

Warrnambool Standard
June 17 1890

The Mahogany Ship

To the Editor of the Warrnambool Standard

Sir, - As there is considerable discussion and inquiry re the mahogany ship, will you kindly find space for the following remarks. Thirty-six or 37 years ago I visited the spot where the so-called mahogany ship lay. At times it was impossible to see her and she was only visible at very low tides. I have not only seen her, but have boarded her, but at very great risk. The vessel that Messrs. Allan and company pulled to pieces for the sake of copper and bolts is another vessel altogether. I remember the occurrence. At the time there were several wrecks lying between here and Port Fairy and the settlers were not only conversant with the names but also the dates when they were wrecked. But as to the so-called mahogany ship neither old settlers nor the oldest aborigines could give any account of her. She appeared to me to be like a coal barge. I made every inquiry of the oldest blacks, especially King Billy of the Merri, who was then about 60 years of age. I had three separate conversations with him, as I could converse very freely with the blacks at that time. But to put my inquiries in a small compass it was at least 160 years previous that two vessels came into Port Fairy, but the blacks would not go near them. In a short time they left and got out to sea. A storm came on and drove one ashore where she now lies, and as King Billy used to say plenty long time quamby. Now, Sir, I am at your service or any other gentleman's service to give a fuller description. I remember not only boarding, but also chopped a piece off her stanchions.

If these lines are on any service publish at your pleasure.

I am, etc.,
W. MURRAY

Warrnambool, June 12