

Alex T. Brown – Shipwreck

Blown ashore on 29 May 1917, the *Alex T. Brown* was a 788-ton, 65 meter wooden 4-masted Schooner, one of only two 4-masted schooners to become shipwrecks in Australia.

USA owned and bound for Manila, the *Alex. T Brown* was caught in a gale around midnight. The tug *Wyola*, sent to unbeach her, was unable to get close enough to assist. Timbers from the wreck were salvaged by local Yanchep residents, and can still be found in structures such as the Yanchep Inn.



2018. Image courtesy of Wanneroo Museum

The wreck is located on the beach, just 350m to the South of this local surfing point known as "The Spot". Since it wrecked in 1917, the remains constantly change in appearance. Winter storms and swell can see up to 12m of the wreck exposed, but even in the height of summer, timbers can still be seen above the water mark.



1920. Image courtesy of Wanneroo Museum.

In 2018, following exposure by winter storms and subsequent vandalism, the City of Wanneroo, in conjunction with the WA Museum, successfully obtained a Permanent Conservation Order (Protection Order) to protect the wreck from further interference and damage.

The Order is made under Western Australia's heritage legislation and severe penalties apply for interference, removal, or damaging any part of the wreck. Damaging the wreck carries a maximum fine of \$1M and possible imprisonment.

