



“... With her usual discretion in such delicate political matters, RC demonstrates commendable objectivity as she maintains the impartial position preferred by all independent fact-gatherers researching popular consumer products for F&B magazine...”
(Yeah, right - Onya RC!)

Fisherman & Boatowner FIELD TEST

Yamaha's 15hp 2-Stroke Compared To Their 15hp 4-Stroke

The universal popularity of the 15hp outboard on the back of countless tinnies right across Australia, let alone small yachts, runabouts, inflatables etc, ensures the 15hp outboard remains one of the most vital in the Australian recreational boating world. Recently one of the biggest manufacturers, Yamaha, upgraded its classic 15hp 2-stroke with a bigger brother, a 15hp 4-stroke. Well, the 'debates' began overnight, Is the 4-stroke as good as the 2-stroke? Is it worth the extra money? Is there a future for the 2-stroke? Last month, we tried to resolve these issues once and for all . . . Peter Webster reports.

This report examines one of “those” questions; which is best – a 2-stroke or a 4-stroke 15hp outboard motor?

This is the perennial debate that has been increasing in intensity in recent years, as the clamour for ‘Green’ engines persists, and the pressure on the 2-stroke manufacturers to desist from manufacturing altogether gathers momentum around the western world.

Yamaha Motor is in the interesting position of producing both – it has a foot in both camps, although virtually all new development in Yamaha today is concentrated on the development of 4-stroke engines.

Whether this is largely due to the fact that they already have the 2-stroke engines and didn't have a complete range of 4-strokes is semantics; the fact is, that just about all new Yamaha engines are 4-stroke, and according to the factory, that's the way it's going to



be in the future.

That said, Yamaha's people and dealers also continue to push the line passionately, that “Two strokes will have a VERY positive future in Australia for many years to come”.

They point out there's not even impending legislation at this point in time (October 08) concerning any mandatory implementation of 4-strokes, let alone cessation of 2-stroke activities.

So with Yamaha's help, we decided the time had come to sort this issue out once and for all – and we arranged to put a 15hp Yamaha 2-stroke up against a Yamaha 15hp 4-stroke, on the pragmatic basis that at least the manufacturer couldn't get upset at the result!

It sounds almost childish to bring it up, but these are issues very near and dear to the outboard industry; outboard sales are worth many millions of dollars each year to Australian industry. They take these media ‘comparos’ very

seriously, as none of them wants to come second

The most diplomatic path was to obtain the two opposing engines from the one camp, and thanks to the Yamaha team's assistance, we've been