

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GARTHNEILL - Garden Island

The three-masted barque *Garthneill* was built by Russell and Co. in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1895 for George Milne and Co. Originally named *Inverneill*, the steel hulled vessel of 1470 gross tons measured 238.0 feet (72.6 m) in length, 36.0 feet (11.0 m) breadth and 21.7 feet (6.6 m) depth.

The barque traded internationally, carrying timber from Canada and cargoes of wheat and wool from Australia to Europe, as well as regular voyages to South American west coast ports for cargoes of saltpetre and copper.

***Garthneill* in sail as the *Inverneill* (Photo: SLSA Edwardes Collection V23No65)**



In 1921 the vessel was sold, renamed *Garthneill* and, on 6 July, sailed in ballast from Melbourne for Bunbury, Western Australia. Relentless westerly gales ultimately forced it to almost circumnavigate via Cape Horn to reach Bunbury!

Garthneill was one of the last operating British square-rigged sailing vessels. In July 1926 it was decommissioned, sold, and sailed to Port Adelaide where it was converted into an electric barley-grading mill and storehouse – the only floating grain mill in Australia.

***Garthneill* as a grain mill (Photo: Ron Blum)**



On 29 November 1935, with most fittings removed, the hulk was towed down the Port River to Garden Island. The bow plates were cut away and the vessel holed fore and aft with explosive charges. Today the *Garthneill's* forward section lies partly hidden amongst the mangroves, with sections of the port bow extending through the mangroves and visible above the treeline.



Remains of *Garthneill* at Garden Island



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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