



Kevlacad 3700

Outboard Flybridge Sportsfisherman

Introducing what is unquestionably going to be the start of a new era in 4-stroke outboard application to larger, faster, more comfortable - and surprisingly economical - cats. Story & Pics by Damon Olsen

Being asked by Kevlacad and our editor if I would like to do a boat test on a 9.8m Kevlacad presented a very interesting opportunity. Having driven Kevlacats of various lengths for around 7 years now, I am reasonably familiar with the handling characteristics of the shaft driven and stern drive variety. The opportunity to test run an outboard powered vessel, fitted with the new 250hp Suzuki V-6 engines was too good to resist.

My initial impression of this flybridge vessel was that the engines

looked to be the perfect match; both size, and look wise. A lot of outboards have a tendency to be dwarfed by the size of this big cat's transom, but the XL shaft Suzies looked a good match.

This Kevlacad had just been delivered to a Hervey Bay family who intend to use the vessel for a variety of fishing/exploration/holiday purposes between Hervey Bay and Yeppoon. The vessel has been set up with this dual application in mind and at first glance seemed to be well suited to this application.

Application

With this vessel being intended for a wide variety of uses, it is interesting to look at how it succeeds in each of these areas. Its application to a cruising role is very difficult to question, but the fishing role depends on what type of fishing we're talking about.

The vessel's real fishing application is that of being a general sportfishing platform. It is perfectly set up for a bit of reef fishing; with a very large livewell, and under floor kill tanks, while the outriggers allow the owners