

Chapter 15

CONCLUSION - THE OPENING OF THE MARINA

On Saturday, November 7, 1987, the 1987-88 Yachting Season was officially opened by R.G.Y.C. member and the Mayor of Geelong, Cr. Jim Fidge.

Prior to this ceremony the new \$2.3 million Bay City Marina was officially opened by the Victorian Minister for Transport, Mr. Tom Roper.

The following extract from a report in the Geelong Advertiser of November 9, 1987 tells the story:-

"Bay City Marina Launched

'Geelong development's top class', says Minister

The \$2.3 million Bay City Marina would provide Geelong with one of Australia's most modern facilities for boating enthusiasts, the Minister for Transport, Mr. Roper, said on Saturday.

Mr. Roper praised the efforts of the Port of Geelong Authority and the Royal Geelong Yacht Club for their roles in the project.

Mr. Roper was addressing 250 invited guests at Saturday's official opening.

He said the joint Authority-Yacht Club project was the first marina to be built in Port Phillip and Corio Bay precincts since the St Kilda Marina in August, 1968.

He said the Bay City Marina had already produced changes in attitude to Corio Bay and Geelong.

'There has been over recent weeks a steady stream of people coming down from clubs in the Melbourne area and staying here in a safe anchorage in a very pleasant place and enjoying what Geelong has to offer,' he said. 'It is also going to assist the more than 100,000 people who have registered vessels. Those people deserve the kind of facilities that are being provided here.'

The marina has 221 wet berths ranging in length from 11 to 17 metres. Mr. Roper noted public accessibility to the marina.

About 60 per cent of berths have already been taken up by members of the Yacht Club.

The marina, built by John Holland (Constructions) Pty. Ltd., uses a suspended precast concrete wave modifier, which has proved successful in Hobart. The marina was built within budget and completed on time."



The Victorian Minister for Transport, Mr. Tom Roper, at the opening of the new Marina. November 7, 1987.



The new Marina, viewed from the southwest.

At the start of the 1987-88 Season the Club had 308 boats on its register made up as follows:-

Division I	53
Division 2	77
International Thunderbird	13
International Dragon	21
Flying Fifteen	7
Fireball	18
International Laser	20
International Flying Dutchman	7
Miscellaneous	19
Motor yachts	42
International Cadet Dinghy	31
Total	308

The membership roll at this time was as follows:-

Life	10
Veteran	14
Senior	12
Ordinary	581
Intermediate	42
Country	101
Associate	228
Junior	48
Cadet	94
Temporary	22
Total	1152

What a contrast to that historic day on March 4, 1859, when the original Geelong Yacht Club was formed with only a handful of members and four yachts contesting the first race.

One cannot help but wonder just what Matthew Flinders would have thought had he been able to observe the scene and the proceedings at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club on that memorable day, November 7, 1987.