

Once in a while, a boat comes along which is genuinely new, different, innovative, or just plain interesting. It doesn't happen nearly often enough for this boat tester, but when it does, it is welcomed with open arms and great enthusiasm.

Such a boat is the new Cruise Craft Lure 470. Released at the Brisbane boat show late last year, the Lure incorporates everything the Cruise Craft design team have learned about small boat sport fishing during the last two or three years - a period in which we have seen something of a boom in freshwater and impoundment fishing.

Recognising there was a niche for a good small fibreglass open boat in the growing small boat market, Cruise Craft set about the production of a craft suitable for freshwater and estuary fishing. The result, after consultation with their dealers and leading fishermen, is the Lure 470 side console.

Design: The Lure is built around Cruise Craft's proven 470 hull, first seen on the Spirit runabout back in the early 1990s. The hull is 4.72 m long, 2.14 m wide, and has a transom deadrise of 18 degrees. That's a deep

"vee" for a craft which is just under 16 ft long, and as you would expect, it provides quite a soft ride through choppy water.

Inside the boat, the layout is best described as a cross between a centre console and a bass boat. Behind the side console helm, the transom layout is almost the same as you would find on a traditional runabout or centre console, i.e., with high sides, good cockpit freeboard and a "proper" compact outboard well.

Looking forward from the helm however, the Lure looks more like a bass boat, or one of the many deluxe v-punts or "Top Ender" style dinghies now popular. This is due to the elevated casting deck, which occupies much of the bow area.

The treatment of this bow area is very well thought out.

Right up in the forepeak, is an open anchor well, split into two compartments. One is for the anchor and warp, the other for a cast net or mooring lines.

The casting deck itself, recessed about a foot or so down from the side decks, forms part of the deck moulding. It has a non-slip surface, and a single floor socket to accept a pedestal mounted bucket chair.

Storage under the casting deck, and throughout the boat is well catered for. As you can see from the pics, an (optional) 85 l Bailey's ice box is tucked away under the deck. Lifting up the hinged, carpeted section of the casting deck provides complete access to the ice box. Naturally, the box can be easily removed. This way, it can be used to keep your drinks and sangas cold, or as a fish box, then lifted out at the end of the day's fishing.

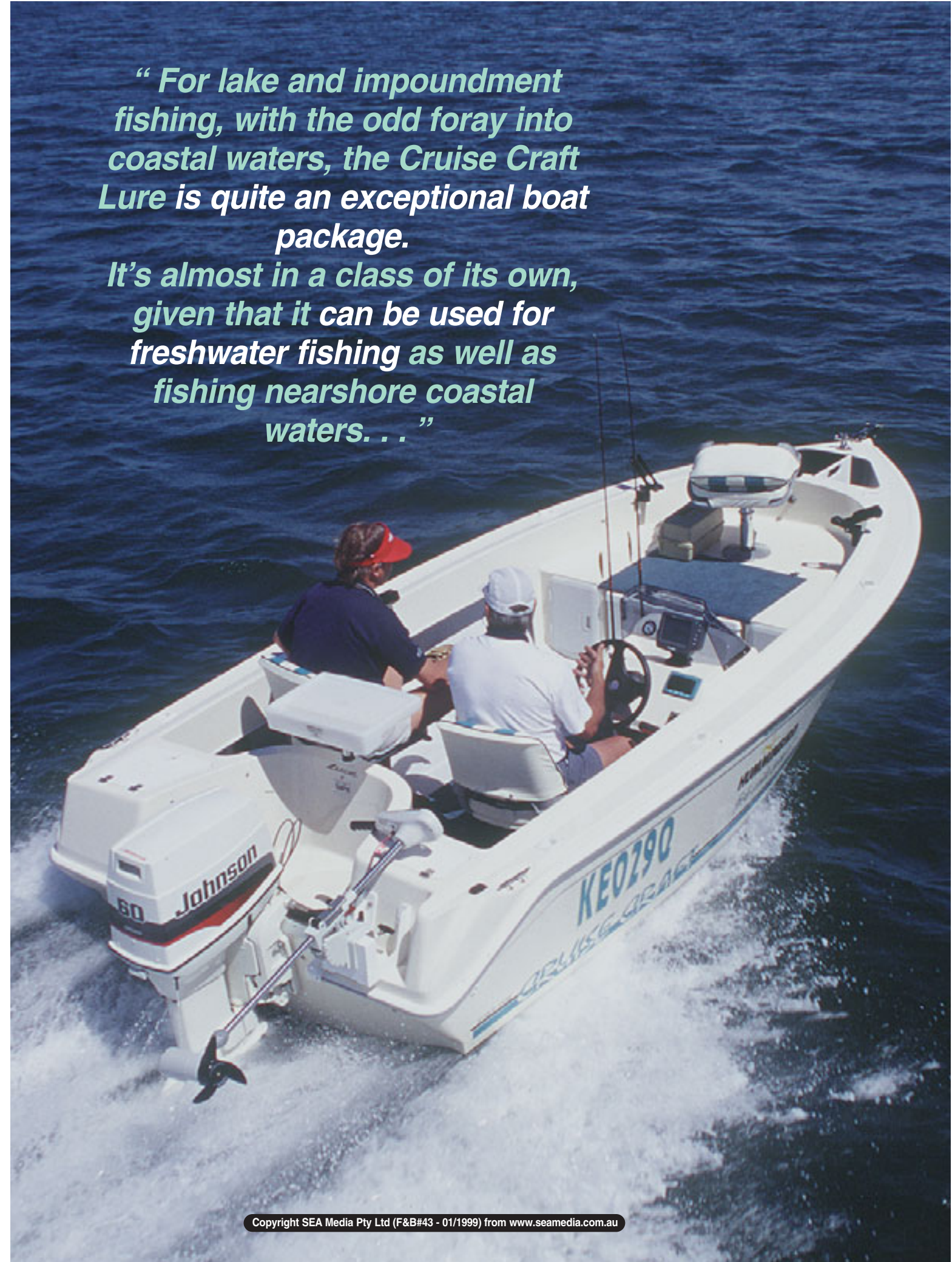
Moving the ice box out from the casting deck provides access to a central, built in locker. It's useful for clothes, fishing tackle, etc. It's not ideal for safety gear however, as it's a bit of a fiddle getting to the locker itself. For life jackets, flares, vee sheet, etc., the two outside lockers in the casting deck - accessed from the cockpit - are much better.

Like most good fibreglass rigs, the Cruise Craft Lure has useful, above floor side pockets - great for paddles, handlines, small gaffs, gloves, etc. Horizontal rod racks in each side pocket also provide storage for several light tackle spin or baitcasting outfits.

With regard to seating, the test boat

"For lake and impoundment fishing, with the odd foray into coastal waters, the Cruise Craft Lure is quite an exceptional boat package.

It's almost in a class of its own, given that it can be used for freshwater fishing as well as fishing nearshore coastal waters..."



Cruise Craft 4.70 M "Lure"

Cruise Craft's new Lure represents more than a breath of fresh air in the small boat market. This 4.7 m fibreglass side console has a fabulous interior layout combined with some well thought-out individual features.

Report & photos by Jeff Webster.

