

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## ABSTAINER

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### Location

Lakes Entrance, near the bar

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S1

### Date lost

12/11/1889

### Official number

78054

### Construction material

Wood

### Hull

Wooden

### Propulsion

Sail

### Number of masts

2

### Length/Breadth/Depth

68.60 Feet / 16.60 Feet / 6.50 Feet

### Builder

Charles Poole

### Year of construction

1877

### **Built port**

LaTrobe, River Mersey, Tasmania

### **Built country**

Australia

### **Registration Port**

Melbourne

### **Date lost**

12/11/1889

### **Departure**

Lakes Entrance

### **Destination**

Port Albert

### **Cargo**

700 Sleepers from Mossi face for Messrs O'Keefe and Co. Contractors for the Great Southern railway line

### **Owner**

A. O Keefe

### **Master**

Captain Gellatis

### **Weather conditions**

Unknown

### **Cause of loss**

While being towed out the Entrance by the steamer Rose of Sharon and on entering the channel between the piers Captain Gellatis noticed the steamer letting go the tow line, he ran forward and asked what they were doing but no notice was taken. the tow line was dropped while the Abstainer was still in the channel. The captain of the steamer seemed afraid to face the rough bar hampered by the schooner. Abstainer in the strong swell and heavy tide snapped ropes and she slewed twice when without warning she also lurched over into deep water and topmast broke off. Abstainer drifted onto the stone apron of the western pier and heeled over and sank.

### **Statement of significance**

<p>This vessel is significant historically as an early Australian built vessel. It is impossible to assess whether the vessel is significant archaeologically.</p>

## **VHR history**

The vessel was lengthened in 1883 from the original measurements of 55.7 x 16.5 x 6.5 feet. Vessel was being towed steamship Rose of Sharon when the tow rope was cast off before the vessel reached safe water. After being struck by heavy sea it foundered. The cook and master were asked repeatedly to leave the vessel by the Harbour Master.