

Whittley's Stunning Cruisemaster 700

Fisherman & Boatowner (#46 Feb 1999) FIELD TEST



Introducing a unique Aussie product from Melbourne's Whittley family.

A 23' fibreglass cruiser unlike any other in Australia.

It is a true blue, one of a kind cruising boat - and very proud of it!

F&B Editor Peter Webster prepared this special report.

As we've noted in the pages of F&B before, the Whittley Cruisemaster 700, the Signature 702 C, the just released 702 Sportsbridge and the Caribbean 23, are the only really interesting cruising trailerboats currently available.

In 1997, when we made the decision to move up into a cruising boat that was as big as we could still legally (and sensibly) trailer from one part of Australia to the other, the Whittley 700 and the Caribbean 23 were the only production boat options on the market at that time.

We were looking for a boat that would provide the all weather capability, range and cruising wherewithal we needed to stay out for periods of up to a week at a time.

It's the last part of that sentence that brings all cruising boats back to heel. "To stay out for periods of up to a week at a time," is another way of saying that you need to carry the food for the crew for a week, enough water, enough fuel, freezer or ice chest capacity, cooking facilities, toilet and washing facilities, and all-weather protection by way of cockpit covers, clears etc !

And this is without getting into related issues such as insect proofing, the tender (or dinghy) you need to commute back and forth, etc. The difference between a boat used for the occasional overnight "camp" and one that can support a crew for a week or more, is absolutely staggering.

That is partly why we approached this report with such trepidation. It's all very well for people who have

**ABM
RETRO
BOAT TEST:**

Unchanged, as first published, written and photographed by Peter Webster in February, 1999