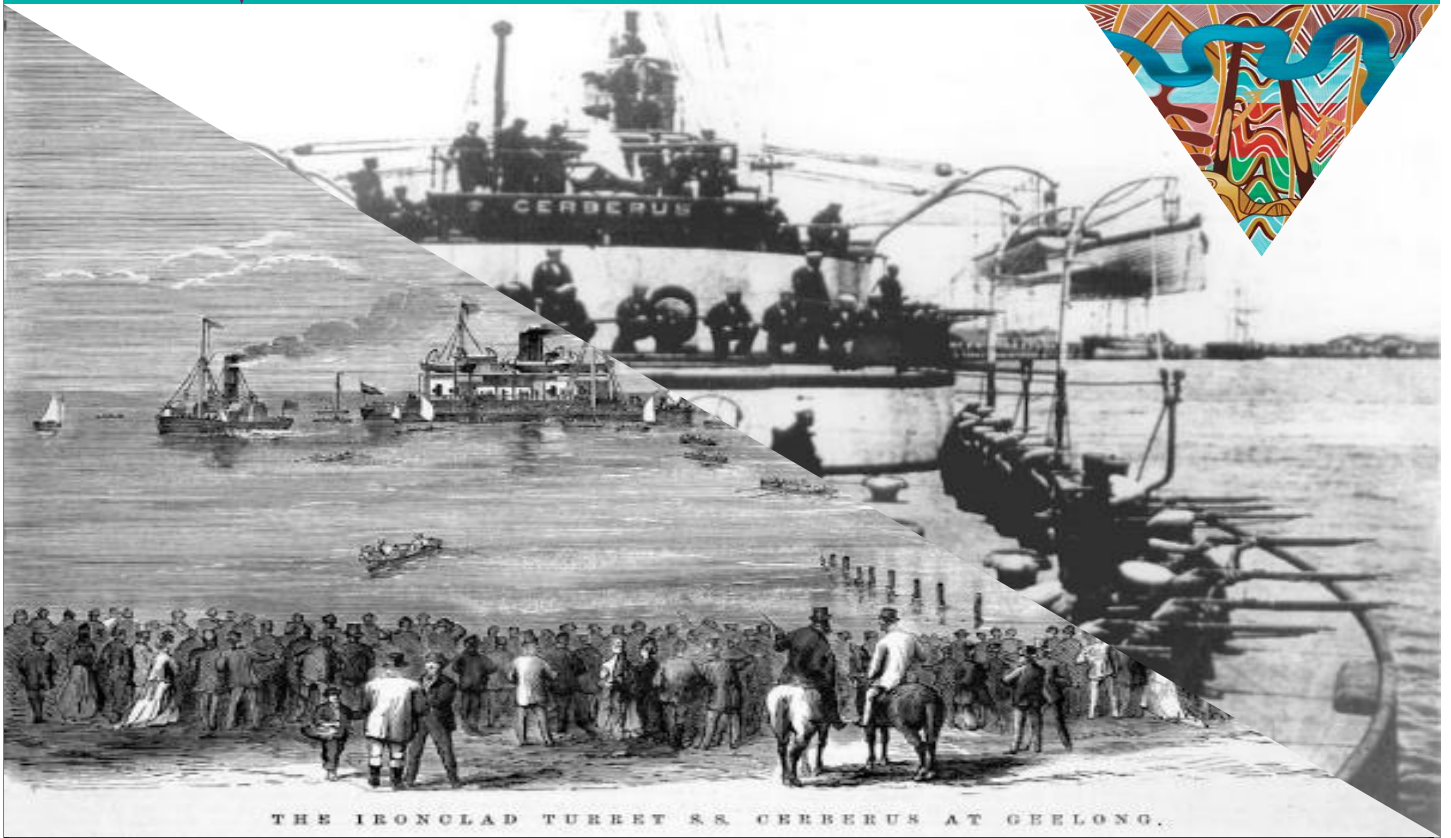


Maritime Heritage at Risk Program

Annual Report: 2021/22



THE IRONCLAD TURRET S.S. CERBERUS AT GEELONG.

Photo Credit:

Cerberus following her arrival in Port Phillip Bay. Source: State Library of Victoria.

Cerberus ratings undertaking musket drill on Port Phillip Bay. Source: State Library of Victoria

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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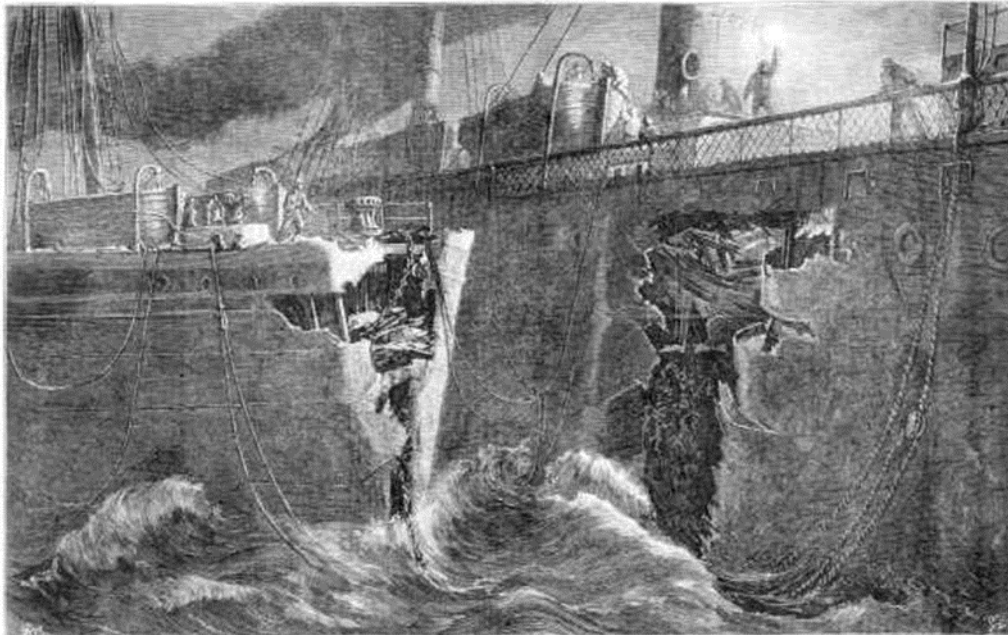
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The Maritime Heritage at Risk program aims to protect Victoria's most important shipwrecks at the highest risk.

The program commenced in 2016 to identify and prioritise the State's most significant shipwrecks and provide ongoing assessment of their current and future risk. The high priority wrecks are included in a Shipwreck Risk Register through which site management activities are conducted to better safeguard them from human and environmental interference. In 2021/22 there were 25 shipwrecks on the Register.

The 2021/22 Annual Report includes information on conservation, monitoring, inspections and compliance activities implemented at Risk Register wreck sites. On-site data is also collected at the sites about the condition of wrecks to facilitate risk management initiatives. Similar to the 2020/21 report, COVID-19 restrictions have again severely impacted on several activities including Heritage Victoria and Community Shipwreck Monitoring Program site visits.



COLLISION BETWEEN THE STEAMSHIPS BARRABOOL AND QUEENSLAND OFF WILSONS PROMONTORY.

Collision between the steamships Barrabool and Queensland off Wilsons Promontory.
Source: State Library of Victoria

SITE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: 2021/22

The key site management activities conducted in 2021/22 were:

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	
Conservation	<i>Amazon</i>	<i>S.S City of Launceston</i>
	<i>Clarence</i>	<i>S.S City of Launceston</i>
	<i>William Salthouse</i>	<i>P.S Thistle</i>
Wreck Monitoring	<i>Alert</i>	<i>S.S Glenelg</i>
	<i>Joanna</i>	<i>Cheviot</i>
	<i>Mountain Maid</i>	<i>S.S Cambridge</i>
	<i>S.S Conside</i>	<i>S.S Queensland</i>
	<i>Coogee</i>	<i>Amazon</i>
Port Monitoring	Port Albert	Port Welshpool
Inspections	<i>Thistle</i>	<i>Barbara</i>
	<i>William Salthouse</i>	
Compliance	Ongoing activities	

SHIPWRECK RISK REGISTER CHANGES: 2021/22

No changes to the Risk Register, however recent site visits indicate that three wrecks, *Clarence*, *P.S Clonmel* and *Thistle* are currently buried but subject to change depending on environmental factors.

CONSERVATION

S.S City of Launceston

A biodiversity survey was conducted by Dodgy Brothers Inc of the marine life on the *City of Launceston* on 8 December 2021 (Chamberlain 2021). After initial dives scoping the site, divers carried video cameras to document species. Communication was maintained by an audio feed between the divers and the boat. Having audio and video feeds enabled the boat crew to record details as divers provided them.

Five divers were deployed in the survey and completed 15 dives on the wreck. The focus of the dives was on marine species primarily found on the deck, and the exposed superstructure of the wreck.

The survey discovered that there is an abundance of marine life including 15 species of fish as well as crabs and sea stars, with many hard surfaces encrusted with mussels, oysters, scallops and sponges.



Photo: City of Launceston marine life: J. Santo Spirito

Reference: Chamberlain, D. 2021. City of Launceston Survey and Written Report: 8 December 2021.

Continuation of conservation activities (provided by Professional Diving Services) including the installation and maintenance of zinc anodes to stabilise the condition of the wreck.

Amazon

The *Amazon* wreck continued to experience major changes in sand cover during 2021/22. From November 2021 to June 2022 there was increased sand cover resulting in the wreck being close to

completely buried. However, due to increased storm and tidal surge activity in early 2022/23 sections of the wreck not previously seen for two years have become exposed.

Heritage Victoria is preparing a Conservation and Management Plan for the wreck site.

During the year monthly meetings were held with The Amazon 1863 Project Inc community group to discuss conservation activities, a community event and the potential local display of artefacts.

A Heritage Victoria Living Heritage Program grant was provided to The Amazon 1863 Project Inc group to conserve the deadwood which went on display at the Inverloch Community Hall in December 2021. Conservation of copper sheeting and a deadeye was completed by Grimwade Conservation Services, paid for by Heritage Victoria from the Australian Underwater Cultural Heritage Program funding, and the trail board is being considered for conservation or reburial.



Photo: Amazon wreck: Karyn Collins

WRECK MONITORING

The Community Shipwreck Monitoring Program is now in its fifth year of operation with four Volunteer Coast Guard flotillas and one Surf Life Saving Club participating in monitoring fourteen important high risk wreck sites, including six Protection Zones. Monitoring involves regularly visiting the wrecks, submitting reports and providing a visible presence at the sites.

During 2021/22 Queenscliff, Werribee, Port Albert and Port Welshpool Volunteer Coast Guards and Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club conducted 112 site visits. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, visits were severely limited in January and March 2022.



Photo: Port Welshpool Volunteer Coast Guard vessel

Most alerts were for the *City of Launceston*, *Clarence* and *Amazon* wreck sites.

PORT MONITORING

Monitoring of diving vessels docked or launched from boat ramps in their port facilities continued to be provided by Port Albert and Port Welshpool Volunteer Coast Guards. There were 24 port monitoring visits conducted during 2021/22.

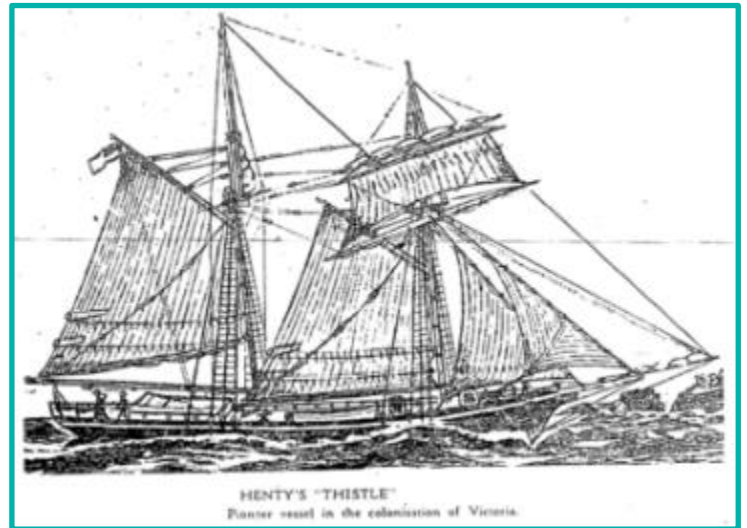
Professional fishers were active at the locations with one sighting of diver activity in June 2022 which was investigated.

INSPECTIONS

Three inspections and risk assessments were conducted on Risk Register shipwrecks during 2021/22.

Thistle was visited by Heritage Victoria in January 2022.

The wreck is currently buried with no structural remains or artefacts visible at the site.



Henty's Thistle; Public Domain



Photo: *Barbara*; Marcia Riederer

The wreck of the **Barbara** was visited by the Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria (MAAV) in March 2022 with a permit from Heritage Victoria to undertake cutting of seaweed to prepare for photogrammetry. It was previously visited by Heritage Victoria in April 2021.

No significant disturbance to the site was visible.

3D photogrammetry results were mixed with the lessons learned to be adopted in future activities.

William Salthouse was visited by Heritage Victoria in June 2022. Like the previous visit by Neil Walls in March 2021 a loss of sand cover was detected at the site.

This has resulted in the uncovering of some previously buried pork barrels and other artefacts.

There was no sign of human interference at the site and the condition of the wreck is stable.



Photo: *William Salthouse* artefacts; Heritage Victoria

COMPLIANCE

One vessel infringement was referred to Heritage Victoria's compliance team for follow up action in accordance with Heritage Victoria's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy.

On-going compliance activities included the monitoring of artefact sales.

Due to COVID 19 the Heritage Victoria vessel was restricted from undertaking site compliance visits. However, this enabled substantial maintenance of the vessel to be undertaken.



Photo: Heritage Victoria vessel

SHIPWRECK RISK REGISTER: 2021/22

The following were identified to be the most significant Victorian shipwrecks at the highest risk in 2021/22.

Priority	Shipwreck
1	<i>Amazon</i>
2	<i>P.S Clonmel</i> * (currently buried)
3	<i>S.S Conside</i>
4	<i>Loch Ard</i>
5	<i>Monumental City</i>
6	<i>Thistle</i> (currently buried)
7	<i>Barbara</i>
8	<i>Cerberus</i> (H.M.V.S)*
9	<i>Cheviot</i>
10	<i>S.S City of Launceston</i> *
11	<i>Clarence</i> * (currently buried)
12	<i>Nautilus</i>
13	<i>Countess of Hopetoun</i> (H.M.V.S)
14	<i>P.S Thistle</i>
15	<i>William Salthouse</i> *
16	<i>Alert</i> *
17	<i>S.S Cambridge</i>
18	<i>Carlisle</i>
19	<i>Lady Mary Pelham</i>
20	<i>M.V City of Rayville</i>
21	<i>T.S.S Coramba</i>
22	<i>S.S Glenelg</i> *
23	<i>S.S Gulf of Carpentaria</i>
24	<i>S.S Kanowna</i>
25	<i>S.S Queensland</i>

Note: (*): Protected Zone wrecks

OUR PARTNERS

Heritage Victoria would like to thank its partners for their contribution to the program in 2021/22.

Activity	Partner
Conservation	Parks Victoria. The Amazon 1863 Project Inc. Professional Diving Services.
Wreck Monitoring	Queenscliff Volunteer Coast Guard (VF 9). Werribee Volunteer Coast Guard (VF 10). Port Albert Volunteer Coast Guard (VF 19). Port Welshpool Volunteer Coast Guard (VF 20). Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club.
Port Monitoring	Port Albert Volunteer Coast Guard (VF 19). Port Welshpool Volunteer Coast Guard (VF 20).
Funding	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

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