

The Noosacat 4100/IPS 500 Combo



IPS drives are a bit like sterndrives installed back to front! However, there's no doubt the IPS system leads to a better balanced boat as the engines are well ahead of those props you can see in this pic.

There is nothing quite like testing a big Noosacat. Of all the craft the writer has tested over the years, big and small, few ever light up the emotions as much as the big cats, and in this case, a very special one at that.

Readers will recall the Noosacat 4100 stunned the boating world back in 2006 when it knocked over Riviera and Maritimo, the fancied favourites, for The Boat Of The Year competition. The silence at the presentation evening when the winner was announced was palpable, as the industry was genuinely shocked that the Noosacat team had just pipped all the favourites at the post, and taken out the prestigious award.

They should have too. The 4100 was then – and remains today – a magnificent craft, one of a kind that has very few peers anywhere in the world, let alone in Australia. That's not just grandiose jingoism, either. This is a world-ranked cat, with performance parameters that still leave most monos of this size, in its wake.

Powered by twin IPS 500s, Volvo's extraordinary 'pod' drive systems, this big craft cruises offshore faster than most of its "competition" can achieve in top speed, and its top speed puts it up there with the fastest ocean going craft manufactured in Australia – and this, all from a 4100 – with truly remarkable performance.

By itself, this would be a magnificent achievement – but there are other virtues to consider. Not only is this Noosacat 4100 one of the fastest craft in the country, it is arguably the best rough water offshore cruiser in Australia in its class – and not by a small margin either. Despite all the hype, very few mono cruisers actually have the capability of long range offshore cruising, especially in Australian conditions.

We have some of the longest, toughest coast line in the world. It's all very well to talk about cruising to Hamilton Island in the brochures, but there's a lot more to bluewater cruising in Australia than marina-hopping up the coast in perfect conditions - with a professional crew bringing the boat home.



Above: It's easy to see where the massive reserves of seaworthiness comes from - running, this rig handles 3.0-4.0m seas with disarming ease. Below: Fit-out is to the customer's requirements and standards; no two 4100s have the same interior. Like the 4100's powerplants, the factory builds what the customer wants in and around the base tooling.

