SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GARTHNEILL - Garden Island

The three masted barque *Garthneill* was built by Russell and Company in Glasgow, Scotland in 1895 for George Milne and Company. Originally named *Inverneill*, the steel hulled vessel of 1470 gross tons measured 238.0 feet (72.6 m) in length, 36.0 feet (11.0 m) breadth and 21.7 feet (6.6 m) depth.

The barque traded internationally, carrying timber from Canada and cargoes of wheat and wool from Australia to Europe, as well as regular voyages to South American west coast ports for cargoes of saltpetre and copper.

In 1919 the vessel was sold, renamed *Garthneill* and, on 6 July, sailed in ballast from Melbourne for Bunbury, Western Australia. The barque battled relentless westerly gales, ultimately turning east with the weather, towards Cape Horn. When the vessel eventually arrived in Bunbury, it had almost circumnavigated the world to collect its cargo of jarrah!

Garthneill in sail as the *Inverneill*. Photo: SLSA Edwardes Collection V23No65

In July 1926 the *Garthneill* was one of the last British square-rigged sailing vessels to be decommissioned. It was sold and sailed to Port Adelaide where it was converted into an electric barley-grading mill and storeship – the only floating grain mill in Australia.

On 29 November 1935, with most fittings removed, the hulk was towed down the Port River to Garden Island. The bow plates were cut away and the vessel holed fore and aft with explosive charges. Today the *Garthneill*'s forward section lies partly hidden amongst the mangroves, with sections of the port bow extending through the mangroves and visible above the treeline.

Garthneill as a grain mill. Photo: Ron Blum

Garthneill figurehead on display at the South Australian Maritime Museum

Garthneill today