On behalf of the Manning River Dragons I would like to welcome you all here today on this very special occasion.

The Eye Dotting or Awakening of the Dragon is about respecting the dragon and getting him into a good and friendly mood towards you, the team, and the community.

We are extremely lucky to have the generosity of 2 members of the community who have donated the funds to purchase these 2 boats that you see here today. The donor of the baby boat also paid for sign writing on that boat.

We would also like to thank Meg who has allowed us to store the boat's in her storage sheds.

The names of the boats have some interesting meanings:

Phoenix- is the universal symbol of the sun. The bird is synonymous with good fortune, opportunity and luck. It also covers strength and resilance.

Together the Dragon and Phoenix symbolize Ying & Yang ,perfect balance representing a power packed union of success, prosperity, friendship, love and enlightenment.

Dragon Fly- The dragon fly represents change, they are creatures of the water and they live life to the fullest.

The meaning of dragonfly is varied throughout the world but in some countries it represents swiftness and activity, courage strength and happiness.

As you can see by these meanings it represents what I think Dragon Boating is about.

You need perfect balance, swiftness, courage and happiness which among other things this club has.

But most of all you need to have fun, friendship and live life to the fullest.

I would now like to ask Ted and Yvonne to come forward and Awaken our Dragons.

Sat 27th Jun 2010

Ian Hoppe
MRDBC Vice President

2008