

HOLYHEAD (1889-1890)

A magnificent four masted iron barque built in Liverpool.

Diving on the Wreck of the *Holyhead*

The wreck of the *Holyhead* now lies seaward of Point Lonsdale Reef, 100 metres to the west of the *George Roper* in four to five metres of water.

The wreck site extends for approximately 100 metres. At the stern, divers can see the ship's steering gear including its rudder and rudder post. The rudder has actually broken in two: half stands upright, while the remainder lies on the port side of the wreck. There is also some iron hull plating scattered around this part of the wreck site.

Along the bottom of the wreck, the ship's floors, the keelson, side keelson, frames and more iron hull plating can be seen.

Divers swimming between midships and the bow should find a stack of slate and railway iron - remains of some of the ship's cargo. Toward the bow, just beyond the winch, the wreck becomes scattered. Mast stumps, a mast cap, yards, windlass, hull structure and a bollard are just some of the gear to be found in this area. A significant feature of the site is that it is windless.

Over the past twenty to thirty years, cutlery, glassware, portholes and other small artefacts have been salvaged from the wreck of the *Holyhead*.

Dive standard: Basic - Intermediate

Dive Conditions

As this site is tidal it is best to dive between the end of ebbs and start of flood tide.

Locating the Wreck of the *Holyhead*

Launch Site: Barwon Heads, Queenscliff or Portsea.

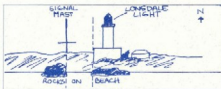
Chart No: AUS 158/AUS 143

Latitude: 38° 17'45" S

Longitude: 145° 36'45" E

Visual transits

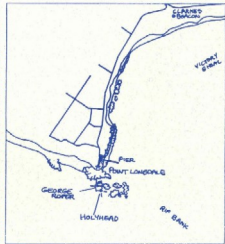
1. Line up rock with cement shelter on beach, and flagstaff.



2. Line up beacon with light on pier.



Locality



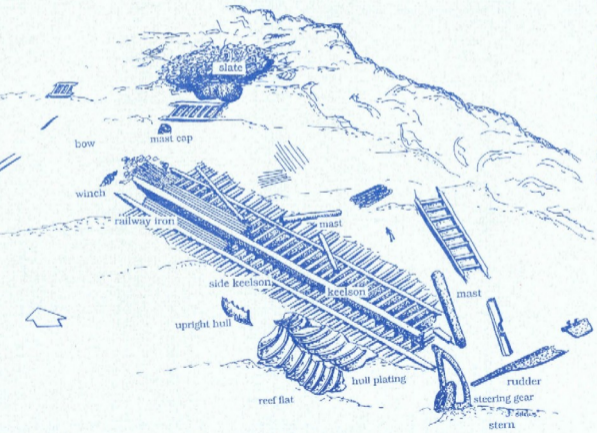
Similar Wrecks in Victoria

Other wrecks of iron sailing ships included in the Underwater Shipwreck Discovery Trail are the *Eliza Ramsden* (Port Phillip Bay), the *Fiji* (Moonlight Head), *Falls of Halladale* (Curdies Point), *George Roper* (Point Lonsdale), *Hurricane* (Port Phillip Bay), *La Bella* (Warmambool), *Loch Ard* (Port Campbell) and *Sierra Nevada* (Portsea Ocean Beach).

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Remains of the rudder, part of the blade still upright.



Help Protect Our Maritime Heritage

The *Holyhead* was protected as an Historic Shipwreck on 17th January, 1989 under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act (1976). Any damage or interference to the *Holyhead* or any other Historic Shipwreck is an offence under the Act and offenders face tough penalties.

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:

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