



THE HISTORY

The long, sandy shores of the 90 Mile Beach posed massive challenges to early shipping, as there simply was nowhere to shelter, especially when those gale force winds would whip up, leaving the sail and steam vessels open to the elements and at the mercy of the seas.

The coastline is scattered with off - and more rarely, on - shore shipwrecks.

This site represents two wrecks:

1. "Barque Trinculo" - which wrecked on the 30th of May 1879.
2. Paddle Steamer "Paynesville" - which wrecked on the 22nd of March 1881.



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TRINCULO SHIPWRECK



THE TRINCULO

The "Trinculo" was a 320 tonne, three masted, single decked, carved hullled Barque - built in Bristol, England in 1858.

The "Trinculo" was on a journey from King George's Sound to Newcastle to pick up coal under the command of Captain Williams, when she was struck by extremely wild gale force winds - driving her onto a sandbar some 30m off shore. She was immediately swung broadside, and with that her fate was sealed.

It was due to the bravery of the crew, that all on board were saved. Thomas Lefreve, a crew member, received a Silver Medal from the Humane Society, for his incredible feat in being able to swim a line from the wreck to the shore - through the roughest of seas, conquering incredible undertows, currents and battering surf. The Barque was insured by "Derwent & Tamar Insurance Company of Tasmania" for £2000 - she was sold to the underwriters for £100.

Interestingly, the "Trinculo" had been previously stranded on the African coast in 1871. She was recovered from this incident and was successfully refloated, repaired and put back into service.

Today, a monument of this once brave vessel and the overwhelming bravery of the crew stands proudly at Golden Beach, where one of her water tanks, which was salvaged by a local at the time now stands proudly as a monument amidst the parks and gardens of the town.



THE TRINCULO

West of Delray Beach and located in the Gippsland Lakes National Park lies the wreck of the Trinculo.

Today, the remains of the Trinculo wreck lay imbedded in the sands of the 90 Mile Beach and have become a relic of the past, subject to the exposure of the weathering elements of sea and sun.

The shipwreck is located a short stroll from the carpark through the dunes via the walking track which will reveal the wreck. It is located only 6km from Golden Beach along Shoreline Drive.

HOW TO GET THERE

FROM GOLDEN BEACH:

Take the A440 from Sale to Longford, turn left at the Loch Sport Road turn off and travel to Golden Beach (approximately 24kms). Turn right at the roundabout in Golden Beach and travel 3.6kms from Golden Beach along Shoreline Drive to the shipwreck car park.

FROM SEASPRAY:

Take the A440 from Sale to Longford. Take the fork to your left signposted for Seaspray and travel along the Seaspray Road until you get to the township of Seaspray. Turn left onto Shoreline Drive and drive approximately 20.7kms to the shipwreck car park.

WHEN YOU GET THERE:

Tracks lead you from the roadside through to interpretative signs and down to the beach front. Throughout the year, sand and tide movements expose the wreck to different degrees, however, the rusting hull and the striking vertical shafts are generally visible.

THE PAYNESVILLE

The PS "Paynesville" was a wooden planked paddle steamer based on an iron frame.

She was built in Melbourne in 1880, specifically for the Gippsland Lakes trade.

Unfortunately, she was too slow and was soon sent back to where she had come from.

On her return journey to Melbourne, a small leak was noticed as she was leaving Lakes Entrance.

The weather being fine, the captain continued the journey keeping as close to the shore as was safe to do so.

However, the leak increased to such an extent that the engine fires were being extinguished, forcing the captain to beach the vessel, uncannily in the vicinity of the "Trinculo", which had beached just 2 years earlier.

PS "Paynesville" is now totally buried under the deep sands and is no longer visible.

