

Stacer 420

Pro Line Angler

Between the on-going drought in so many parts of Australia, what seems to be ever-increasing interest rates, and renewed fears of inflation creeping back into the economy, many would-be boatowners are being cautious about how much they spend on the new boat . . . so we decided that it was time to have a good look at the 'no frills' end of the market – but in one of the most popular classes of boat. Peter Webster report and pictures.

Well, no doubt about it, my job has nothing if not diversity. After a month that included Ben Noble's superb 7.5m Noble Craft deep vees up at Redcliffe (on Brisbane's Moreton Bay) Mike Jessop's amazing Oceancraft 6.0m 'cylinder' boat on the Gold Coast's Broadwater, and launching our own cavernous 6.7m diesel Quintrex Offshore hardtop, we closed out the month's work with the new Stacer Proline 420. And by crikey, it stood tall with the best of them, too.

As regular F&B readers already know, the writer is something of a small boat nutter, and whilst I can appreciate the many virtues of the bigger craft tested this month, there is something fundamentally satisfying about getting back into a real boat. And make no mistake, that's what this Stacer 420 Proline is all about.

At first blush, you'd be excused for thinking it's just another V-bowed punt with carpet, but that would be a serious mistake.

To begin with, it's a surprisingly big boat, and although the topsides have been kept low for fishermen, the actual cockpit area is enormous – and with flat floors between the two ends and/or the front casting platform, it presents a sterling fishing platform for a wide variety of fisheries.

One of the most interesting



aspects of this test was the way it had been set up. As part of our test program with the Telwater people (between F&B and SEA Trailerboats, we're going to try and test around 24-30 models from this enormous range of craft over the next 12-18 months) and we're putting no little emphasis on picking up some of the entry level packages that do not have a 4-stroke as standard equipment; that do not have multiple depth sounders; that do not have

sophisticated live bait tanks.

We want to keep testing the 'no frills' packages, as well as the tricked up Tournament models.

In this case, we were really pleased to pick up the basic Stacer 420 Proline Angler package. This comprises the rig, the excellent trailer (standard equipment) and unusually for us, the 2-stroke Mariner 30hp outboard.

As most regular readers are aware, the writer is one of the most



“. . . for the \$12,500 package here, this delivers a fantastic family boat that can be used for towing tubes, catching barra in our northern creeks and rivers, bream, flathead and whiting in our coastal estuaries, and ideal for exploring estuaries, inland rivers and dams. . . ”