

Cuddy Cabs & Summer Daze!

*Around 4.75 m
In Length*



A Special F&B CONSUMER REPORT By Editor, Peter Webster

4.75 Cuddy Cabs

They've been around since Noah launched the first cuddy at the time of the Great Flood, but the humble cuddy remains one of the most popular configurations you can have for family boating and fishing - and that's what it's all about. Achieving the perfect solution for mixed family fishing and boating.

One of the most enduring types of small craft, the cuddy cabin is a concept that has been in regular production since the beginning of recreational boat building back in the 1950's.

Through the 1960's, brands such as Bell Boy, Pongrass, deHavilland and later, Brooker, became household names. Each of them, at various times, included the so-called "cuddy" cabin model in their range.

I believe the definition of the cuddy cabin model (as distinct from the commonly described "half-cabin" model) is mainly to do with the provision of berths inside the cabin area.

In a cuddy cabin boat, it's very rare to find full length, adult-size berths until the boat gets up to at least 5.5m LOA. Although there are the odd exceptions, generally speaking, a cuddy cabin boat in the 4.75-5.5m range rarely, if ever, has full length berths, and thus the description "cuddy cabin" is far more appropriate than the fuller, roomier, half cabin description.

Why is the cuddy cabin variation so popular?

Clearly, the runabout version of this same boat will have much more cockpit space, whilst the centre console has even more. The cabin is not big enough to sleep in, and in most

cases, barely big enough to sit in it – so why does it remain one of the most popular recreational boating configurations in Australia?

I think the answer to this can be found in a number of areas. They include:

- The cuddy has a more robust level of seaworthiness because the "front" is more 'filled-in' and thus better able to shed any water coming over the bow.
- Privacy for families to change clothes or deal with toilet issues.
- More protected and more easily accessed storage for a thousand and one items ranging from picnic baskets to fishing gear.
- Commonly, the cabin structure is used as a base to mount the steering wheel and subsequently a canopy with standing headroom.

For many people, the latter point is very important. It's hard to get standing headroom under the soft top or bimini in runabouts under 5.0m LOA. However, even a 4.75m cuddy can have full standing headroom under a canopy – and that's a major consideration when it comes to moving around the boat.

Indeed, the issues concerning weather protection (rain, wind and sun) go a long way towards explaining the

F&B Pricing Policy

In producing this report, we went through some anguish trying to figure out how we could best handle the boat pricing problem. Because there are so many different components that make up a completed boat's BMT (boat, motor, trailer) price, and combinations of those components, we finally decided to exclude ANY costing info. It is far too risky, as it is all too easy to unwittingly mislead readers about the prices of so many utterly different combinations.

popularity of the cuddy.

Runabouts are pretty useless for a family if it starts to rain. Even if everybody squeezes up under the canopy, somebody is going to get wet and/or fairly miserable.

A cuddy cabin is terrific with young kids because they can all go up and sit in the cabin if it gets very nasty outside, and there's no doubt keeping the kids dry and happy has a large impact on their mindset during their time onboard the boat.

Happy kids will stay onboard with Mum and Dad all day, every day, if they remain warm, comfortable, feel

Terrific example of the 'classic' or traditional GRP Cuddy - this is the Caribbean Offshore, a very useful 4.88m (16') family boat

