

MARITIME HERITAGE TRAIL



SHIPWRECKS OF INVESTIGATOR STRAIT

From the middle of last century, Investigator Strait has played an important part in the trade and communications network of South Australia.

Vessels plied these waters with passengers and general cargo for the agricultural and mining settlements on Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas. They returned to Adelaide with wool, wheat and minerals. Steamships carried South Australian produce through here to other parts of Australia and overseas.

These waters also provided a livelihood for cutters engaged in fishing, and ketches servicing the gypsum and salt industries of the southern Yorke Peninsula.

Twenty six vessels have been wrecked in this stretch of water and over 70 lives have been lost.

Bow-section of the Kona ashore near Port Moorowie.



These wrecks are a fragile and non renewable resource. They provide archaeologists with the means to understand the past. The eerie and jumbled remains of these wrecks also provide habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna. This attracts many recreational divers.

Shipwrecks are a reminder of a time when ships were the major means of travel and communication. They serve as memorials to the unpredictable and savage temperament of the sea.

Many of the Investigator Strait shipwrecks are protected by Commonwealth law, so that present and future generations can enjoy and learn from them.

Remains of some of these vessels form the basis of the Investigator Strait Maritime Heritage Trail.

