

Yamaha Release 250hp 4-Stroke Outboard

The Yamaha 250hp V-6 outboard has probably been the worst kept secret in the boating trade, as this big engine has been a spectacular success on the mainland of America for many months. So much so, the Australian contingent couldn't get their hands on more than a few display models even for the national release, such is the demand for this silky smooth powerhouse.

Yamaha enjoys a terrific reputation with Australian boatowners, a rep that goes back to the days when they were pushing their original 8, 15, 20, 25 and 30hp 2-stroke outboards, for all they were worth.

Luckily for Yamaha, and especially for the consumers, the Yamaha 2-strokes were damn near bullet proof, and built up a fantastic reputation for reliability and cheap, economical service. In fact, this rep continues to this very day, despite the inroads of 4-strokes, because for many boatowners,



2-strokes are still the most economical alternative when the capital cost of the engine is taken into account.

However, with fuel prices going through the ceiling, it's getting harder for even the most ardent 2-stroke supporter to stick up for the 2-stroke philosophy. Increasingly, boatowners

release of this powerhouse 250hp 4-stroke, Yamaha's legion of 2-stroke supporters with big plate boats, high performance sportfishing boats, workboats, fishing industry vessels, tourism activity vessels (etc) will be rapt.

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are starting to think maybe it's better to take a little pain upfront (from the extra capital cost of the 4-stroke) to get its fuel efficiency, with the savings in petrol from the 4-stroke offsetting the increased capital being outlayed

This debate is not confined to the small outboards - arguably, the boatowners hurting the most at the moment are guys running round with engines in the 100hp-200hp 2-stroke class.

For them, the advent of 4-strokes has been a godsend.

Now, with the

On a beautiful spring day at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Yamaha Motor Australia unleashed their new F250 4-stroke outboard to a willing bunch of boating noters from all over Australia and New Zealand.

With more than 15 boats assembled, it was an unusual chance for the boating media to jump from one boat to another doing a lot more than just getting the feel of the new F250. Peter Webster was there to present this special report.