



Chantelle uses her hands carefully to frame the boats anchored off Indjinup Beach, WA.

WA1-The Kimberley Trial Augusta to Mandurah

by Clint Earnshaw

On the 1st of February 2008, we left on a trip from Augusta (on the South Western tip of Western Australia) to Mandurah (on the West Coast, south of Perth). We were doing this trip as a trial run for our Kimberley trip, which took place in 2008, and was published in 3 great instalments in F&B October, November, and December 2008 issues.

(These are all available from the Sea Library as a free download – Ed)

We wanted to load the boats up with the same crew and weights as what we would have in the Kimberley. The 2 boats that took part in this trip were “Phoenix” owned by Ben Williams and crewed by Mike Hoek, his son Jed, Ben’s son Sanjay and family friend Brittany. The other boat was our “Ocean Roads” crewed

by Darryl Helms, his daughter Chantelle and son Jed, and my boys Cayson and Cody.

Phoenix is a 6.7m centerline length, custom built Phil Curren design. It is an aluminium monohull with a 240hp Yanmar Diesel. Ocean Roads is a custom design 7.5m centerline length with 2 x 140hp Suzuki 4 stroke outboards. Phoenix started this trip with 900 litres of



Ocean Roads being launched at Augusta boat ramp, ahead of being run around to Mandurah. Below: Three happy young blokes after a high speed run up in the bow - Cayson, Jed and Cody.

diesel and 100 litres of water, and Ocean Roads had 750 litres of fuel and 130 litres of water.

To compensate for the lack of the full food provisions etc that we would have on the Kimberley trip, we each had full sets of scuba gear and 4 dive tanks, weight belts etc. In hindsight it wasn’t quite the same weight, but we hoped it would give us a good comparison on weights for us to be able to get a good indication of fuel usage.

Friday – 1st February 2008

We left Augusta at approx 8.30am on Friday morning and our vehicles and trailers were taken back to Bunbury by Frank Major and Ben’s parents Frank and Lyn Williams. Our wives would then take them from there up to Mandurah on Saturday afternoon to pick us up.

It was blowing around 20 knots from the south east – which blows straight into the ramp at Augusta. It was quite rough tied up at the jetty and the boats were getting bashed



around a fair bit. It is a very small area to manoeuvre especially when you’ve never launched there before.

The channel out is poorly marked and when there are whitecaps everywhere it is hard to know where the breaking reef is. We motored slowly out for the first mile or so straight into the wind. Ben had a bolt

on the steering come loose, so had to drift and fix that with waves breaking over the bow in the steep, choppy seas.

We increased speed and went on the shore side of the islands out from Augusta to get some shelter from the wind and to be able to turn and run before the seas so that we could