

The Makocraft 515 Frenzy Side Console . . .

Report & Pics By PW, working with JW on the water.



With The Parsun 90 2-Stroke Outboard

Following the success of the red Makocraft 440 Side Console in 2009-10, we've always been keen to pursue a bigger version of that excellent craft, with a number of specific objectives that took it out of the side console world and developed greater flexibility and the option of different functions. The key to our thinking was to explore the development of an overnight camping set-up on a side console, in such a way that all weather protection would be provided for one or two people, thus expanding the boat's capability to a whole new level.

It's hard to believe how time flies these days, but in truth this boat has been on our minds for several years, going right back to when the red Makocraft 440 was on-sold to ABM contributors Di Ross and John Batty in Adelaide SA.

At that stage, the industry wasn't in quite the dire straits it has now fallen into, and there was still quite a deal of enthusiasm for projects of this kind. It wasn't too hard to put together a consortium of colleagues including our favourite ally boat builder, Alf Stess from Makocraft, plus Australia's leading trailer manufacturer, the Dunbier folk in various states of Australia, but headquartered in Melbourne (as is Alf Stess's Makocraft) with Garry Baikovas

from Parsun Outboards very much involved providing the engine power for the project.

Parsun Outboards had just released their new 60/75/90hp series three cylinder outboards, and they were very keen to get it out into the mainstream, so the public would know that there is a practical, economical and affordable alternative to some of the high end outboards whose costs are starting to reach the stratosphere.

Dunbier have always made excellent trailers, but they too have a whole bunch of features that they wanted to incorporate in a mid-range single axle trailer, the benefits of which you'll see further along in this test report.

Left: This model Makocraft 515 Frenzy ticks many boxes in the determination of a true multi-purpose fishing boat. As a casting platform it is amazing - stable, heaps of space, choice of fishing positions. The wave-breaker added a bonus we didn't think of initially - it is a very re-assuring shin-height leg brace! **Right:** Have no doubt about the value of the trak rails. "Bilge keels" have been around in one shape or another since Noah fitted them to the Ark. They do give the Mako 515 better stability at rest, improved directional steering, and even better handling. The Mako 515 corners like it's on rails - which it is, sort of!

