



AMM 8.0m Tournament Diesel

After more than a decade travelling thousands of kilometres around northern Australia, former Dalby husband and wife farming team John and Barbara Wicks had a very clear picture of what you need to fish and cruise in our northern waters safely and comfortably. This is what makes their new craft, aptly named "Southern Cross" so special. Story & Pics by PW/RC

This is arguably one of the most outstanding plate aluminium trailerboats ever built in Australia. It represents the pinnacle of 'production' plate boat building and fit-out, and is one of the most sophisticated, live aboard trailerboats yet built.

As most readers are aware, Barton Thomas' AMM Marine is one of Australia's foremost plate aluminium boat builders. Barton doesn't build a lot of boats in the sense of production plate building, as he tends to specialise in projects like this –

literally custom building a dedicated fishing cruising boat for an extremely experienced couple who knew exactly what they wanted, in a boat they will be using over the next decade.

Up front, we must declare an almost a paternal interest in this boat because its owners, John and Barbara Wicks, purchased one of our first plate aluminium project boats, the quite famous *Genesis*, a 7.2m platey designed and built by Cliff Joshua of JBS Marine fame.

Probably more than almost any

other plate boat in Oz boat building history, *Genesis* had a profound effect on the construction of hundreds of plate boats in Australia, and became almost representative of the breed for the following decade.

For John and Barbara, *Genesis* provided a safe and comfortable fishing 'lodge' for then to use in the most marvellous list of places you could ever imagine, as they trailed it and fished over most of the better known (and quite a few lesser known) fishing and wilderness areas in northern Australia. As well, they



Footnote To Readers: In preparing this report, we haven't paid too much attention to the specific layout and fit-out, as this is an intensely personal, custom fit-out for two highly experienced owners custom building with AMM, as distinct from reporting on a standard AMM Tournament.