

My life and work
Carrick (City of Adelaide)



A story by Stephen Lang
Read by Keelan Martin

I can still remember my glory days as a tea clipper and I'm going to tell you about the rise and fall of my exciting journey through life so far. As I've already told you I was originally a type of ship called a tea clipper. I was quite big and a very fast ship in my prime.

I started life as a passenger ship in 1864. Lots of rich and wealthy people as well as others from many different backgrounds and nationalities travelled with me. At the time I felt very special and useful. I made a total of 23 very long trips between Great Britain and Australia.

Then in 1887 to 1888 I was a ship that carried coal. I wasn't as happy as I was before, mainly because I always got covered in a thick coat of dust and soot all the time. It was not the best job in the world.

After that I was a cargo ship from 1888 to 1893 and carried lots of different types of supplies from country to country. I enjoyed this work more than the collier job because I didn't get as dirty as before, but it still wasn't the best work.

Soon after that I was a floating hospital ship and moored off the Southampton coast. All the people with infectious

diseases came on board. I didn't like it very much, with all the sick people around me but I still felt useful. I did this work for a long time and helped lots of people.

Then I became a training ship for the Navy. I was fitted out for this job in a little sea side town called Irvine in 1923 by the Ayrshire Dockyard Co. I loved all the attention from the trainee sailors who came on board to learn how to sail.

Later on in my life, around 1948, I was taken to Glasgow and moved up the Clyde by a tug boat. They had to take my three masts off so that I could get under the bridges that crossed the river clyde. The people turned me into a sort of a club. I felt special again. With all of the different people around me I felt great. It was amazing to be in a busy city like Glasgow.

But unfortunately I sank, but I don't exactly know how. It was a bit of a mystery. I just lay there in the freezing cold water for ages, watching all of the other boats going by. It was a very sad time for me.

Then in 1992 the Maritime Museum in Irvine came to rescue me. I was so excited! As soon as they lifted me up, out

of the murky water it felt so good. It felt great to feel the breeze on my hull again. They took me back to Irvine to get fixed. I remembered the place I was once refurbished. It turned out they didn't have enough money to fix me. They couldn't help me so I just lay there, watching all the little boats coming in and out of the harbour. I felt very sad and lonely.

But then they decided to move me back to Australia where I hoped to get repaired. I had to go to London first, where another clipper ship The Cutty Sark is berthed, which made it better because I got reunited with her for a short while before I went away to Australia. Now I've arrived in my new home, back in Australia, there are lots of people who hope to fix me, paint me and put my sails back up. When I am fixed I think I will feel special again and have a great time in Australia.

As the Carrick I am seen here sitting in Irvine



After being renamed the City of Adelaide by the Duke of Edinburgh during my last visit to London, I am seen here arriving at Port Hedland in Western Australia. Back in Australia for the first time in 125 years



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