

MOE – Garden Island

The three masted barque *Moe* was built in 1876 by W H Potter and Company in Liverpool, England. The iron hulled vessel of 765 gross tons measured 187.9 feet (57.3 m) in length, 30.8 feet (9.4 m) breadth and 18.8 feet (5.7 m) depth. The barque originally traded as the *Zoe*, but was subsequently renamed *Glycinia* (circa 1900) and *Hebe* (1905) before being purchased in 1912 by McIlwraith McEachern Limited of Melbourne, who renamed it *Moe*.

The *Moe* was first registered in Port Adelaide in 1912, having been hulked for use as a coal lighter. In 1928 the vessel was deposited in the Garden Island Ships' Graveyard, but actually floated free on a high tide at least twice in the next few years. On the second occasion, on 1 February 1931, the hulk travelled some kilometres upstream in the Port River and substantially damaged a wharf. It was then placed in the Portland Canal for further demolition, before being returned to the North Arm on 25 September 1931.



Moe (centre) in Port River Basin, c1911
Photo: State Library of SA: B10862

The plugs and plates were removed to allow the vessel to fill, but the reduced weight made the plug holes too high to be effective. The next day the vessel was holed with explosives. An iron pontoon, later abandoned across the stern, is still in place today. Much of the aft section remains, with stern plating extending approximately four metres above the silt.



Moe today