



As Tested . .

This BMT rig cost \$67,350 with the 175hp 4-stroke Suzuki. With a 140hp Suzuki it costs \$62,400. These prices include a plumbed live bait tank, rear extension canopy, transom door and ladder, rocket launcher, bunk cushions & 200 litres of fuel. Electronics are extra to suit client.

Fisherman & Boatowner FIELD TEST

Joshua 6.5m Plate WalkAround

Last month we had the pleasant task of joining up with Malcolm and Pauline Joshua to review one of their latest craft, just a day or so before it was delivered to its very lucky new owner.

Because it was a private owner's boat (and doubtless his very special pride

and joy) we didn't conduct our full test trials or use the test paraphernalia out of respect for another man's boat.

Nevertheless, we launched it here at Runaway Bay, and spent a very pleasing couple of hours on, in, and around a plate aluminium boat that reaffirms the strides Malcolm and

Pauline have made picking up the reins of Cliff Joshua's original JBS Marine.

For readers not aware of the history of JBS Marine, it was founded by Malcolm's father, Cliff Joshua along with his charming wife Lillian, a couple of 70 year olds who went on the Boat Show hustings a decade or so ago



when they lost their life savings in a failed, bunkum retirement investment program.

Not that Cliff was any stranger to boat building. One of the real pioneers of plate aluminium in Australia, South African born and traditionally trained, Cliff was a wooden boat builder long before aluminium was invented, and when he came to Australia to set up shop in Adelaide, he brought with him many decades of experience and great skill.

Retiring to Brisbane to spend their retirement with their large family, grandkids and extended family(s), it came as a dreadful shock to discover they'd lost just about everything in a

Australia's oldest working boat builder!

But time has a way of slowing us all down and in the end, with a huge scar to prove his triple-bypass was fair dinkum, Cliff was finally forced to acknowledge he couldn't keep boat building full time. He's had to step back, allowing his eldest son, Malcolm, to come forward and take over the reins of this well respected family business.

Cliff also helped get his youngest son, Wayne Joshua up and running too, but Wayne now prefers to run his own, small ally boatbuilding shop out of the Sunshine Coast, where he lives with his own young family.

Cliff is still involved in the Joshua

and close association with this family, so were looking forward to getting into what is now known as a Joshua Boat, as soon as the opportunity arose.

Design

At 6.5m overall, with a maximum allowable 2.5m beam, the Joshua Walkaround is getting to that stage where you have enough space to do a comprehensive walkaround set-up that really works, but still have more than enough cockpit space to undertake just about any fishing pursuit.

Indeed, it is an extremely large cockpit, and especially so in a boat that loses about the first third to the cuddy and walkaround configuration.

Building boats of any size and description is a pretty tough game, but if you're building a 6.5m Walkaround in plate aluminium you've just stepped into the ring with some of the toughest, meanest and most experienced boat builders in Australia. For Malcolm and Pauline Joshua, carrying on the heritage launched by Malcolm's father Cliff Joshua, it's a challenge they're willing to undertake - and as this month's test report confirms, they've done so with a boat that takes the benchmark up another couple of notches.

bunkum retirement scheme.

And so it was that this charismatic couple founded JBS Marine out of dire circumstance, and quite literally charmed their way through the boating industry to establish JBS Marine as one of the front running plate aluminium boat builders - even if it was run by

business to the extent that he's Malcolm's confidante, friend, consultant - a sort of 81 year old Expert In Residence, just in case Malcolm loses the plot. (Well, that's how Cliff explained it to the writer, anyway!)

Over the years F&B has had a long

We could quickly see why this boat is proving to be so popular. It's just a question of space - and there's lots of it, in a boat that's big, beamy, high wooded (that means very high sides) and surprisingly stable.

It's the style of boat you can use for just about any sort of fishing at all -