

Clarence: The Australian Historic Shipwreck Preservation Project 2012

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Abstract

The Australian Historic Shipwreck Preservation Project is a collaborative national project funded by a large ARC Linkage Grant awarded in 2011. This is the largest multigovernment, multiinstitutional maritime archaeological project run in Australia. The project has partially excavated and reburied the threatened and deteriorating historic shipwreck Clarence. It aims to achieve national research priorities whilst limiting the long-term impact on the artefact material by returning moveable objects to the marine environment. The three-year project will test in situ preservation methodologies and develop a practical protocol for the rapid excavation, assessment and conservation of at-risk historic shipwrecks.

The premise of the Clarence excavation is exciting: a month-long, multipartner research excavation offering training and development opportunities to established and young professionals, students and volunteers. This paper outlines the execution of the Clarence excavation and reburial in April/May and November 2012.



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