



It's hard being a boat builder in Australia, but the Telwater Group are certainly making a very determined fist of it. They've produced a range of models that just about blanket every corner of the fishing spectrum.

Of course, the debate over what constitutes the perfect size for a trailerable fishing boat will go on, the writer suspects, till the end of time.

As the cliché goes, ask 10 fishermen what is the perfect boat and you'll get 10 different answers, and there's no little truth in this situation as different fisheries inspire and require different types of boats.

In this case, the Stacer 469 Nomad is a very, very cunning piece of kit, because it's big enough to tackle just about everything up to full on bluewater offshore fishing, but small enough for freshwater river fishing, let alone impoundments, northern creeks and drains.

As noted in the introduction, coming right after the impressive 490 Top Ender, we were very keen to get aboard and try the 469 Nomad and see how it compared to the larger 490 Top Ender, and our very own, hardworking Stacer 429 Nomad TS.

Our 429 is not quite as sophisticated as this one, but it's part of the same family and shares many similar construction and design features. So before we began, we have to acknowledge that we were more than a tad biased in favour of our 429 Nomad's bigger bruvver!

Design

Casting off from the marina, with a bigger 549 Stacer Wave Runner scheduled for camera boat duties, and the friendly team from Telwater aiding and abetting our activities, we chugged out of the marina at the requisite 4 knots, getting to know how the boat worked, how it felt, levels of inherent stability – stuff that you can do in seconds just by the intuitive feel of the boat as you walk from stem to stern, from side to side, and so on.

Testing a boat is not that complicated or technically difficult – the principal advantage that we have over the general boating public is simply that we can go from one boat to another, to another, and so on, which of course is very hard for the public to do. But in so doing, all sorts of things become really apparent – and stability is one of them.

Stacer have done a damn good job on this – as a 4.69m model, it's pleasingly stable, feels really good underfoot, and once you've been onboard for 10-15 minutes, you simply forget you're even on a boat – it's that good.

As a fishing platform, it is superb – but we'll look at that a bit further down the track.

Initially though we were looking at the boat in terms of its specifications, and for the record let's get these underway now. The 469 Nomad is:

- Rated to a maximum of 60hp
- Maximum transom weight of 120kg

- Maximum number of people (level) 5
- Maximum length of 4.85m
- Length of hull, 4.80m
- Maximum beam of 2.20.
- Hull depth 1.02m
- Length on trailer, 6.05m
- Height on trailer, 1.79m
- Material bottom 3.00mm
- Material topsides 2.50mm
- Transom shaft length, longshaft
- Boat weight (boat only) 413kg.

As you can see in the pics, it's essentially a side console rig, but note this too can change because it can be ordered with a centre console if that is the preferred alternative. It's a no cost option, with the final choice up to the consumer.

In the writer's perspective, as most readers know, I've always preferred the console biased to one or the other sides, because in a small craft, it is simply so much safer to have the crew transiting from stem to stern or around the boat, along the centre line.

With a centre console in a small craft the opposite happens – the crew are forever transiting around and about the console itself, and that can be quite awkward, not to say a little unsafe in a small craft in a seaway – especially if the crew person is rather large. Better to have them walking backwards and forwards along the centreline than around the sides.

Now the writer is aware a lot of fishos, whilst agreeing with the general tenet of this idea, would also refute the advantage of walking up and down

Following hard on the heels of last month's impressive Quintrex 490 Top Ender, we were keen to test the Stacer 469 Nomad that you've seen featured in quite a few advertisements in F&B with the cartoon Rhino sitting on the transom, fishing. This format is considered very close to ideal by many fishos around Australia, and the advertisements created no little interest – we've had many requests for F&B to follow up with the test. Peter Webster has the story.

Stacer

469 Nomad MP