SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
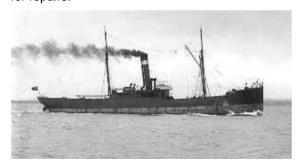
GLAUCUS - Garden Island

The screw steamer *Glaucus* was built in 1878 at Sunderland, England, by J. Laing for Thomas Kish and Co. The iron-hulled vessel of 1363 gross tons measured 238.5 feet (72.7 m) in length, 34.2 feet (10.4 m) breadth and 18.0 feet (5.5 m) depth.

Glaucus traded internationally until the early 1880s when it transferred to the Australian coastal run, transporting goods and produce between the states. Its early visits to South Australian waters were marked by a series of mishaps, including minor collisions and groundings. The most serious problem occurred near Althorpe Island in Investigator Strait. On a voyage from Port Pirie to Newcastle (via Wallaroo) with 500 tons of bullion, the propeller shaft broke and the vessel became unmanageable. Fortunately the weather remained fine and the steamer was towed into Port Adelaide for repairs.

Glaucus, c.1900 (*Photo*: State Library of Victoria)

In 1927 the *Glaucus* was used to store barley in Williamstown, Victoria, until 1929 when it was sold and used as a grain hulk in Port Adelaide. In 1934

the owners sought permission to break it up at Ethelton. Salvagers accidentally holed the hull below the waterline and, after emergency repairs, the hulk was prematurely towed to the Garden Island Ships' Graveyard, where it was beached on 4 July 1935.

The *Glaucus* is the most imposing vessel in the Graveyard. Although the bow section is completely missing, the intact stern post and rudder make this vessel easily identifiable from the water.

Glaucus at Garden Island, c.1935

Remains of *Glaucus* today

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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