

## New Marine Straddle Carrier At Paynesville Boat Yard Broadens Service Appeal

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Essential boat maintenance on the Gippsland Lakes and beyond is now even more accessible and appealing with the commissioning of a new 40 tonne Marine Straddle Carrier at the Paynesville Boat Yard.

The Paynesville Boat Yard, operated by Gippsland Ports, is a commercial yard with the full spectrum of marine service facilities available to vessel owners and marine service industries.



“This new Straddle Carrier, built by Crib Point Engineering, is a significant upgrade on our existing 20 year old model,” said Peter Bull, Manager of the Paynesville Boat Yard.

“In addition to being fully hydraulic driven on both the lifting and transport mechanisms, the new unit can be remotely controlled for greater all round safety in the yard.”

“Whereas the old unit had electrically driven chain lifting mechanism, the new model is driven by state-of-the-art hydraulics.”

Due to the age and extensive use of the now de-commissioned Straddle Carrier, its lifting capacity had been progressively downgraded to 20 tonnes.

Over its 20 year life, it is estimated that the old workhorse lifted 9,000 boats for 18,000 movements.

The commissioning of the new Marine Straddle Carrier now means that bigger vessels, up to 40 tonnes, can again be lifted at the Paynesville Boat Yard.

Paynesville is centrally situated on the Gippsland Lakes system. With a major commercial fishing fleet located at Lakes Entrance to the east, Paynesville is home to a predominantly recreational fleet of large boats. The Paynesville Boat Yard was established in 1887 with the construction of a slipway.



The Paynesville Boat Yard is exceptionally well equipped with all manner of marine services that includes marine electronics, engineering, shipwrights, blasting and a massive spray booth. It provides services to commercial and recreational vessels as well as to the Paynesville Marine Industries.

Much of the appeal of the Paynesville Boat Yard lies in the opportunity for DIY (do-it-yourself) boaters to work on their own vessels. With the new 40t Marine Straddle Carrier fully operational, boaters who own vessels up to 40t and a beam up to 5.55m can now have their boat lifted from the water and placed on the hardstand for hull work.

And of course, boaters from eastern Victoria and those passing through Bass Strait will find the new facilities at Paynesville Boat Yard along with the Bullock Island Boatyard at Lakes Entrance appealing. Boaters often pull in to the Gippsland Lakes before or after their crossing of Bass Strait. No longer do many need to go to Port Phillip Bay for boat maintenance.

“The Paynesville Boat Yard now offers some of the very best boat maintenance facilities available anywhere in Victoria,” said PBY Manager Peter Bull.

“Our rates are generally less than most comparable yards in Melbourne but there is no compromise in the quality of services offered.”

The Paynesville Boat Yard is one of five operated by Gippsland Ports. Slipping is a major service offered by Gippsland Ports across a variety of locations. In addition to the new 40 tonne Straddle Carrier at Paynesville, the slipway at Paynesville has a capacity of 120 tonnes. The Bullock Island yard at Lakes Entrance has a 100 tonne Straddle carrier, Port Welshpool a 75 tonne slipway, Mallacoota a 16 tonne slipway and Port Franklin a 4 tonne slipway.

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Gippsland Ports was established in 1996 to provide a regional service to the local community, visitors and other user groups.

Gippsland Ports is the designated waterway manager of 1,431 sq km of some of the largest and most beautiful waterways in Australia, stretching from Anderson Inlet to Mallacoota over 720 kms of the south-eastern coastline of Victoria.

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