

WILLIAM SALTHOUSE (1824-1841)

Diving on the Wreck of the *William Salthouse*

Up until 1988, diving on the wreck of the *William Salthouse* was open only to permit divers. When the stabilisation work was being undertaken, the site was closed to all divers. It is likely that the *William Salthouse* will be reopened when the site is stable. Further details can be obtained from the Maritime Archaeology Unit.

Locating the Wreck of the *William Salthouse*

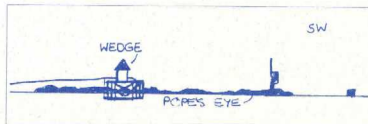
Launch Site: Queenscliff/Portsea
Chart No: AUS 158
Latitude: 38 16'28"
Longitude: 144 42'13"

Compass Bearings:

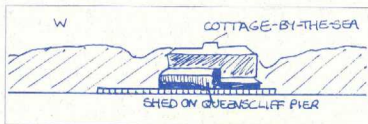
1. Black Lighthouse 271° (T)
2. Swan beacon on shore 334° (T)
3. Lonsdale lighthouse 254° (T)

Visual Transits

1. Wedge on notch at Point Nepean.



2. View to Queenscliff



A marker buoy is planned for the site. The *William Salthouse* is a 250metre radius Protected Zone, access is by permit only. Anchorage is prohibited.

The *William Salthouse* lies in 10-17 metres of water and appears to be intact except at the bow and stern. Broken and intact barrels which once carried flour, nails and salted pork and beef are the main feature of the site. Most of them lie as they were originally stowed. Although the barrels are visible across the site, the largest number can be seen at the bow and the stern.

Other features of the wreck include a lifeboat davit at the western end of the site and a length of chain lies near the bow. Details of the hull structure such as inner and outer planking and frames can also be seen at the bow.

In 1990, 46 mats of artificial seagrass matting were placed around the *William Salthouse* to help stabilise the fragile wreck.

Help Protect Our Maritime Heritage

The *William Salthouse* was protected as an Historic Shipwreck on 22nd December, 1982 under the State's Historic Shipwreck's Act (1981). Any damage or interference to the *William Salthouse* or any other historic shipwreck is an offence under the Act and penalties are 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 Archaeological Unit at:

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



Archaeologist-diver carefully excavates a barrel to reveal the remains of animal bones.

artificial seagrass stabilisation bed

◆ trail marker plinth

starboard

stern

hull sheathing

barrelled cargo

large concretion

ceiling (inner) planking

hatch

outer planking

artificial seagrass stabilisation bed

paired frames (ribs)

port

bow

