



Like so many families today, Tim Paul's mob all wanted to do something different - and it wasn't just about his own family - but also their friends who, naturally enough, wanted to join in the fun. So the trick was to create a performance family fun boat, Tim could use as a pretty serious fishing rig, too . . .

With Patience & A Helpful Boat Builder, Compromise Can Work Well.

How Tim Paul and his Melbourne family worked out a compromise between a fishing boat and one also for family fun, including skiing.

As a normal family man with two now adult children, I decided to purchase a new boat that could accommodate my own interests as well as those of my son and daughter who both have boat licences.

After owning an excellent 2002 5.0m Cruise Craft Rival fibreglass runabout, with a 115hp 2-stroke Yamaha motor, it was time to update the ability for family fun and skiing with a bit more power and room. Pulling wakeboards, kneeboards and tubes was no problem for the gutsy Yammy, but the skiers were a different kettle of fish, even with the 15" pitch, four blade prop.

I'm a keen fishing person when I

get the chance, in both fresh and salt water, but it was also necessary to balance the ledger in both areas of fishing and fun. How to achieve that in a workable compromise is a dilemma.

Reading many articles in F&B magazines and the extensive Sea Media on-line library, provided me with a lot of ideas to explore. You have to compromise, and therefore each side of the equation must – by definition – lose out in some aspects. Throw in a neck and back problem for yours truly, an electric anchor winch comes into the fray as a necessity. That is a big problem for price negotiation, because a known brand 12v power winch is always

going to be around \$2,500 fitted.

So after having a Savage Envoy fibreglass, a Quintrex alloy and a Cruise Craft fibreglass boat, we decided to go back to a lighter aluminium boat. We joined the current trend of it being a platey, tough and stable, but for this one, I wanted it to be 4 mm plate aluminium all round, sides and hull, which ruled out quite a few brands.

Why back to aluminium? The 2002 Cruise Craft we sold with 70 hours on the clock, was probably one of the nicest looking Rivals you will see around, but it required a lot of TLC, especially when you pull up and get scratches on the sandy banks of Lake Hume, NSW, or