

Basic Detail Report



City of Adelaide

Vessel number

HV000093

Date

1894

Primary Maker

R& H Green

Description

CITY OF ADELAIDE was built by R & H Green in Blackwall England in 1894. It was originally called PRESIDENT VAN HEEL and intended for the Lifeboat Institution of South Holland. When they refused to take delivery of the lifeboat, the South Australian Government purchased the craft with a gift of 3,500 pounds from Robert Barr Smith, co-founder of Elder, Smith & Co. It was renamed CITY OF ADELAIDE and arrived in South Australia in 1896. The steel/iron plated hull was able to accommodate up to eight crew and forty survivors, with a cruising speed of 8 knots and a 200 nautical mile range. The unique propulsion was a steam-powered, hydraulic water-jet, but it was not a successful installation. After CITY OF ADELAIDE was commissioned at Glenelg, it had to be towed on the delivery trip to Beachport because the water inlets became blocked by kelp-weed. In 1908 the steam unit was replaced with a 30 kw (40 hp) petrol engine and in 1911 the water jet and pumps were replaced with a screw. When the lifeboat service was disbanded CITY OF ADELAIDE was sold to Mr. Taylor who was associated with the Salvation Army, and it became known as their fishing launch. The next owner, Mr. Benno Hage, used it for fishing, picnics and carrying sheep, wool and firewood. It was operated by his son Dudley and a four cylinder petrol tractor engine was fitted around this period. After about three years Hage sold CITY OF ADELAIDE to Roly Puckridge who fitted a petrol and kerosene Fordson engine alongside the existing motor with a chain drive linking the two engines. He maintained the craft for the same mixed use as the previous owners. About 1952 it ended its sea-going life and was sold to boat builder Axel Stenross who stripped it of all its fittings. The hulk then lay in Porter Bay for many years and in the late 1970s it was declared an historic shipwreck. When the Lincoln Cove marina was being built Port Lincoln Council decided to remove the hulk to the Axel Stenross Maritime Museum, where it now remains on display to the public. It is thought to be the only surviving example of the three similar craft that were built. August 2023 update: The CITY OF ADELAIDE resides on Council land adjoining the Museum. (Prepared from research material supplied by Axel Stenross Maritime Museum)

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 16.15 m x 4.88 m x 1.52 m (53 ft x 16 ft x 5 ft)