



There is a real wealth of fitting out detail to absorb in this photo. Principally, we set out to explore how we could take this 670 Quinnie, with its huge, 3.5m long cockpit, and develop a multi-function, cruising sportsfisherman. We were working on the rationale that Australian families need to have more options and boating opportunities today, than just Dad putting baits in the water. Frankly, we blitzed it - building a safe, all-weather weekend cruiser that can sleep 2+2, with cooking, water, shower and toilet facilities - right down to the superb TrailBlaza freezer - powered by the solar panels! How good is this? Now, having developed the prototype, it's up to Quintrex to decide where they go from here.

Quintrex 670 Offshore Diesel Hardtop

As most readers are aware, F&B has been running the latest, biggest and most expensive Quintrex on the market for most of 2008, using it as our principal work boat and camera boat for Sea Media's various commercial activities. The Quinny has been a success in many areas, disappointing in others. We suspect it will take a little time for history – and the Aussie dollar – to put this boat into its proper perspective.

What an extraordinary period this boat has lived through! We placed the order way back in May 2007, took delivery of it in November that year, after a difficult and often delayed boat building program, and then fell foul of a whole heap of technical problems once the boat was launched.

By early this year, we were starting to get on top of all the different issues, and commenced using the boat in earnest. The reference to the dollars in the sub-heading is quite intentional – and is a very important part of the assessment of the Quinny 670 Hardtop's value and application.

When this boat was conceived, back in 2005/6, we have to remember that the economy was going gangbusters, young blokes were running around the Aussie coastline with fists full of dollars, petrol and diesel were starting to edge up, but everything (houses, cars, boats, etc) were simply getting bigger and bigger.

The Quintrex R&D team were under pressure from their nation-wide dealer network to come up with something that was bigger, better and bolder than anything that had gone before, capitalising on the virtue of pressed aluminium and the obvious ability for Quintrex to come in with a pressed

plate 21footer that would lay the fibreglass boats to rest – sweeping all before them with a fuel efficient, ecologically improved and so easily driven aluminium hull.

You don't have to be a genius to work out why the project was taken on with such enthusiasm back in 2006.

When we first saw the boat in March 2007 at a Quintrex Press Day, we were just as excited as the other journalists gathered for the function. Powered by the 120hp diesel, the 670 Offshore Hardtop was an absolute standout in a range of interesting craft – but given everyone's belief that a bigger Quintrex was a better Quintrex, the