

# SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Ex-HMAS *HOBART* - Yankalilla Bay

The HMAS *Hobart* was a Charles F. Adams class guided missile destroyer built by Defoe Shipbuilding Company, Michigan, USA, and purchased by Australia for US\$45 million. The vessel was launched on 9 January 1964 and commissioned at Boston on 18 December 1965. It measured 437 feet (133.2m) in length, 47 feet (14.3m) breadth and displaced 4,720 tonnes. The crew complement was 20 officers and 312 sailors.

The destroyer completed three tours of duty off Vietnam in 1967, 1968 and 1970. In 1968 two sailors were killed and seven others injured when the vessel was hit by 'friendly' fire. After 35 years service in the Australian navy, HMAS *Hobart* was decommissioned on 12 May 2000.

In June 2000 the decommissioned vessel was gifted to South Australia by the Federal Department of Defence, to become an artificial reef and world-class dive site. Prior to the scuttling preparatory work was needed to ensure safe diving and minimal impact on the environment. This work was based on international best practices and was mostly undertaken at Port Adelaide by contracted labour, although volunteers were also involved.



Explosives detonated, November 2002

The intention was to maintain the *Hobart*'s character as a fighting ship. Oil and other contaminants were removed. Some entrances were sealed to restrict access. Other doors, hatches and sharp and protruding objects were removed and corridors and openings widened. All furniture and equipment obstructing access or not secured was removed.

On Sunday 3 November 2002 the *Hobart* was towed to Yankalilla Bay from Port Adelaide by the motor tug *Warren*. It anchored off Wirrina Cove for last-minute preparations and was finally scuttled by controlled flooding on Tuesday 5 November. Explosives were used to cut holes in the exterior of the hull so that the lower parts of the vessel quickly filled with water. As a result the *Hobart* sank in less than 3 minutes and successfully settled upright on the bottom.



**Ex HMAS *Hobart* sinking, November 2002**



**The engine, November 2002  
Photo: Greg Adams, *The Advertiser***



**The bridge, November 2002.  
Photo: Greg Adams, *The Advertiser***



**The radar, November 2002  
Photo: Greg Adams, *The Advertiser***



**The café, November 2002.  
Photo: Greg Adams, *The Advertiser***



**The toilets, November 2002  
Photo: Greg Adams, *The Advertiser***

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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