

JBS 5.2 W *alkAround*



The debate over what constitutes the “perfect” Aussie trailerable fishing boat has raged in pubs and clubs around the country since Adam was a boy . . . here, we look at a new entry in the walk around market from veteran boat builder Cliff Joshua. He has created a configuration, shape and size many fishermen believe is just about perfect, fuelling the debate - fired up by the recent Quintrex Millennium hull launch - all over again. In this special report, Editor Peter Webster explains why.

There's not much doubt about that cunning old fox, Cliff Joshua, is there? This 73 year old South African veteran has had an astonishing impact on Australian boat building in the last couple of years.

This feat is perhaps more remarkable, not just because of his age, so much as the speed with which he's grown into the plate alloy market - one of the toughest, most competitive sections of the Australian boat building industry.

There are many reasons for this of course, but not least of which is Cliff's uncanny ability to “read” the market and keep coming up with boat packages the boating public want, at prices people can afford.

Case in point - just check out this new 5.2 Walkaround. Here is a soft riding, incredibly dry 5.2 m fishing boat that is unsinkable, features a self draining cockpit, works off a single axle trailer, runs like a dream with 4-stroke outboards from 75-90 hp, has full walk around capability and is just as happy working wide off the Continental Shelf as it is pulling lures around a mountain lake.

There's enough cabin space to provide shelter for Mum and the kids, the cockpit is superbly designed and ideal for bottom fishing, trolling or casting, and of course there is the forward walk around section to do with what you will.

Wrap all this up in a very well built, strong, plate aluminium package with Cliff Joshua's unique flared forefoot sections, and it's not hard to see why many knowledgeable blokes reckon this is just about as good as it gets.

And the best part? The r/r price for the basic boat (very basic, please note) starts at just \$14,000 ex-Brisbane. A BMT package, ready to fish with a Suzuki 85 hp 2-stroke and Redco Sportsman trailer, gets you on the water for \$27,000.

Design: The 5.2 m Walkaround was designed by this South African born designer and boat builder who did his 'time' to earn his boat builder's "ticket" in Durban (South Africa). After many years of wooden boat building there, he moved his young family to Adelaide, South Australia in the 1970's, where he set up shop as a wooden boat builder.

In later years, he switched across to aluminium construction, applying many of the techniques he learned through his trade as a wooden boat builder, not least of which is his now famous 'strip

surrounding Cliff in Brisbane.

“Peter,” he's told me several times, “There's enough work here for all of us - I don't have time to get involved in the petty politics.” And I guess when you're 73 years old and working six days a week, 14 hours a day, this comment one suspects, has more than a little truth in it.

Nevertheless, the 5.2 m Walkaround does have a flared forefoot section and this is one of the reasons why the boat is so dry. This set-up works particularly well in short, hard bay chop and

although the skipper has to know how to trim his boat properly to take maximum advantage of it, if you can drive the boat properly, there is a terrific benefit for the skipper and his crew.

For readers just joining us, we have virtually the same hull configuration under F&B's JBS designed and built *Genesis* Project boat, which, although considerably larger and heavier, nevertheless has the same forefoot principle. And it really does work, giving *Genesis* a extremely



planked' flared forefoot.

This technique is as old as the hills in wooden boats, but most aluminium boat builders (especially those involved in mass production) shy away from the method because it requires a very, very highly skilled boilermaker to do it properly, and a standard of quality control that is often not possible with pressed aluminium boats.

Several members of Cliff's family (in and out of the boat building business) are more than a little peeved about the Quintrex publicity concerning the Quintrex Millennium hull's flared bow and forefoot. These are features which Cliff has been building for the last 30 or 40 years! But for the diminutive little boat builder from South Africa, it's all a bit of a nonsense, and he's not too fussed about the competition - whether it's from Quintrex or the contingent of plate aluminium boat builders

soft, dry ride in choppy water with waves up to a metre high.

Of course, when the water gets big enough to start moving the whole boat around, then the forefoot is less advantageous and Cliff's boats revert back to fairly traditional levels of plate aluminium boat performance. From about three quarters amidships aft to the transom, the design of Cliff's boat is very similar to the hull shapes produced by the likes of Sportfish, AMM, Profish, Alufarm, etc.

Cliff actually has several different options in the hull shape depending on where the boat is going to be used. It's quite unusual, but it can be ordered with an 8 degree, 12 degree or 15 degree hull, and the cost doesn't vary from one to the other; it's simply a case of altering the master jig when the hull is tacked together. In this case, we have the 12 degree hull, offering the middle