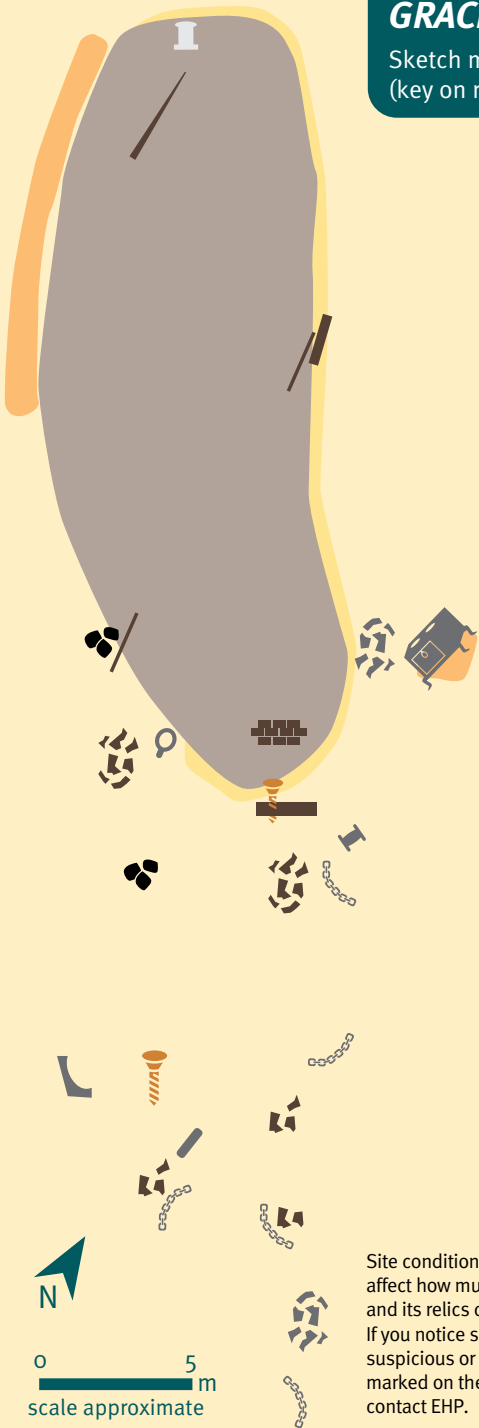


GRACE DARLING
Sketch map of wreck site
(key on reverse)



Site conditions vary and will affect how much of the wreck and its relics can be seen. If you notice something suspicious or see items not marked on the plan, please contact EHP.

Help protect shipwrecks!

In Australia, all shipwrecks and their associated relics that are older than 75 years are protected by law. Shipwrecks are underwater museums that reflect the history of exploration, trade and colonisation and provide important scientific, historical and educational information. When artefacts are removed from a shipwreck, valuable archaeological information is lost forever. Shipwrecks are fragile and once lost, cannot be replaced.

Interfering with or damaging shipwrecks is prohibited. The most common actions that damage or interfere with shipwrecks include:

- divers holding on to fragile structures
- divers uncovering parts of the wreck by digging or 'hand fanning'
- taking anything from a shipwreck site
- anchoring on a shipwreck
- attaching lines directly to a shipwreck.



Take only photos, leave only bubbles!

Just like Moreton Bay is a unique underwater playground for divers, so too is the Great Barrier Reef. Protecting these precious marine areas and their natural and cultural heritage is everyone's responsibility. Visit www.qld.gov.au to find shipwreck locations on the Queensland coast including the reef, or www.reefacts.qld.gov.au to read more about how the iconic Great Barrier Reef world heritage area is being protected.

Your safety is your responsibility.

Anyone with information or queries about Queensland's historic shipwrecks should email archaeology@ehp.qld.gov.au

DIVE into history



Grace Darling (1894)

#30530



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



Queensland Government



▼ External planking



▼ Coal mound and rigging



Grace Darling (1894)

Vessel type	Wooden sailing, schooner		
Built	Manning River, New South Wales 1876		
Dimensions	Length: 75ft	Width: 21.1ft	
	Depth: 7.7ft	Tonnage: 69	

General information

The *Grace Darling* left Fisherman's Island, Brisbane on 11 March 1894 with a cargo of 90 tons of coal, 440 cases of dynamite and 15 cases of detonators. Due to bad weather the captain decided to anchor the vessel off the Moreton Bay pilot station. On the afternoon of 14 March 1894 the wind increased to hurricane force and dragged the vessel towards the shore. The *Grace Darling* was so close to the beach that the ship's master decided there was no chance of saving the vessel, so he beached the schooner on Moreton Island. The cargo was washed ashore and the vessel eventually became a total wreck. No lives were lost.

Site map of *Grace Darling*

The wreck lies on a sandy bottom and can be partially covered by sand. The site largely consists of a considerable mound of coal (cargo) with fragments of wooden hull, copper fixing bolts and an oven. The coal mound is 1.5m above the sand and is orientated north-south with bow to south.

Site marine life

The *Grace Darling's* underwater superstructure is a habitat which provides food and shelter for a variety of marine life including sponges, corals, pelagic and reef fish, octopus and wobbegong sharks.



This shipwreck diver guide was produced by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) to increase community awareness and to help protect, manage and interpret Queensland's unique underwater cultural heritage.

Dive site information

Dive rating	The <i>Grace Darling</i> is suitable for advanced and experienced divers.		
Location	Comboyuro Point, Northern Moreton Bay, Queensland		
Latitude	-27 3.820998		
Longitude	153 21.6449999		
Max depth	11m	AVG depth	9m
AVG visibility	15m		
Current	This site can be affected by currents of up to 2.5 knots. The site should only be dived at slack water and in good sea conditions.		
Anchoring	Avoid damaging the <i>Grace Darling</i> by anchoring away from the shipwreck and letting the boat hang back over the site. Use a shot line to mark the site if necessary.		

Grace Darling map key

	visible extent of cargo mound (coal blocks)		timber plank with nail holes
	seabed scouring		timber planking
	raised seabed		spar or bowsprit
	unidentified iron feature		general glass cluster
	iron loop		modern brick paving
	windlass winch		visible anchor chain
	small chunks of coal		iron framing knee
	iron post		general iron scatter
	copper bolt		iron stove
	copper bolt with wood		

