

## Shipwrecks to 1980

There have large number of shipwrecks in the vicinity of Great Sandy Region. Some of the wrecks known are listed here.

Other wrecks are now rusting or rotting hulks lining the shores of the Great Sandy Region. Some of the wrecks seen on Fraser Island include *Ceratodus*, the former steamer *Essex* (Urang Creek), *Geraldine*, (South White Cliffs) *S.S. Palmer* (Deep Creek). Many of these were deliberately scuttled *in situ*.

The hulks of some steel hulled vessels formerly used in removing timber from Fraser Island have been placed on the Roy Rufus Artificial Reef. These include *Pelican*, built 1880, the *Otter*, a tug built in 1884, the *Lass O Gowrie*, 40 metre steel barge built in 1885, and *Kgari*, a 43 metre vessel built in 1897.

The following are the recorded shipwrecks up to 1980:

- 1851 *Vanguard*, Wide Bay.
- 1857 *Seabelle*, 158 tons, wrecked on Breaksea Spit.
- 1863 Brig *Fayaway*, built in 1850, wrecked near Sandy Cape.
- 1864 *Panama*, an American barque wrecked at Panama Point, now Rooney Point.
- 1866 *Independence*, Noosa Heads (broken up on the Noosa Bar).
- 1866 Schooner *Flora*, a pilot boat, wrecked near Double Island Point.
- 1870 Schooner *Dawn*, wrecked at Double Island Point.
- 1871 Schooner *Juliet*, 51 tons, Breaksea Spit.
- 1873 Schooner rigged steamer, *City of Melbourne*, 138 tons, first screw steamer built in Australia (Melbourne) in 1851, wrecked off entrance to Burrum River, Hervey Bay.
- 1873 French barque, *Parame*, 533 tons, built 1866, wrecked 1.5 km east of Fairway Buoy, Hervey Bay, carrying kanakas, and bound for Yengarie sugar refinery.
- 1873 *Mary*, on ocean shoreline, Fraser Island.
- 1875 Barque *St Magnus*, wrecked on Inskip Point.
- 1875 Schooner *Jason*, built in 1851 and used for black-birding wrecked in Wide Bay.
- 1877 Schooner *Peri*, wrecked on Double Island Point.
- 1878 Schooner *Ottawa*, 51 tons, beached just south of Indian Head.
- 1881 *Albert Edward*, Double Island Point.
- 1882 *Cleveland*, under Double Island Point.
- 1883 *S.S. Chang Chow*, 1100 tons, struck Sandy Cape Shoal, beached 16 km south of Sandy Cape.
- 1884 *Lady Robinson*, Hook Point, Wide Bay.
- 1884 *Swordfish*, wrecked just south of Yankee Jack Creek was the boat used by Rooney to transport the sections of the Sandy Cape Lighthouse in 1869.
- 1885 Ketch *Ida*, wrecked on Wide Bay Bar.
- 1885 Wooden ketch *Wild Wave*, built 1860, wrecked at Burnett River.
- 1886 Wooden steamer *Heka*, built 1879 22 tons, foundered 15 kilometres east of Sandy Cape.
- 1887 Cutter pilot boat *Effie*, wrecked in collision with the steamer, *Balmain*, off White Cliffs.
- 1889 Schooner *Florence Peat*, built 1884, 60 tons, wrecked on Inskip Point.
- 1890 Schooner *Evelyn*, built 1874, 61 tons wrecked on ocean beach Fraser Island.

- 1891 Paddle wheeler timber carrier, *Culgoa*, Noosa River Bar.
- 1892 *Sylvan*, Noosa River Bar.
- 1893 Schooner *Daphne*, 95 tons, capsized off Wide Bay.
- 1893 Schooner *Marchioness of Lorne*, wrecked in Mary River.
- 1895 *Sarah Pile*, Breaksea Spit.
- 1898 Iron schooner, *Ranelagh*, 836 tons, built in 1881, off Burnett Heads.
- 1899 Brigantine *Helena*, built 1874, 126 tons wrecked on Wide Bay Bar stranded but later patched up in Platypus Bay.
- 1900 Ketch *Confidence*, wrecked on Wide Bay bar, off Fraser Island.
- 1904 *S.S. Aramac*, 2,100 tonnes hit bottom and almost sank on Breaksea Spit.
- 1905 Wooden schooner *Waiwera*, 42 tons sank on Breaksea Spit.
- 1906 *Silver Spray*, Double Island Point.
- 1909 Ketch *Whaup*, wrecked on Double Island Point.
- 1914 *S.S. Marloo*, 1676 tons Beached 5 km north of Waddy Point.
- 1914 Barge *Dugong*, 177 tons wrecked on Wide Bay Bar.
- 1916 *Wai-weer*, South East of Double Island Point.
- 1918 Schooner *Scout*, wrecked at Burnett Heads.
- 1919 Wooden steamer *Nelson*, wrecked at Neilson Park, Bargara.
- 1922 Schooner *Wave* stranded on South White Cliffs.
- 1926 *S.S. Dorrigo*, 715 tons, foundered 22 km south east of Double Island Point.
- 1934 Yacht *Cowra*, wrecked on Fraser Island
- 1935 Liner, *S.S. Maheno*, 5282 tons, built in Scotland, 1905, beached 10 kilometres north of Happy Valley, Fraser Island.
- 1943 *Kowarra*, 35 miles off, Sandy Cape.
- 1945 Oil barge beached on Fraser Island south of Indian Head.
- 1954 *Leisha*, off Double Island Point.
- 1959 Pacific island trader, *Natone*, Wide Bay Bar, washed ashore between Inskip Point and Rainbow Beach.
- 1967 Trawler *Beagle*, lost off Fraser Island.
- 1972 *Kon Tiki II*, North East of Sandy Cape.
- 1972 *S.S. Cherry Venture* 3000 tons, launched 1946 was blown ashore near Double Island Point.
- 1975 Tug *Wommen*, lost off Bundaberg.
- 1975 Yacht, *Solo*, beached on Fraser Island near Eurong, later floated and chartered to sail to Antarctica.
- 1977 *Morsun*, Double Island Point.
- 1979 *Hecules*, Wide Bay.

**Information Sources:** This list has been compiled from several sources including Jules Tardent, and the Curator of Maritime Archeology at Queensland Museum. The exact site of all wreck locations is not always known. The details of the size, configuration and purpose of the vessels have been listed where they are known.

**Note:** The list is not complete as several smaller boats which have foundered in the vicinity of Region in recent years have not been documented. Some yachts were retrieved such as one which grounded near Waddy Point in 1979. Since 1980, many yachts and trawlers have been lost or foundered either in or adjacent to the Great Sandy Region.