


VESSEL:	LADY CHELMSFORD	
LOCATION:	VICTORIA HARBOUR	
INCIDENT TYPE:	COLLISION	
REFERENCE:	13	
STATUS:	SUMMARY REPORT (ONLY) RELEASED	

THE INCIDENT

At approximately 2315 on Friday 6 December 2002 in fine and clear conditions and with the wind from the SSW at about 15-20 knots, the passenger charter vessel *Lady Chelmsford* was returning from an evening dinner cruise on the Yarra River to berth at No. 14, Victoria Harbour. The vessel was carrying 14 crew and 99 passengers and under the command of a master undertaking his third trip on the vessel.

The approach to the berth was reported to be at a sharper angle than is the usual practice and the deckhand was unable to gather the after spring from the wharf. After a number of rapid engine movements both ahead and astern, it was reported that the vessel became square on to her berth and was lying parallel to the head of the dock between its berth and a moored pile driving barge.

Further engine manoeuvres enabled the Master to bring the vessel out of this situation, however, in manoeuvring too far back into the dock, contact was made between the stern of *Lady Chelmsford* and a floating pontoon on the opposite side (NW) of the dock. Having cleared the floating pontoon, further astern movement again brought the stern of *Lady Chelmsford* towards the pontoon and a cabin cruiser moored at its southern end. Subsequently, contact was made between the port quarter of *Lady Chelmsford* and the moored cabin cruiser *Rob Roy*.

Having gone ahead and cleared *Rob Roy*, the *Lady Chelmsford* was allowed to drift downwind until it came to rest against the timber fender on the wharf face at the head of the dock to the NE. The vessel was made fast in this position and arrangements were made to disembark passengers.

OUTCOMES

No persons were injured as a result of the incident.

The *Lady Chelmsford* and moored cabin cruiser *Rob Roy* sustained minor damage.