

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FLINDERS - Garden Island

The schooner-rigged screw steamer *Flinders* was built in 1878 by A. & J. Inglis of Glasgow, Scotland, for the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Co. The iron-hulled vessel of 948 gross tons measured 227.1 feet (69.3 m) in length, 28.3 feet (8.6 m) breadth and 20.1 feet (6.1 m) depth.

The *Flinders* was employed as a coastal vessel, mostly in the south-east Australian trade until the mid 1890s when it was sold to McIlwraith McEachern Limited of Melbourne and began regular services to the Western Australian goldfields. In 1908 the steamer was purchased by the Adelaide Steamship Company, trading mostly between Port Adelaide and South Australian outports. During the evening of 28 January 1911, the *Flinders* was irreparably damaged by fire while moored at the North Arm of the Port River and subsequently hulked.

On 4 September 1931 the *Flinders* was beached at Garden Island and the deck beams cut through. A few days later several explosive charges were fired to weaken the hull at bow, stern and forward bulkhead. Today the *Flinders* shows obvious signs of extensive salvage with most of the upper hull plating removed.



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



Remains of *Flinders* at Garden Island

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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