

Freycinet is selected for pilot boat

By ADAM ORLANDO

THE Bunbury Port Authority recently held a naming ceremony for its new \$500,000 pilot boat, a Naiaid design from New Zealand built by Kirby Marine in Fremantle.

Schools in Bunbury were asked to participate in a "name the pilot boat" competition last month, which was won by 10-year-old Bunbury John Calvin School student Justin Visser with the name Freycinet.

Bunbury was discovered by French explorer Captain de Freycinet in 1803 but was eventually named in honour of Lieutenant Henry William St Pierre Bunbury of the 21st Fusiliers Regiment.

Harbour master Rob Liley said the Freycinet, which has a top speed of 32 knots, cruising at 20 to 25 knots, would remain moored inside an "airberth" that was able to raise and lower the boat from the sea.

"This ensures that marine growth does not attach to the boats hull and therefore negates the need for anti-fouling," he said.

"The 11m long airberth is capable of lifting eight metric tonnes and uses air blowers to displace the water in the tanks to raise the boat clear of the water."

The airberth is the 100th built in Australia and is the biggest in the State.

Port chief executive officer Kevin Schellack said Freycinet would replace the 50-year-old pilot boat Koombana, which he described as solid and reliable but past its prime.

"It was perfect for its day but unfortunately the speed and the number of vessels that we have coming to the port now, the Koombana was well overdue for a replacement," he said.

"It's basically a heritage vessel now as such and we would like to retain it at the port."

Mr Schellack said Freycinet was perfect for the future as the port expands. The boat is expected to be a back-up to the port's mainstay pilot boat Tuart.



Bunbury harbour master Captain Rob Liley said the Freycinet, right, is moored inside an "airberth", which is able to raise and lower the boat from the sea.



The new pilot boat Freycinet has a top speed of 32 knots.

Volunteers recognised

NOMINATIONS for this year's Volunteer Marine Rescue Services Awards are officially open to acknowledge Marine Rescue Services volunteers who have shown exceptional commitment over the last year.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Services manager Paul Kimber said the awards were an important annual event that ensured the hard work of many Marine Rescue Services volunteers did not go by unrecognised.

Nominations are open until July 1 to all Marine Rescue Services volunteers and their colleagues.

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