



Bayliner 2302 Trophy Walkaround

This is an excellent, bluewater fishing boat. Of all the Bayliners brought into Australia so far, none has such an immediate and direct application to Aussie ocean and fishing conditions as this.

A 23' long walkaround, available with or without the GRP hardtop, it's as good as anything we're building in Australia at the moment, and in many cases, it's a lot better.

For years, Bayliner's Australian push has been hamstrung by the local (opposition) dealers' well rehearsed rebuttal "Ah, those Bayliners are only made for freshwater" and together with some of the silly model choices they've imported from the 'States over the years, Bayliner has only recently started to explore its full potential in this country.

But they didn't get to be the biggest boatbuilder in the world (by a country mile, too) because they were slow to learn about market trends. Over the last few difficult years in the 'States, Bayliner has increasingly split its activities into two distinctly different directions.

One direction concentrates on further developing Bayliner's core business: selling amazingly stylish boats to families buying their first boat — while the other direction reveals Bayliner investing in Serious' boats for experienced boatowners.

First Impressions

First Impressions are concentrated on the depth of the vee (or deadrise) at the transom. Crikey, this Trophy 2350 has the most deeply veed hull I've seen since I last drooled over a good Formula 233 ! And although the Trophy's patented 'Sequential Lift'

hull doesn't have the Formula's 'rocker' in its chine lines, it is a singularly impressive bit of gear.

Have another look at the out-of-water shots, and check out the deep forefoot angle, and the transom deadrise. Add in the Trophy's 82" waterline beam, plus a hull weight giving 1.5 tonnes a good nudge, and you have a recipe for a dream ride across Moreton and Port Phillip Bay's infamous rattle yer bones chop.

And so it proved out on Port Stephens' inner bay, when a stiff 20 knot Nor'easter blew in hard over the run-out tide, lifting up a bastard 60 cm (2') chop in the bay, and a big 1.52 m (5') wave lift over the bar at the entrance.

But hold up, we're getting ahead of ourselves — let's look at some of the other features before we take the Trophy offshore for a run in the briny . . .

Complete Specifications

The next best thing about the Bayliner Trophy 2350 is that it's finished. No kidding.

Basically, you can just add the tackle box, fishing outfits, bait, lunch - and go fishing.

The Trophy series comes standard with an impressive list of fishing

features and fittings:

- Self bailing cockpit
- Insulated baitwells with drains
- Three drawer tackle stowage
- Two large-ish boxes, fully plumbed with overboard drains
- Good size, aerated live bait tank
- Four deck mounted rod holders
- Horizontal rod storage
- Wide, flush deck coaming

It gets better: the 2302 Trophy Walkaround is just as impressive in the general fitting-out area. The specification includes:

- GRP Hardtop
- Standard trim tabs
- Long range keel fuel tank — try 140 gallons (530 litres!)
- AM/FM cassette radio and speakers
- Flush mounted compass
- Stainless steel steering wheel
- Electric windscreen wiper
- Tempered, safety glass windshield
- Two electric bilge pumps with auto float switches
- Horn
- Nav lights
- Galley with icebox and fresh water sink

The Trophy measures 6.88 m (22'7") down the centreline, has a maximum beam of 2.59 m (8'6") a draft of 43.1 cm (1'5") and a bridge clearance on canal estates, etc, of 1.92m (6'4").

In the water, it's a pretty good

“ . . In the water, it's a pretty good looking rig. I liked the powerful lines, the no-nonsense GRP workboat look about the craft . . . ”

**F&B
RETRO
BOAT TEST:
Unchanged,
as first
published,
written and
photographed
by Peter
Webster in
1992**