

# Glacier Bay 2670 **Isle** **Runner Cat**



I must confess I wanted to run the 2670 Isle Runner from the day it arrived in Bill Fankhauser's yard next door to our office.

This enthusiasm wasn't diminished by seeing Bill come and go on various demonstrations of the boat, nor was my enthusiasm dampened by watching the boat working offshore and out through the Seaway entrance on a number of occasions. This looked like the real deal, and having just published the big "Powered Cats Of Australia Directory", I thought it was only fair (in the interests of better boating journalism and the

opportunity of presenting the complete picture, of course) that we organise a boat test ASAP!

Test day was pretty murky with leaden, overcast skies which held the promise of badly needed rain - although nothing actually eventuated as so often seems to happen these days.

We had a run-out tide pushing up a very lumpy entrance at the Seaway, but offshore the conditions were quite moderate with only a gentle 10-15 knot breeze. As things panned out, the Trailcraft 610 Centre Cab we're testing for next month's issue was late, so my son Jeff

(41) took the opportunity to join us on the test, a situation we both welcomed because I was keen for him to experience one of these Glacier Bays and get his reactions to them. Having cut his teeth on Australian cats since the ripe old age of about 7 years old, there are few more experienced boating journalists in the country than Jeff on the subject of powered cats. Plus, as he kindly pointed out, he's "younger, has faster reflexes and will test it harder . . ."

Fortunately, he's not heard the saying about "old age and treachery . . ." and I wasn't about to tell him, either!

## Design

The design of this boat is quite different to Australian cats.

It's what we'd call a big cuddy cabin set up, and is available in a variety of models including a bowrider type boat, and hardtop models with varying degrees of enclosure, including the Alaskan model, with a full lock up cabin.

However, the model we tested on these pages is, I suspect, likely to be the most popular, as this format really does suit Australia's warm climate and for the most part, 12 month summers. (Well, they are by Alaskan or Seattle standards!)

This is a big, strongly built, well finished powered catamaran quite unlike anything produced in Australia. Where Australian cats tend to focus on utilitarian or work boat finishes with a hard, commercial edge, the Glacier Bay cats are heading in a different direction, bringing more normal standards of recreational boating finish into a hull form that is amongst the best in the world. Last month, **F&B's father and son team, Peter and Jeff Webster** teamed up to share a very special experience in a remarkable boat.