

Right: Loche and Nicole Ahtong share an abiding passion for offshore gamefishing, and worked long and hard upgrading their rig from the original Cruisecraft to the Powercat



Below Right: Talk about before and after - it is hard to believe the transformation of the cruiser in the pic below right, to the fightin' machine here on this page. It took a great deal of meticulous planning, hardwork and experience to get it this good.

Special 3-Part Series By F&B's Fishing Editor, Aaron Concord

This is a story that will resonate with any couple or family that has ideas about upgrading their vessel.

In this case, the bloke is a bonafide offshore fishing junkie with aspirations of chasing larger fish than ever before, whilst keeping his wife happy with an offshore fishing boat that will suit her boating needs, too.

We're focusing here on the classic inter-family discussions usually headed "Why do we need a bigger

boat?" "How will it affect us financially?" and "Will it be something everyone will use?"

Usage and money. Money and usage. In an economic climate where the price of petrol is pushing the family's fuel bills skywards, mortgage interest rates have gone up 11 times in three years, a new boat, particularly a LARGE trailer boat, better be more than a 'one-trick pony' or it will get axed from the family's "would like to have" list.

It's no use buying any boat beyond your means.

Even if it is, pro-rata, within comfortable budget limits – regardless of size, shape and condition - it is still important to carefully analyse how often it will be used, what can be done with it – and in the case of a secondhand rig like this one, to accurately identify renovation costs – as well as the on-going costs of using and maintaining it.

(Continued over page)

Refitting The 'Cheetah'

