



Trailcraft 5300 Sportscab

Without a shadow of a doubt, one of the fastest growing boat builders in Australia is the WA based Trailcraft organisation. Watching this young company burst onto the local scene has been fascinating. Not only have they broken into one of the toughest sections of the Australian boating marketplace, they have done so with such impact, they have forced virtually all the other pressed aluminium manufacturers to follow their lead. Remarkable stuff, but as we found out, that's what can happen when you build remarkable boats.

Having identified this particular boat as the standout in last month's 5.3m "Cuddy Round-Up", it was lucky indeed to find the exact boat sitting on Cunningham Marine's stand at the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show, just calling to us for a full-on water test!

We're mighty glad we did too, because the Trailcraft 5.3m Sports Cab arrived at a particularly stressful period for the F&B team, and we badly needed to get out on the water and blow away a few cobwebs . . . we've

been spending far too much time staring down our computers lately, and far too little on the water.

Despite some unusually wet weather here on the Gold Coast, (hooray!) we finally launched the boat at Runaway Bay Marina and took off for what proved to be a very pleasing couple of hours.

Good Size There is no gainsaying it – there's something magical about this 5.3-5.5m size. They're not too big (so they're still easy to handle alone) but not too small for serious offshore

fishing or family outings with the mob aboard. This one uses a single axle trailer, 90hp outboard, two full length berths, self draining cockpit, and a big, robust, high-wooded hull – fair dinkum, if you sat down with a consultant and said, "Create me the perfect 5.3m boat." This is what he'd put down on the sheet of paper.

More than that, the Trailcraft 5.3m goes even further. It has some of the most interesting and innovative features we've seen in boats of this class for years.



Checking out the Trailcraft 5300 very carefully, this pelican was so curious, we became suspicious that he might have been trying to earn a little extra something for modelling!

