



Whilst most boating enthusiasts along the eastern seaboard have now come to recognise Sea Jay as one of the better brands of aluminium boats, even the most ardent enthusiast would be surprised to learn that Sea Jay is fast developing one of the biggest ranges of aluminium boats in Australia.



The test boat was kindly set-up and supplied by Wayne Bayne's dealership **Mitchells Marine** from Cairns (07) 4051 3512. Here, Jeff Webster is seen 'training' the Wanderer 495 for life in Trinity Inlet and the often choppy waters of FNQ! It handled the conditions very well, with a surprisingly dry ride.

Sea Jay 4.95 Wanderer BOW RIDER

All those jokes about Bundaberg Rum aside, Bundaberg is increasingly becoming famous as the home for one of the top brands of aluminium boats in Australia.

Col and Janelle Glass are part of a Bundaberg family associated with recreational boating in the southern Qld region for as long as most people can remember. Several generations of the Glass family have been involved in either the retail sector or more recently, aluminium boat manufacturing.

For many years, Sea Jay were content to stay within fairly limited geographical boundaries, working hard, but containing their activities to an area from approximately the Qld border in the south, to Mackay in the north.

With a very strong following in this

densely populated and fast growing region, they didn't have to look any further afield for more business.

But as things have transpired, the business came to them, and dealers from other parts of Australia started clamouring for supplies of this popular boat range.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Sea Jay now have an enormous range of boats of every conceivable variety, and are filling in the gaps with a very good range of bowriders, too.

As we've noted in F&B several times recently, bowriders are fast becoming the biggest selling boats in Australia, as families willingly embrace the concept of these big, beamy, high sided family boats that are true multi-purpose vessels. This

month's test rig 'borrowed' during a major Honda dealer promotion, is an outstanding example of why these boats have become so popular.

Design Frankly, I think the seating is one of the key features to the success of the bowrider movement. No other type of boat has the family seating flexibility of a bowrider, or the comfort, for that matter.

As you can see in the opening overhead photograph, the 495 Wanderer not only had stacks of space in the main cockpit, it has space for two or three children or a couple of adults forward in the bowrider compartment as well.

It's a fantastic set-up for a family isn't it? If mum needs protection –

she's got it, just by sitting down behind the windscreen. Add a bimini over the helmsman and passenger seats and you've got shade and shelter from the harsh summer sun. The windscreen keeps out the worst of the pressure wind, but lets in the cooling breeze over the screen underneath the bimini.

Even the kid's are protected down on the rear lounge, as the boat's such a high sided boat, it's very dry in the cockpit and protected from just about all weather conditions between the windscreen and the bimini.

Upfront in the bowrider section, the ride is nothing if not spectacular. Needless to say, the kids love it! And why not?

It's nicely padded, the seats are a good height, there's lots of things to hang on to – be it the bowrail, the shelves, or the seats themselves.

Getting out the tape measure, we logged the overall length at 4.59m, measured 2.1m for the beam and observed that it continues right down to the waterline at around 2m on the waterline itself – and that's very wide

SPECIFICATIONS

Standard Features:

- Fully carpeted floor
- New image transom
- 2 x Dix upholstered seats – driver's adjustable
- Painted (chine up & inside)
- Anchor well
- Bow sprit & roller
- Front casting platform/bunks with back rest (carpeted base, upholstered cushions)
- Wide side decks
- Short side pockets
- 2 x side consoles with GRPdash
- Towing eye
- 3 x bollards
- Windscreen with grab rail
- 90 L underfloor fuel tank
- Fuel gauge & sender
- Fibreglass dash with glove box fitted
- 2 x rod holders
- Folding rear lounge
- Short rear rails
- Long Wanderer (bow rails)
- Transducer bracket

for a boat this long.

The hull depth is a deep 0.995m with a 3mm bottom and 2mm sides, a dry, empty hull weighs approximately 447 kg.

Sea Jay originally rated the transom for a maximum motor weight of 155kg, meaning our test boat would have been breaking the rules, because the Honda 90hp longshaft weighs 168kg, but the Sea Jay 495 handled the weight easily.

We then checked with Sea Jay that they were comfortable about the Honda 90 (and by default, the Yamaha 80/100hp 4-strokes) installed on this boat. They confirmed the maximum allowable weight has recently been increased to fit these very popular 4-stroke outboards.

Fit-out And Finish

In a word – excellent. Everything you see in these pictures is included in the standard price – and as the accompanying list reveals, this is a very comprehensive inventory.

We were very impressed with the finish on the craft, acknowledging that