

it failed, it smashed through the jetty and was wrecked. The jetty was rebuilt over the stricken ship to allow other ships to load. It probably deteriorated where it was. It is believed that parts of the keel still remain at the end of Rockingham jetty.

Contest 1874

Contest was a barque 322-ton barque and was loading sleepers for South Australia. Capt. Allen had disobeyed regulations and shifted its berth to discharge ballast. The hull was then damaged when it ran aground near the present day Palm Beach launching ramp due to a shift in wind direction. Its remains lie beneath the shallows at Palm Beach.

Cumberland 1843

Cumberland was a small wooden cutter wrecked in the vicinity of Shoalwater Bay on the August 28, 1843. The captain and three hands were lost in the incident, which did not become common knowledge until a year after it was wrecked. *Cumberland* left Fremantle for Port Augusta and it carried the property of the Bussell family. The wreckage was never found by the authorities and suspicions arose when some of the Bussell's property turned up in the colony. Seven men were tried and sent to Tasmania for robbery and looting.



Orizaba

Orizaba 1905

Orizaba was a 3325-ton Orient liner. It was wrecked on February 17, 1905, after it had been brought over the Five Fathom Bank with the crew thinking they were heading for

Fremantle. After realising their error, instead of anchoring they steamed back out to sea and struck a reef. The wreck has been heavily salvaged and makes for an interesting dive.

Bungaree 1876

Bungaree was built at Jervis Bay, NSW in 1866 and was designed around a British topsail wooden schooner. On June 13, 1876 it was returning from Batavia with a cargo of sugar, tea and coconuts when it was hit by heavy squalls. It ran aground on the Sisters Reef near the wreck of *Chalmers*. The captain tried but failed to save the vessel. There were no casualties, however all cargo was lost.

Chalmers 1874

Chalmers was built in the UK in 1851. It was a wooden three-masted barque of 600 tons. The ship ran aground on the Sisters Reef on March 19, 1874 when the captain was attempting a run through the South Passage. He mistakenly believed he saw the Fremantle lighthouse which was actually a bushfire. The captain's licence was cancelled indefinitely even after an appeal. The wreck lies 800 metres south of the Sisters Rocks.

Highland Forest 1901

Highland Forest was an iron barque of 998 tons. It was totally destroyed on April 29, 1901 on a voyage from New York when it struck a reef. The wreck lies 6 km offshore on the Murray Reefs. The author Joseph Conrad wrote a novel based upon his experiences on *Highland Forest* before it was wrecked.

For further information on historic shipwrecks contact the WA Museum Shipwreck Galleries or the WA Heritage Council:

<http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/collections/maritime/march/march.asp>

<http://tourism.heritage.wa.gov.au>

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Dive notes

Wrecks are often hazardous. Access to the wrecks requires a boat. Divers need to be fit and qualified. A diver's flag must be displayed. Never dive alone or leave a boat unattended. Persons diving on these wrecks do so at their own risk. These wrecks are part of Western Australia's heritage. They are protected under legislation. Please enjoy them but do not disturb them.

WITHIN THE WRECKS OF ROCKINGHAM

Introduction

Cockburn Sound, sheltered behind Garden Island, has provided a safe harbour for commercial shipping and naval activities since Capt. Stirling set up a camp on Garden Island in 1827. Between 1870–1900 Rockingham was an important timber port for cargoes of the jarrah, transported by rail from Jarrahdale, that were shipped all around the world. However the approaches to Fremantle through Challenger Passage, the complex reef systems of the Murray Reefs, Cockburn Sound's sandbanks plus the numerous islands and reefs around Rockingham presented formidable obstacles for mariners.

Sepia 1898

This was a 715-ton iron barque that sank in 15 metres of water off the south west of Carnac Island after hitting Challenger Rock in 1898. The cargo of 1,200 tons of mixed goods valued at £20,000, considered a huge sum at that time, was lost. All aboard survived.



Sepia

Harrison 1877

This three-masted wooden schooner of 384 tons was sunk in 1877. Loaded with timber and in a sinking condition, it came into Fremantle on May 22, 1877 and is believed to be

either the wreck uncovered in Careening Bay in 1973 or one of the unidentified ships in Jervis Bay.

Twinkling Star 1873

This was a wooden two-masted schooner built in London in 1866. It first arrived in Fremantle in 1867 and became a part of the coastal trade carrying cargo. The ship was returning to Fremantle from Champion Bay on January 3, 1873. Salvage was attempted several days after it sank; however little more than the masts and rigging were recovered. The wreck has not yet been located but it is believed to be just west of Mount Haycock on Garden Island.

Camilla 1903

Camilla was built in Leith, Edinburgh in 1834. It was a 20-ton, copper-fastened, yellow-metalled, wood barquentine. In 1903 worn out after a long career, it was scuttled in an area south of Jervis Bay which was used as a ship's graveyard until 1910.



D9

D9 1962

Formerly known as *Parmelia*, it was built as a bucket dredge during the 1930's. Renamed *D9* when sold to the Dredging Industries of Australia, it was converted to a suction dredge for the excavation of the channels of Kwinana. Sunk in 1962 for unknown reasons it was then moved to the middle of Cockburn Sound where it is now.

Annie Lisle 1887

Built in Canada in 1865, this was a three-masted wooden barque, with a yellow-metalled hull, fastened with iron and copper bolts. During the night, whilst anchored in Gage Roads, it was run down by *SS Australind*. Due to severe damage it was later used as a general purpose hulk. *Annie Lisle* is more than likely the unknown wreck in Careening Bay found in 1973 while dredging for the Garden Island wharves.

Rockingham 1830

This was a wooden sailing vessel of 500 tons used as a merchant vessel. It arrived, badly damaged, in the Swan River Colony during May 1830. Despite this it was decided to sail it to Batavia (Jakarta), but after a majority of the crew jumped ship in Cockburn Sound the journey was aborted. It was blown ashore at Clarence (Peel Town) south of Woodman's Point after losing its anchors and had to jettison six cannon to be refloated. It was sailed into Careening Bay where it was abandoned giving its name to the City of Rockingham. It is not known whether *Rockingham* remains in Careening Bay or if its timbers were used to construct houses and boats in the local settlement.



Kwinana

Kwinana 1922

Kwinana, a State Shipping Service 3,295-ton steamer, was built in Sunderland, England. In December 1920, then known as *Darius*, it was damaged by fire near Camarvon and brought to Fremantle. Then on May 30, 1922 at Careening Bay, it was blown ashore during a storm to a spot now

known as Kwinana Beach. The Aboriginal name Kwinana means 'pretty maiden'. *Kwinana*'s hull shape can still clearly be seen at the concrete breakwater/pier today, with the bow stem and plating visible at the waterline.

SS Cambria 1900

This was a small coastal steamer built in Tasmania in 1885. It was a wooden hulled, single screw steam ship and was also rigged as a two-masted ketch. On March 4, 1900 it left Fremantle for Bunbury in moderate seas. After passing Challenger Passage the conditions deteriorated so the captain decided to seek refuge at Rockingham. While heading through South Channel the ship hit a reef and after an attempt to free it the propeller shaft snapped off and *Cambria* sank. The wreck site has not been located; however it is believed to be along the Collie Ledge.

Amur 1887

This 236-ton composite barque drifted ashore at Rockingham in gale force winds on March 17, 1887. The vessel's construction with iron frames, iron beams, wooden planking and yellow-metal fastenings represented the evolution from wooden to composite vessels. This wreck can be visited by beach-goers.

Day Dawn 1886

Ran ashore on a long shelving bottom near Busselton while loading sleepers for Silverton Railway in South Australia. The vessel was condemned, but the hull was in reasonable condition and was sold as a hulk. It was then taken to Careening Bay and used as a coal hulk where it later sank.

Devonshire 1842

Only 15 tons, *Devonshire* was a small, two-masted schooner. It was lost on June 1, 1842 en route from Fremantle to Leschenault (Bunbury). It had taken a course between Garden Island and Point Peron through Mangles Bay. The wreckage has never been found but a crew member's remains were washed up on Mangles Bay and the ship's dog was found alive on Garden Island.

August Tellefsen 1898

August Tellefsen was built in Norway in 1883. It was a wooden three-masted barque of 738 tons. It arrived in Fremantle on October 24, 1897 where it headed straight for Rockingham to pick up a load of jarrah. On October 27 a storm blew in and it broke its moorings. *August Tellefsen* headed for the Rockingham jetty. After attempts to secure