road. The campground is at the end of the unsealed road (Parks Victoria).

The nearest boating facilities are at Mallacoota Inlet (Gippsland Ports) and Cape Conran (Better Boating Victoria).

Finder Information

If the wreckage is found, please do not remove any artefacts. If possible, record the GPS co-ordinates or estimate the position on a map, take photos and call Heritage Victoria on 03 7022 6390 or email heritage.victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Information on how to identify shipwreck and artefact discoveries can be found on the Heritage Victoria website, with downloadable guidance documents provided as part of the Shipwreck Discovery Program:

- [Commercial Fishing Industry Victoria - Guidelines for Reporting Shipwreck Discoveries](#)
- [Commercial Fishing Q and A](#)

Heritage Victoria welcomes the involvement of the diving community in identifying the exact location of shipwrecks. Discoveries can be formally acknowledged by Heritage Victoria with the inclusion of the discovery in official records and the awarding of a certificate.

References

- Hiking Fiasco [website](#)
- John Black Interview. 2003. John Black Oral History. Heritage Victoria East Gippsland Oral Histories Project. Culture Victoria, available: <https://victoriancollections.net.au/?cv-redirect=1>
- Greg Johns Email: 13 December 2023
- Parks Victoria [Mueller Inlet Campground](#)
- Gippsland Ports [Mallacoota Inlet](#)
- Better Boating Victoria [Cape Conran](#)

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