

Robbie's Up-Scale Tinnie

We all know there are more ways to fit-out a tinnie than David Warner can hit runs in 20/20, but Sydney fisho Robbie Newcombe might have set a new course record in detail and onboard efficiency. In this beautiful report, he explains how and why he did it . . .

Like a lot of people, my love of tinnies started out early on in my life. I still have fond memories of dad taking my mum, my brother and I out in the old 12' Brooker that sat atop of a box trailer he had modified to double as a boat trailer.

When I think back on it, to us little kids, a tinny seemed huge, but I dare say it felt the opposite for mum who has the swimming ability of a house brick.

It is thanks to dad that I am so at home modifying and tinkering on boats. This whole caper started back when I was in Year 7, and dad helped me do up my first boat - an 8' tender I bought off a kid at school.

It was probably better suited to becoming a big flower bed than being restored, but dad got it up and ship shape again and then he would drop me down the lake each morning most weekends after it was done, help me launch, then watch me chugging off into the distance with the little two horse power outboard he got me for it. Then he'd pick me up in the arvo, mostly with a less than impressive catch, but plenty of good memories and a growing level of experience in small boats.

Then in Year 12 for my woodwork project, I converted an old Flying Ant sail boat to a dinghy with a cast deck and storage galore. We built a trailer to suit (read: as I spent the

