

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ENTERPRISE - Garden Island

The schooner-rigged screw steamer *Enterprise* was built in 1868 by Joseph Matthew of Sydney, with original measurements of 49.6 feet (15.1 m) in length, 11.4 feet (3.5 m) breadth and 5.6 feet (1.7 m) depth. In 1872 the iron hulled vessel was lengthened to 78.7 feet (24.0 m) with 12.5 feet (3.8 m) breadth, 5.2 feet (1.6 m) depth and a gross tonnage of 36 tons.

The *Enterprise* was initially used for towing small craft around the ports of Sydney and later Adelaide, but was also involved in two significant communications developments in South Australia's colonial history. In 1873 the steamer was engaged at Roper River in the Northern Territory, transporting supplies for the construction of the Overland Telegraph. In the late 1870s the *Enterprise* proceeded to the River Murray to assist with the building of the railway bridge across the river at Murray Bridge. It grounded at the Murray Mouth and was delayed almost 10 weeks before being successfully refloated.

The steamer later returned to Port Adelaide as a general purpose vessel. Upon its deregistration in 1913, the *Enterprise* became a water-tender for a short time, before it was eventually abandoned at the Garden Island Ships' Graveyard around August 1913.

Today the remains lie largely hidden among the mangroves. The hull is basically complete along its length with an intact stern section.



Enterprise today

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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