



Facing Page: Veteran builder Cliff Joshua talks to F&B's Ruth Cunningham & JBS builder, David Klausen as the original "shell" is handed over to commence the 18 month long project.

# F&B's 5.8 m JBS WalkAround

It's very hard to "test" a boat that has become very much a part of the F&B family over the last 18 months. We purchased it originally to continue our work with walkarounds, (compared to cuddies) and to utilise the powerful 130hp Honda 4-stroke in the field. It's been a camera boat, test bed and fishing platform rolled up in one, and came away with a score card that reads fully 9 out of 10.

The 5.8 m JBS Walkaround was purchased back in early 1999. It was actually one of the last boats the late Reg Kadell assembled for Cliff Joshua, although David Klausen was primarily responsible for completing the metal work on the hull.

F&B took delivery of the boat as an unpainted shell, and publisher Ruth Cunningham and the writer spent several weekends fitting it out.

In this we were aided by Phil & Rhonda Baker's Craft Covers, the Gold Coast team who do such a magnificent job with special biminis, clears, cockpit

carpet, cushions and wall linings.

**The Mission** The principal role for the JBS 5.8 m was to undertake a series of jobs we call our "fast travel" projects, wherein the F&B team travels to somewhere within 1000km or so for a period of just three or four days, targeting the Friday-Monday time slot.

To do this professionally, we needed a boat that could be trailered very quickly, and a trailer that could hack the pace. In this context, Ian Mackay once again fulfilled the mission statement with a brilliant KR Series

6000 trailer that sat on the freeway at 110k/ph, hour after hour. Snugged down behind either the Toyota Landcruiser or the Holden Suburban's wind shadow, the 2.05 tonne JBS 5.8 was a very slippery shape, and it was easy to put 1,000-1,250 km away in daylight hours.

We also wanted to use the Honda 130 in a day to day, working environment. It's incredibly hard to "test" engines when they're bolted on the back of somebody else's boat at a dealer or media day. Usually, despite everybody's best efforts, it's hard to get



## HOW MUCH DID IT COST ?

As fitted, with the 130 hp Honda and a Mackay KR 6000 trailer, it would cost about \$55,000 to replace "Anyway", but more basic models could be put on the water from \$45,000 (+).