



Quintrex 455 ESCAPE / Yamaha F40B Combo

Story & Pics By F&B's Peter Webster & Ruth Cunningham

Introduction: The Quintrex 455 Escape sits in the middle of the mind-boggling Quintrex range of boats that extends from a little 3.1 m car topper to the big 6.0 m "Millennium series" Quintrex Coastal cruiser.

When we spotted this boat at the Yamaha press day last month, we rubbed our hands in anticipation because it is all but impossible to get a 455 Escape with the conventional hull, let alone the Escape 455 with the optional Millennium hull.

These boats are back-ordered for months, so we'd just about given up on seeing one this side of Christmas. Nevertheless, there it was, an Escape 455 carefully parked on the beach next to the Nara Sea World Resort. Not only did it have the Millennium hull, but the brand new Yamaha F40, 4-stroke

outboard. We'd scored the trifecta!

Design: The 455 Escape is a Year 2000 version of the classic Australian forward steer runabout, with some very important differences. To begin with, there is the aforementioned Millennium hull, the concave forefoot unique to Quintrex. To have achieved this curvy shape with pressed aluminium sheet construction is a genuine 'first' for Quintrex.

Although "strip planked" or "hand" pressed (mostly using a hydraulic car jack!) techniques have been around the waterfront for years, and used to build "hollow" or concave sections along the forefoot of small craft. Quintrex is clearly one of the first to develop the technology to apply this technique to mass produced boats.

Quintrex is convinced the hollow forefoot (designated the "Millennium" series) generates a much softer and significantly drier ride over their own conventional hull bottoms. Interestingly, and especially relevant for the die-hards, Quintrex still make just about their entire range available with their "conventional" hull bottom, too.

It is an interesting concept, isn't it? Now you have the choice of the conventional pressed aluminium hull bottom, or the new technology, concave, Millennium series.

The Quintrex 455 Escape in the Millennium guise, costs an **additional \$900**. Is it worth paying the extra dough-ray-me?

(We'll come back to that a little later on....)



F&B's unique fuel metering system is incredibly simple but 100% accurate. It takes about 2 hours to run a full set of figures such as we have here with the Yamaha F40B.

