

# 25 Years With My Quintrex FishMaster

Report & Pics From Jeff Borg and his family - especially Mum!

Introducing a very special - and extremely unusual - report from Jeff Borg about his on-going, 25 year love affair with his immaculate Quintrex Fishmaster. If anyone ever doubted boats CAN be fantastic value for money, they should read this report very carefully. Jeff has shown that with small amounts of TLC applied regularly, carefully selected all-rounders like this classic FishMaster, can literally last a lifetime.

**I** still remember the day when a salesman from Parramatta Marine delivered my 5.0m Quintrex Fish-Master to my home in 1981. Delivery was delayed for a few weeks as the factory was struggling to meet demand. It was a great relief to see it delivered early one morning to our front yard. Needless to say, I was very late for work that day.

Gary, my younger brother by 7 years, and I inspected the boat from bow to stern prior to the first trip on the water. We were more than impressed. This was my biggest purchase to date and as a 19 year old, I was hoping I didn't over commit myself, especially as I even had to have my parents' guarantee the loan to buy the boat.

The next doubt was whether I would get enough use out of it, but as events transpired, I needn't have worried about that one.

I had two boats before the Fish-Master, and both influenced the purchase of the Quintrex.

My first boat was a 12 foot De Havilland Seabird with forward controls and a



25hp Evinrude. I worked as a paper boy for over a year to earn enough to buy it. It was a fantastic boat but only 12 foot long. I called it Shrimpy and dad painted the name on the side. As I was then only 16 years old, I promised my parents I would never travel further than the Rip Bridge at Woy Woy on the Central Coast of NSW. However, on a particularly nice calm day, I decided to see how good Shrimpy was, so I took it out the heads at Broken Bay.

How much fun was that? It was fantastic. Driving up and down the swells...I had a ball. That is, until I saw a boat coming rapidly towards

me, and with a sinking heart, realised that my dad was inside that boat. . . Let's just say he wasn't happy to see me out there, and told me in no uncertain terms to head back in. So Shrimpy was sold so I could buy a bigger boat to fish outside the heads.

A 15 foot De Havilland Offshore with a 40hp Mercury was purchased next to enable me to fish offshore safely. This was also a great handling boat.

Unfortunately, on one fishing trip out from Broken Bay we were hammered by a storm. We made it back inside the heads, but it was slow going, and the boat took a beating. The end

result was that more than a few ribs on the boat had to be re-welded and support brackets placed in the front of the boat, as the aluminium in the bow would buckle when you hit a swell. After that trip in the storm I wasn't confident of the strength or safety of that boat in a big sea. I believe I bought one of the last Offshores that were made, and the quality was nowhere as good as the earlier ones.

It was time to upgrade to a bigger stronger and safer boat. But the big question involved trying to decide which was the right boat for me. I narrowed it down to one of the new Quintrex 5.0m boats.

## Decisions, Decisions

Quintrex had released a range of 5.0m boats and they were receiving plenty of good reviews. These boats were way ahead of their time. The runabout and cuddy cabin both featured a fibreglass deck/cabin on a strong aluminium hull. They offered the fisherman all the extras as standard, in a very seaworthy boat.

Features like a small motor well (which enabled you to fish the rear corners),



Jeff Borg coming in across the Currumbin Creek bar and various shots (including a nice one of Jeff's other love - his wife Linda!) all celebrating a wonderful boating experience. Amazingly, Jeff's original 70 hp has run perfectly for the entire 25 years, and together with his faithful Quinnie, begs the question: Could that happen again with today's products?

