

It's taken a little while to get here, but the wait has been worth while . . . Steve Peak's Skippercraft Archer 650 is now ready to go in production, and this is going to make a lot of fishos very happy . . .

Join Peter & Ruth as they run Archer #1 for the first time . . .

Steve Peak's new Archer 650 was first mentioned in the pages of F&B back in June issue #167.

Since then, there has been a series of phone calls and emails from readers all over Australia wanting to know how the follow-up issue was coming along. Like us, most readers felt this was another very interesting boat that had come in from the sugarcane fields (almost literally) to remind us that there is still plenty of room for innovation and forward development in the design and construction of 6.5m fibreglass (GRP) fishing boats.

As we explained a few months back, Steve Peak is no stranger to this business, having been the toolmaker for dozens of extremely well known boats over the years. They all have different labels on their side, but many were 'plugged' and then moulded by the affable, veteran boat builder of Skippercraft (SA) fame.

Steve Peak's now been working on the eastern seaboard for many years, and through that period he's developed an enviable reputation as one of the best toolmakers in the business. So when we discovered Steve was working on his own project, we pricked up our ears with a bit more than our normal interest, as we correctly assumed it was going to be a cut above the average.

After we first saw the boat outside of Steve's home at Cabbage Tree Point here in southern Qld, we were even more enthusiastic; *we could see the boat had the makings*.

At that stage the tooling wasn't complete and it was a painfully slow process because Steve has had to finance the whole project himself and of course keep food on the table for his family by working full time with Galeforce Boats, just around the corner from his home at Stieglitz. So it's all been a labour of love and fairly slow, and when we saw the boat a couple of months back, we knew it would still take a couple of months to be completed, let alone get the motor installed and the stainless work finished, etc.

In due course, Steve gave us a ring to say the boat was actually being launched and although the owner was very keen to buzz off and go fishing (*funny that!*) Steve was keen for us to carry out the preliminary water trials with him, to draw a bead on what he'd just created.



The Archer 650 Fibreglass Cuddy Walk Around