

# MAKOCRAFT'S 485 S.E. Cat

Six months ago, we featured a new 4.85m cat by Alf Stessel's Makocraft (from Geelong, in Victoria) which raised more than a few eyebrows. This was the second cat in the Makocraft range, and it signalled Alf was definitely doing a lot more than just a one-off model with the previously announced Makocraft 530 cat; he was clearly engaged in the creation of a full range of single engine, powered cats. Editor Peter Webster has had a life-long fascination with cats, so he was more than usually interested to put the new 485m cat through its paces . .

**T**he first of the Makocraft Cats, the 5.30m model, was available in runabout, cuddy or hardtop configurations, and such was its size on the trailer, many recreational fishos found it quite daunting; most felt it was too big for the sort of estuary and near-shore fishing they had in mind.

This is why Alf dropped down to the 485 configuration shown here, but already, even as this test is published, further along in the magazine you'll find the first details of the 450 Makocraft cat, another model being produced as a reaction to the sheer size of this 485!

There's no doubt about it, this Makocraft 485 has got to be the biggest 16 footer on the planet. Once again, for the retiree's market that Alf was originally targeting, it is still considered *too big*, hence the development of the Makocraft 440 that's coming on a treat – see page 68.

But whilst it's probably true to say the 485 is still

too big for retired folk, this is to ignore that it's just about the 'bees knees' for the next group of buyers in Australia – and arguably, the biggest buying group in the land.

This Makocraft 485 is ideal for all the fishos looking for a small craft that has the ocean going capability of a cat, with a cat's stability and soft ride, but with the economy of a single engine mono – not to overlook the ease of trailering that makes a small cat such a delight at the launch ramp and the easiest boat of all to handle on your own.

These characteristics are exactly what drew Adam Wolff to the craft when it was displayed at the Gold Coast Expo last year. He was so impressed with the concept and build standard, he purchased the cat on the spot, without even a water test! Adam subsequently installed a 90hp 4-stroke EFI Mercury outboard, and went blue water fishing.

To say that Adam and his family love the boat, would be one of the understatements of the year. A

*Lucky cat owner Adam Wolff generously made his new Makocraft 485 cat available for this test program, and agreed with our only real criticism of the rig - that it was in dire need of an over-windscreen grab rail - something that Alf has agreed to add to his standard inventory in future models, and retro-fit to Adam's boat as the factory's way of saying 'thanks' for his time and expense on test day.*

