

## Ketch "Olive" Overturned

Richard Lord

Today as commuters and tourists take the scenic drive through Tarooma in their modern motor vehicles, they need give little thought to the strong westerly winds which can sometimes funnel down the gully of Cartwright Creek that divides Tarooma from its northern neighbour of Hobart. It was down this gully that part of the 1967 bush fires roared, but that is another story.

The following article, taken from the *Mercury* of Thursday, the 5th November 1908 tells dramatically how strong that wind can be:

### A Great Gale.

#### Ketch Olive Overturned. The Crew Rescued.

The weather yesterday was decidedly unpleasant. Throughout the day a north-west gale raged, and notwithstanding that the Corporation water carts were engaged all day in the streets, the dust nuisance was present in a very aggravated form. The wind reached its greatest velocity in the afternoon, the anemometer at the observatory recording a rate of 40 miles an hour at 3.30. North-west gales were reported from the West and East Coasts, Cape Sorell, and Eddystone, reporting high seas. At

Stanley, on the North-West Coast, a fresh easterly wind prevailed. The forecast for today is:- 'Still squally, north-west and west winds, and showers, chiefly in the west, but weather moderating and becoming fine.'

The gale had the effect of capsizing the ketch Olive, which is owned by Messrs. Pybus Bros. The vessel left Barnes Bay yesterday morning for Hobart, being loaded with firewood. She was in charge of Richard Pybus, who had with him a deck hand names Davis. The mishap occurred when the vessel was below Cartwright's (sic) Point. She was coming up the river under close reefed sail hugging the western shore, when a sudden squall swept off the hills, and struck the ketch, rolling her right over. Fortunately, the hatches were watertight, and the vessel kept afloat.

The men scrambled on to the bottom of the ketch, and afterwards got into the vessel's dinghy. When the master tried to use his left arm he found that his shoulder was dislocated. The steamer *Excelsior* shortly afterwards arrived on the scene, and towed the disabled ketch close to Alexandra Battery. The master of the Olive was brought to town, and admitted to the General Hospital. Last night the *Excelsior* returned to the Olive to assist in righting the vessel. Mr Pybus stated that the squall which overturned the ketch was not seen, as it did not strike the water.

At 10 p.m. the steamer towed the Olive into port, with her mizen [sic] mast missing.



RAISING THE KETCH OLIVE, WHICH WAS CAPSIZED OFF CARTWRIGHT'S POINT DURING THE GALE ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4. W. Fisher, photo.

From the "*Tasmanian Mail*", 14th November 1908.

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