

Papua New Guinea To Australia

- in a 6.5m Joshua Walkaround!



Whilst the voyage is not unique by any means, it is nevertheless very unusual to make the trip from PNG across to Australia and down to Cooktown via Thursday Island - especially in a trailerboat! For Aussie David Howard, bringing his 6.5m Joshua Walkaround back home by sea seemed like the only way to travel . . . Malcom Joshua kicks off the story, and David brings it home with his logbook.

After months of research David Howard decided on a 6.5m Joshua Boats Walkaround model with a hard top. There were three main reasons for this decision: Joshua Boats' reputation for an exceptionally dry and stable ride, the large cabin (comfortable enough for sleeping) and a big, strong hardtop to carry his radar, solar panel and life raft.

Despite David living and working in Papua New Guinea (with the RAAF) at the time of ordering his boat, he found that dealing with Joshua Boats (in Brisbane) was quite practical thanks to emails and digital photography.

Some of the options that David requested included a toilet, front and side clears, electric anchor winch, outriggers, and an extension canopy. Electronics included GME's VHF radio, Raymarine sounder / chart plotter, auto pilot, GME CD / radio / DVD, all set in the cabin with integrated stereo and LCD Screen.

Two fans in the cabin created a lovely tropical breeze while watching movies on summer nights.

David's choice of motor is the ever reliable 150hp 4 stroke Suzuki as a



Boatowner, fisho (and F&B subscriber) 38yr old David Howard.

main motor, and a 15hp 4 stroke Suzuki as an auxiliary.

David and his family had many months of enjoyable boating from their base in Port Moresby, PNG, before he was then transferred by his work to Canberra. He always had in his mind an adventure trip in his boat from PNG to Australia. With some encouragement from his partner Nance (herself a very keen boatowner) early on the morning of Wed 5th December 2007, David left Port Moresby, Australia bound!

On the 15th of December 2007, Joshua Boats received an email from

David, and it read:

"I did it! Three mates and I have just arrived in Cooktown, after motoring *Odyssey* down from Port Moresby. We went via Baimuru (Pie River, Gulf of Papua), Daru, Thursday Island, and Lockhart River. Nine hundred nautical miles, in nine days."

"We had to battle South-Easterlies all the way, apart from one day where we covered 200 nautical miles, in excellent conditions."

"Only damage suffered was two life raft mounts broken (life raft braced with strap for the remainder of the trip), starboard outrigger mount screws sheared away near the Flinders Island Group on the last day (outriggers stayed attached, and were stowed for the rest of the trip), and the autopilot linear rudder sensor failed on the last day due to a pinched wire."

"Apart from those glitches, the whole package performed without a hitch, which was especially comforting for the twelve hours (with a 1.5 – 2.0m sharp swell on the beam) we were battling across the Gulf of Papua."
-Malcolm Joshua, Joshua Boats.

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Above: Breakfast at Baimuru Wharf, reveals wealth of detail about the 6.5m Joshua. Note roof load - there's a fair bit of weight and windage up there for a relatively small craft. Below: Dawn over Baimuru.

