

Whats New From OceanBlue

By Boyd Hamlyn

Regular readers of Fish and Boat may recall the name OceanBlue Boats from previous publications in 2006. OceanBlue Boats is a small Cairns based plate alloy boat building operation that strives for excellence in all products that leave the workshop. The boys have been busy designing and building several new craft to add to their range of custom built plate aluminium boats since the last publication in 2006. The efforts have been well worth it.

The two sayings "You get what you pay for" and "Do it properly the first time" couldn't be anymore appropriate to boat building. The finished product from this boat building operation is second to none and the boys make it a pleasurable experience working through the design and

building process of your boat with you one on one. You will be dealing with the guys that build your boat, not someone behind a desk. The beauty of having a boat built to your specifications is that you get what you want in your boat the way you want it, not how it comes from the factory.

The new series of Coast Runners range from 5.3 metres to 6 metres overall length and the internal layout can be configured to the customer's requirements. Hull construction is of 4mm plate with 3mm sides with internal frame structure second to none. The strength and weld quality of these boats is of an extremely high standard. Hull and side sheets can be upgraded to 5mm and 4mm respectively if so desired. The design and length of this hull is aimed at being a general all rounder for the hardcore fisho who wants to travel long distances off-

shore or access those remote Barra rivers of the north. This hull is also at home on the dam for those weekends of camping and skiing.

The striking features of this vessel would have to be the smooth riding deep V and reverse chine. Underway, this is a very comfortable boat that eats up the chop, particularly considering it is only a 5.3 metres.

At rest the large chine provides excellent stability. The boat as pictured was built for a North Queensland customer who has given this boat a really good workout running offshore and fishing the wide grounds. Most notably, he is very happy with the rough water handling as the vessel doesn't pound, as is a problem with many other aluminium boats; and the stability at rest is excellent. The vessel as pictured is powered by a 90 hp 2 stroke Mercury giving the



These boats look great both on and off the water.

rig a top speed of around 30 knots.

OceanBlue Boats currently have one of these rigs ready to go fitted with a 115 Optimax and on a tandem trailer. This vessel is slightly different with a walk through transom design allowing easy access. The vessel is also fitted with a colour sounder/plotter combo, VHF radio, deck wash, kill pen and dry storage. A canopy can also be fitted if so required. If this sounds like a boat that interests you, give Quay Marine in Cairns a call and ask for Dave.

The options list for these boats is endless as it can be what you want it to be. If you are in the market for a quality plate boat give Vince a call at OceanBlue and have a chat to him about what you are after in your boat.



The design has been done in such a way that there is plenty of space to move around and fight those fish.



The boat rides well on the water and is stable both at rest on on the plane.