

VICTORIA TOWER (1869-1869)

A magnificent three masted iron hulled clipper. One of a small class of general cargo traders.

Diving on the wreck of *Victoria Tower*

The wreck of the *Victoria Tower* lies in approximately five metres of water on the Victoria Reef - a limestone network of underwater caves and gullies. The wreckage extends for approximately 100 metres and lies broadside to the shore with its bow facing east.

The most impressive part of the wreck is the bow which is intact. Divers can see a large section of the hull, and the bowsprit and martingale in this region of the wreck site. Good examples of the ship's upright frames can be seen at the starboard midships. Towards the bow and between the deck framing are two hatches either side of the foremast step.

The masts and yard arm lie on the seaward side of the wreckage.

The site has been extensively salvaged, though divers can sometimes see fragments of ceramics scattered around the wreck and pieces of slate and glass bottles in the hull.

Dive Standard: Intermediate

Dive Conditions

Victoria Reef is subject to heavy surge even in a low swell. When local rivers are in flood, visibility is extremely poor.

Locating the Wreck of *Victoria Tower*

Launch Site: Torquay

Chart No: AUS 349

Area: East of Torquay

Lat: 38 19'00"

Long: 144 21'75"

Compass Bearing

Dune Scour - 340 mag 352° (T)

Point Impossible Beacon - 30 mag 42° (T)

Barwon Heads - 70 mag 82° (T)

Headland Point Addis - 220 mag 232° (T)

Green Roof Bowling Club - 240 mag 252° (T)

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* (Warrnambool), *Holyhead* (Point Lonsdale), *Loch Ard* (Port Campbell) and *Sierra Nevada* (Portsea Ocean Beach).

Help Protect Our Maritime Heritage

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

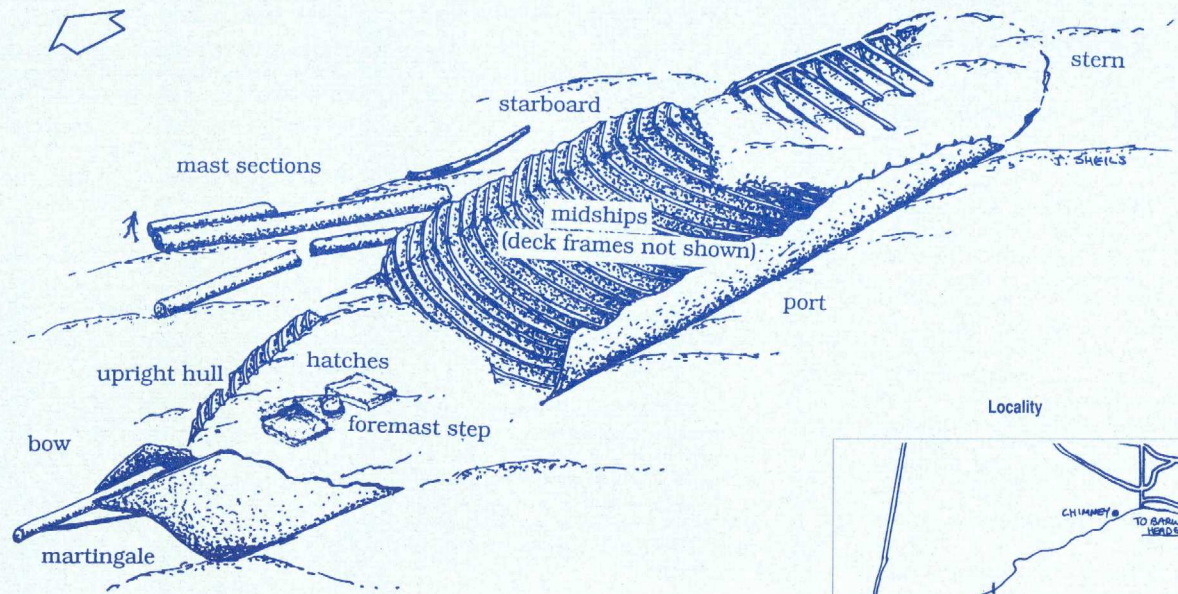
Many wrecks are fragile and require constant monitoring. Divers visiting wreck sites can help the Maritime Archaeology Unit protect and manage Victoria's Historic Shipwrecks by:

- 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

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Locality

