

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

KILLARNEY - Garden Island

The motor launch *Killarney* (originally the ferry *Success*) was built circa 1910 by M. T. Beauchamp at Birkenhead, South Australia, for the Port Adelaide Corporation. The wooden hulled vessel measured 55 feet (16.8 m) in length, 14 feet (4.3 m) width and 4 feet (1.2 m) depth and was originally fitted with a 25 hp Union benzene engine. It was described as elliptical in shape with a propeller each end, glass windows all around and capable of carrying 100 passengers.

The vessel was intended to carry residents and workers across the Port River, but it was considered too expensive to run and was laid up at Birkenhead for a number of years, eventually becoming a standby vessel when William Johnson and John Murch acquired the ferry service lease.

On the morning of 15 May 1920 a serious explosion on board caused major damage to the *Success*, including a hull fracture below the waterline. The vessel was sold, fitted with a steam engine, renamed *Killarney* and used for river excursions. On 29 June 1925 the launch sank at its Musgrave Wharf moorings. Six weeks later it was removed at high tide and placed on the nearby beach.



***Killarney* boiler and timber remains**

In 1928 the *Killarney* was abandoned and broken up at the Garden Island Ships' Graveyard. Today the well-preserved boiler is a prominent feature on the site with timber remains evident in the silt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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