

# Noosa Cat 2400\* Walkabout

We were excited about the original Noosa Cat 2300 Walkabout when we first saw the plug being built in the Sunshine Coast factory some years ago. Walkarounds, centre cabs and the like have become quite fashionable in the last couple of years, but only a few of the major cat manufacturers have really “bitten the bullet” and created a dedicated walkaround or centre cab model. Wayne Hennig’s Noosa Cat was one of the first to uncork the flask . . . and let the genie out of the bottle.

Story & Pics By TBM’s Peter Webster

## \* Noosa Cat’s NEW 2400 Models

One of the reasons Noosa cat remains on top of the cat market is due to the factory constantly upgrading and improving their cats. In February, right on press time, they’d nearly finished the brand new, fully integrated transom for the 2300 that we first saw on the new 3000 Series. This has been so well received, the slightly longer transom is now being progressively installed across all (outboard) models in the Noosa Cat range.



It’s not that there has never been a GRP walkaround cat before, especially as Leisure Cats from W.A. have several models, and as some of the longer term readers will recall, the writer owned the blue Hookham 6.0 m cat *Tusitala* for several years back in the 1980s, and this was notionally a walkaround model.

However, even the now retired designer/builder Mark Hookham would be the first to admit that it wasn’t the real McCoy in the sense that it didn’t have a trench-style walkaround ahead of a centre

mounted cabin. There was a pretty good reason for that too.

It stemmed from Hookham’s belief (a view shared by most East Coast cat builders to this day) that to create an open deck boat intentionally used for crashing out through white water bars wasn’t exactly the smartest move in the world. Whilst this problem seems to be completely ignored by many aluminium monohull builders, it’s significant that most of the cat builders (including Noosa Cat, Leisure Cat, Kevlacat, Sailfish and

the peripheral, smaller cat manufacturers) have all been at pains to keep their distance from a walkaround or centre cab model.

It’s ironic isn’t it? Here we have three or four of the top cat manufacturers in Australia with boats that are acknowledged as the toughest, best handling, bluewater boats in their class, and all of them have been at pains to put distance between themselves and the centre cab concept.

So we were more than usually interested when Noosa Cat’s Wayne

