



LazerCraft's 620 Plate/GRP 'Avanti'

New Zealand's LazerCraft Boats has ventured across the Tasman with a range of nicely finished aluminium cabin boats. Jeff Webster sampled one of the first local release models, the stylish 620 Avanti.

During the past decade or so a number of established New Zealand boat brands have made the crossing to Australia and attempted to gain a foot hold in our local market.

Some have been successful. Others haven't. Among those that have stayed and met with some success are StabiCraft and McLay Boats. Aiming to follow in the footsteps of these two brands is LazerCraft boats.

LazerCraft was founded in New Zealand back 1984. The company started by manufacturing boats for the commercial fishing industry, but soon ventured into the recreational market. In New Zealand, the brand is well regarded, and the boats are popular

with sport fishermen.

A key feature of LazerCraft boats is their aluminium and fibreglass construction. Unusually, all LazerCraft boats have a plate alloy hull mated to a full fibreglass deck and cabin. The combination provides buyers with the rugged durability of alloy with the sleek, pleasing lines of fibreglass. This is most evident in one of LazerCraft's latest models, the racy looking 620 Avanti.

The Models

The Avanti is the first of two models imported by the Australian branch of LazerCraft Boats. Based on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, LazerCraft Boats Australia plans to

establish the brand here with fully imported models, then to start manufacturing the boats locally some time next year.

While just two boats in the LazerCraft range have made it across the Tasman at this stage, plans are afoot to bring additional models. The full range numbers about ten models built around four different hull lengths.

Specifically, LazerCraft boats will be available in 5.4, 5.8, 6.2, and 7.4 m lengths. Each model size is available in the Sports GT configuration for general, all purpose boaters, while anglers are catered for with the Sports Fish series.

The Avanti model we procured for testing stands by itself in the LazerCraft



Above: The cabin is small but luxuriously upholstered with cloth covered berths and carpet lining.



Below: There's not a lot of space under the windscreens for bracket mounted electronics, but there is plenty of flat panel space above the steering wheel for flush fitting units.



Above: Close up of the centre transom ice box/live bait tank. Note the battery box underneath.

