



Bob Abel's

Riptide-Volvo Diesel Platey

There are very few fishos who haven't dreamed of one day building 'that' special platey. Marrying all the experience, the knowledge and passion into one fabulous boat. Well, we'd like you to meet one bloke who has done just that. For Victorian Bob Abel, building the 6.5m Riptide was the completion of a dream project. This is his story, in his words.

Being of baby boomer vintage, retirement planning has come to the fore. Health issues start to play a larger role in day to day things, and so it came to be that the life check box list began. I think that now, after about a year, I have realised that this is a living document with additions and deletions a regular event!

About 18 months ago, I decided that one of the check boxes was to try my hand at game fishing. In order to do this, one must have a suitable chariot to cruise the seas with a fair degree of comfort and safety. You could of course, go the charter boat path, likely to be more successful, but not nearly as much fun - and so the research began.

Firstly to write my search criteria. What did I really want in a boat and did it exist as a production craft? No sense and extra expense needed to

reinvent the wheel, as I was sure that others before me would have had the same wish list. This, as things turned out was not the case.

The specification as developed:

- A custom builder that allowed a heck of a lot of input into the design.
- Plate alloy construction.
- Around 6.4 metre hardtop and clears.
- Trailer-able and user friendly.
- Target wet weight 2.5 tonnes
- Serious overnighiter / weekender for two, perhaps camp up on the road here and there.
- Extra thickness on the bunk cushioning.
- Deadrise to compliment ride and stability.
- Diesel stern drive (must be 'common rail' and economical).
- Cruising range 1000 km.
- Electric 'loo and holding tank system for

marina pump out.

- Electric anchor winch.
- Storage hot water system and deck shower.
- Galley (gas hot plate / griller and sink).
- Live bait tank.
- Kill tank.
- Ice slurry insulated tank.
- Pumped salt deck wash.
- Built in food esky and plenty of storage for accessories.
- Builder to do the complete fit out.

Wow, how does one fit all that in a boat this size?

Answer: Meet Dave Claussen from Riptide Alloy Boats.

A helluva `nice bloke, a craftsman with the welder and a genius at solutions, space usage and design. Couple all this together with his 'can do' attitude and 'only the best will be good enough' mind set, and you have a great outcome in the making.

Take a look at his clever use of the transom curve to allow the engine to

move back out of the fishing cockpit. Also the creation of a substantial swim deck with full cover above the Duo Prop drive. Great place for that hot shower after a hard day on the water. The hand shower and taps are flush mounted and enclosed right next to the transom door. Note the recessed grab rails and a real stepped ladder. Trim tabs are neatly fitted inside the swim deck sponsons.

The big thing for me in this project was to have a builder that understood the fact that I had ideas that I wanted incorporated in this boat that did not exist, anywhere else. That is, all of them in the one boat. Also the fact that I have grown up around machinery and have a solid multi-trade background meant that I needed to be able to be involved in all facets of development.

To do this, and with me living in Victoria at the moment, meant that the builders in WA were a little