

NEW RESEARCH VESSEL "FLINDERS" LAUNCHED

"Flinders", built at a cost of \$148,000, was named and launched by Mrs. A.J. Fraser on November 10, at the Dillingham Shipyards at North Fremantle. The ceremony was attended by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna (Mr. MacKinnon) and approximately 80 guests. "Flinders" is the first research vessel specially designed and built for a State Fisheries Department. She replaces "Lancelin", which has been transferred to the Inspection Branch.

NEW OPENING DATES FOR WILD DUCK SEASON

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna recently announced that the open season in respect of wild ducks for 1968 will be -

1. From 6.00 p.m. on January 13, 1968, to 7.00 p.m. on April 30, 1968, in that part of the State which lies within the boundaries of the Shires of Harvey, Dardanup, Collie, Donnybrook, Capel, Busselton, Augusta-Margaret River, Nannup, Balingup, Greenbushes, Bridgetown and Manjimup.
2. From 5.00 a.m. on January 14, 1968, to 7.00 p.m. on April 30, 1968 in those parts of the State which lie within the boundaries of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions, with the exception of those areas otherwise proclaimed.

The Duck Shooters Guide for 1968 defines the other proclaimed areas and officers should refer to that publication for their guidance.

Acting on recommendations made by the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee and departmental research officers, Mr. MacKinnon accepted the principle that the opening date for the duck shooting season be set on a biological basis rather than a traditional date.

ABROLHOS STUDY TRIP

During the first week of January 1968 a group from Aquinas College comprising some members of staff and senior students will again visit the Pelsart Group. It is proposed also to visit the Eastern Group, in this fourth visit to the Abrolhos Islands. The purpose of these study trips is to record and publish data on terrestrial and marine fauna and flora.

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, in whom all the islands are vested, has authorised the visit. He feels that this sort of controlled and educational venture should be encouraged.