

# ANOTHER NEW COAST GUARD VESSEL IN THE WATER FOR VICTORIAN RESCUES

**P**aynesville VF22 officially launched its new search and rescue vessel a few months ago as part of the Victorian upgrade of marine rescue assets.

At the time, four more Coast Guard vessels were either under construction or tender, to be

launched over the following six months (see Page 4 for two of them).

During the past year Coast Guard Victoria also has installed a VHF Repeater Network spanning almost the entire Victorian coastline. Another project has

been a major vessel for the Country Fire Authority at Lake Eildon. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between Coast Guard and CFA in Victoria.

The state's Minister for Roads and Ports, Tim Pallas said the Paynesville Flotilla was the proud owner of a new 7.59 metre Stabi-Craft vessel, thanks to a \$140,000 grant from the Brumby Government.

"The Government's Boating Safety and Facilities Program provides funding to improve boating safety and recreational boating infrastructure across Victoria," Mr Pallas said.

"This fantastic funding contribution highlights the Government's very strong commitment to making Victoria's waterways safer."

The new vessel will play a key role in providing search and rescue services around the Gippsland Lakes area.

Mr Pallas said the vessel



*SPIRIT OF PAYNESVILLE*

VF22



Newly commissioned and ready to go.

would help the flotilla continue to provide their important rescue services to the boating public.

"I congratulate Coast Guard and the Paynesville Flotilla on the important work they do and the delivery of this impressive vessel which they've worked so hard for," he said.

Mr Pallas said the Brumby Government had committed more than \$5 million in the past year to help improve boating safety and recreational boating infrastructure across Victoria.

"Grants will fund projects to boost boating safety education and training, purchase search and rescue vessels and equipment, navigation aids and boating safety signage, and upgrade and construct boat ramps and jetties," he said.

"The Boating Safety and Facilities Program is funded by re-investing recreational boat operator licensing fees and vessel registration revenue. Grants fund projects for boating, fishing and community groups, waterway authorities, government agencies and search and rescue organisations.

"This funding recognises the vital service provided by volunteers who offer their time free of charge to save others in difficulty."

Flotilla on parade for the new vessel.

