

## DIVE INFORMATION SHEET

# LOCH ARD (1873-1878)

A square rigged iron sailing ship which carried cargo and passengers between Liverpool and Melbourne. The *Loch Ard* is probably the best known shipwreck in Victoria.

### Diving on the Wreck of the *Loch Ard*

The wreck of the *Loch Ard* lies on the south-west side of Mutton Bird Island, five nautical miles from Port Campbell. It covers a wide area, and has a length of 80 metres.

The site extends from 10 - 25 metres depth. At 10 metres a large section of hull lies concreted to a collection of railway irons. At 15 metres, lead and zinc sheet rolls, copper plating, marble, ceramic tiles lead shot and numerous small artefacts such as scissors, ceramics, pewter mugs and ink wells can be seen.

Extensive hull plating is strewn over the site. The bow is relatively intact with its bowsprit jammed under a rock. Nearby, lie the *Loch Ard*'s anchors. On the port side of the bow, divers can see a section of the hull with deadeyes (used to secure the rigging). The port side of the hull has actually collapsed down the side of Mutton Bird Island spilling its contents.

The ship's frames extend back to a section of the starboard side of the hull. In this part of the wreck, the hull leans against the island to form a cave.

The stern of the ship has not been found and has possibly broken up over time.

Back at Port Campbell, the submerged wreck of the steamship *Napier*, associated with the wreck of the *Loch Ard*, can be seen near the pier.

**Dive standard:** Intermediate - Experienced

### Dive Conditions

Diving on the *Loch Ard* requires calm conditions and a very low swell. The best time to dive the wreck is March, April and May.

The anchorage is in 25-30 metres of water and even on relatively calm days, the backwash from Mutton Bird Island can be quite severe. There is also a risk of changeable weather on this part of the coast. Care must be taken to avoid the wave break east of Port Campbell at the entrance to the inlet. Before diving on the *Loch Ard*, divers should register with the Department of Conservation's Port Campbell Office or Schomberg Dive Service, also at Port Campbell.

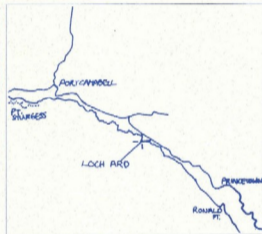
### Locating the Wreck of the *Loch Ard*

Launch Site: Port Campbell - beach access or crane  
Chart No.: AUS 349  
Latitude: 38 39' 06" S  
Longitude: 143 4'30" E

### 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), *Holyhead* (Point Lonsdale), *Hurricane* (Port Phillip Bay), *La Bella* (Warrnambool) and *Sierra Nevada* (Portsea ocean beach).

### Locality



LOCH ARD (1873-1878)

Help Protect Our Maritime Heritage

The *Loch Ard* was declared an Historic Shipwreck on 11th March 1982 under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act (1976). Any damage or interference to the *Loch Ard*, is an offence under the Act and penalties are very severe.

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:

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



The *Loch Ard* carried an extensive bottled cargo: alcohols, condiments and oils.

