

DIVE INFORMATION SHEET

SS CASINO (1882-1932)

An iron steamship which transported cargo and passengers between Melbourne and Portland.

Diving on the Wreck of the *SS Casino*

The *SS Casino* now lies in nine metres of water on a flat sandy seabed at the northern end of Apollo Bay, almost opposite Wild Dog Creek. It lies 400 metres offshore, just beyond the breakers.

The vessel lies on its port side, with its stern pointing towards the beach and bow to the ocean. The remains of the hull are around fifty metres long.

The hull is relatively intact at the bow and near the engine and boiler, but toward the stern, it has collapsed, exposing the propeller shaft, steering gear and engine.

Other features of the site include lifeboat davits, bollards and masts. Remains of the ship's cargo such as papers, occasionally appear as sand shifts across the site.

Extensive salvaging of the *SS Casino* has taken place over the years. The anchor is on display at the Apollo Bay post office and the steering wheel and other relics can be seen in the local hotel and maritime museum.

Dive standard: Intermediate

Dive Conditions

Even during periods of low swell and calm conditions the site is continually subject to wave action. This surge causes sand to drift across the site and reduces visibility. Bottom surge can also make diving uncomfortable.

The Maritime Archaeology Unit has placed an information plinth on the hull, next to the boiler on the port side of the vessel.

Locating the Wreck of the *SS Casino*

Launch Site: Apollo Bay Boat Ramp

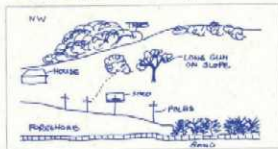
Chart No: AUS 349

Latitude: 38° 44' 36" S

Longitude: 143° 40' 45" E

Visual Transits

1. 316° (T) Last pole in line with lone gum tree



2. 036° (T) Windows of white out-house under water tank



Similar Wrecks in Victoria

Wrecks of other steamships included in the Underwater Shipwreck Discovery Trail are the *SS Blackbird* (Port Albert), *SS Coogee* (Ships' Graveyard) and *SS Wauchope* (Port Phillip Bay).

Help Protect our Maritime Heritage

The *SS Casino* was protected as an Historic Shipwreck on the 17th January 1989, under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act (1976). Any deliberate damage or interference to the *SS Casino* is an offence under the Act.

Many wrecks are fragile and require constant monitoring. Divers visiting wreck sites can help the Maritime Archaeology Unit protect and manage Victoria's Historic Shipwrecks by:

- Reporting any damage to wreck sites caused by natural erosion or the activities of divers.
- Reporting artefacts which have become exposed through erosion and are at risk from being washed away or looting.
- Reporting any diver seen actively looting a wreck.
- Informing the Unit of a new wreck site. Divers who find and report a new wreck may be entitled to a reward.

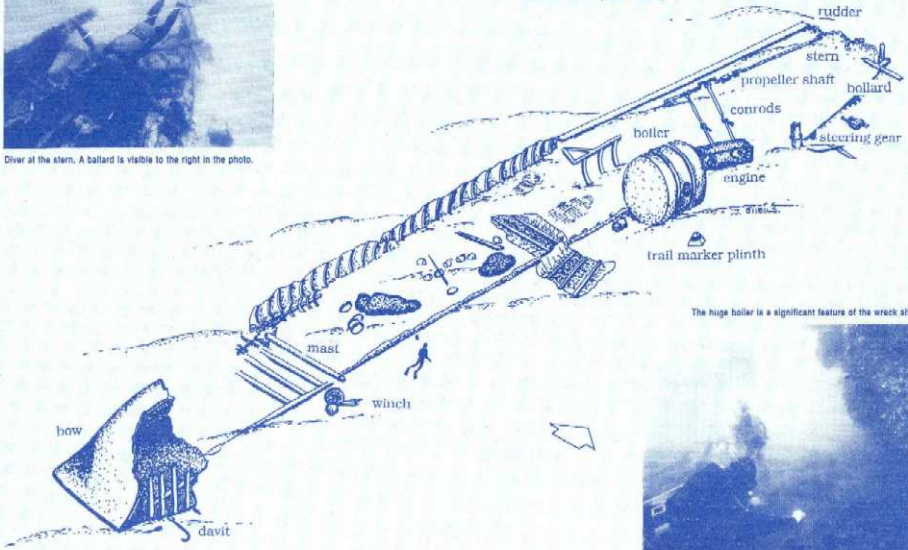
Please contact the Maritime Archaeology Unit at:

Victorian Archaeological Survey
29-31 Victoria Avenue
Albert Park VIC 3206
Telephone: (03) 690 5322

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Diver at the stern. A ballard is visible to the right in the photo.



The huge boiler is a significant feature of the wreck site.



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