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Tuesday, 23rd, September, 1878

The Sun



Worst one yet!

Last night’s extreme weather saw the Loch Ard end its fate. The ship had been travelling from England to Melbourne for the past thirteen weeks. With 18 passengers and 36 crew members, the majority of passengers being from the Carmichael family, were seeking refuge in the colonies due to ill health of their father.

The extreme weather saw a thick mist off the coast, once the mist had lifted the captain could see clearly that the ship was going off course and it was too late to redirect. The captain tried very hard to turn back out to sea and drop the anchors but it was no good, the ship had collided with a small island known as Mutton Bird Island. The Loch Ard sank in only fifteen minutes.

Having only enough life belts for six people, everyone was desperate to save their own lives but it was the Carmichael family that got them first. The captain went down with the ship which was the honourable thing to do.

Tom Pearce and Eva Carmichael were the only survivors and Tom will be awarded money and medals for his bravery in this tragic ordeal.