

F&B's Small Craft Section

last rod holder to suit their particular style of fishing.

Further, and far more impressive advancements have also been made in the type of motors used to power these smaller custom built craft. The advent of high tech 2-strokes and 4-strokes have given smaller custom built boats the type of range which many years ago was not possible.



Fishing The 'Fortescue'

Damon Olsen's long term review of his superbly fitted Horizon 4.3m vee nose punt powered by Honda's silky smooth 50hp 4-stroke outboard and a Minn Kota electric outboard.

Over the last few years there has been a lot of advancements in the gear which anglers, and boaters in general, use to enjoy our myriad Australian waterways. Boats have become somewhat more user friendly and in a lot of cases, far more suited to individual purposes than the 'general' fishing boats of old.

The process of custom building a boat can now be seen from the ranks of the 3.5 metre tinnie up to the traditional 50ft gamefishing battlewagons. However it is probably the users at the lower end of the market which have benefited most from the advancements in the custom building process. The angler looking to purchase a 4-5 metre tinnie, for example, now has the ability to tailor the boat down to the

Damon fishing the Horizon off Lady Musgrove Island - a long way out for a little 4.3 m tinnie !

The smooth and pollution free operation of these motors has also made boating in smaller craft a joy for many people rather than a chore.

This month we're going to review one of F&B's best little project boats from the past few years. The Horizon 4.3m/Honda 50hp combination aptly named 'Fortescue' by the author, has been to many places over the past few years and has proven to be absolutely perfect for what it was designed to do.

Design Brief The design brief, by the way, was to build the perfect platform from which to cast lures and flies in a tropical estuary situation. The boat also needed to fish three anglers with ease, be extremely stable and most importantly, be able to traverse very shallow water. The shallow water ability of the boat was something that was very important owing to many of the places the author knew it would be fishing. The fact that the boat floats in about 3-4 inches of water has many times

