

THOMAS AND ANNIE – Garden Island

The wooden ketch *Thomas and Annie* was built by John Wilson at Port Cygnet, Tasmania in 1874. The vessel measured 48.5 feet (14.8 m) in length, 16.1 feet (4.9 m) breadth, 4.4 feet (1.3 m) depth and was 21 gross tons.

The *Thomas and Annie* arrived in Port Adelaide from Hobart in 1876. For almost 70 years it worked as a coastal trader in Gulf St Vincent, plying between Port Adelaide and the gulf ports.

On the morning of 24 May 1889 a serious incident occurred in the Port River, when the *Thomas and Annie* was sunk by the SS *Murrumbidgee*. The captain of the steamer was unable to avoid striking the ketch after the sailing vessel mistakenly anchored in the channel. The captain and mate were uninjured, but the *Thomas and Annie* was carried a short distance before it sank. The ketch was raised a few days later, repaired and ready for sea again in two weeks.



Thomas and Annie under sail
Photo: SLSA: Edwardes Collection: V35No67

During 1945 the *Thomas and Annie* was floated inshore of the derelict hulks at Garden Island. It was the last wooden vessel abandoned in the Graveyard and the smallest vessel placed there. Today the most visible feature from the water is the timber and iron windlass at the edge of the mangroves. The site also includes some planking as well as remnants of the midships centre casing and the wooden sternpost and iron rudder.



Thomas and Annie today