

# Gotta Lurve Li'l Boats!

**Special Report by Peter Webster & Ruth Cunningham on one of their favourite subjects - Fitting Out Tinnies! In this report, they are joined by FIVE F&B readers keen to prove experience, innovation and determination leads to better tinnies !**

There is probably no other area of boating which allows so much development of a base product into a highly personalised, custom set-up fishing rig than you'll find in the world of Australian tinnies.

F&B has been a passionate supporter of this movement for many years, and the recent purchase of a new 3.55m tinny set in train a whole new program of small boat activity.

To make things really interesting, we invited readers to submit their thoughts on how they'd go about fitting out such a tinny themselves – and as you'll see on the following pages, this launched a tsunami of ideas and thinking.

We have always loved little boats. Tinnies, to be precise, and have always recognised that tinnies are far and away the most popular form of boating activity in Australia by the proverbial nautical mile.

The ubiquitous tinny is now made in two or three distinctly different shapes, with the classic pointy bow dinghy style tinny still the most popular, but with the later variance of vee-bow



One of the main differences in the tinnies we developed for northern fishing concerned the northern imperative of a decent, fully plumbed live bait tank, worked in conjunction with the hand cast net (as RC is using above) that's not legal in southern states, but mandatory in the north. Also note we had to keep these tinnies as light as possible for roof-topping, so they lacked a lot of stuff others could build in if the tinny had its own trailer.

punts and the like, quickly moving in to overtake the classic shape.

There are lots of reasons for this of course, not least of which is the fact that the

vee-bow punt can be developed to provide a substantial boost in forward stability, and that can be very important with fishos working lures and fly

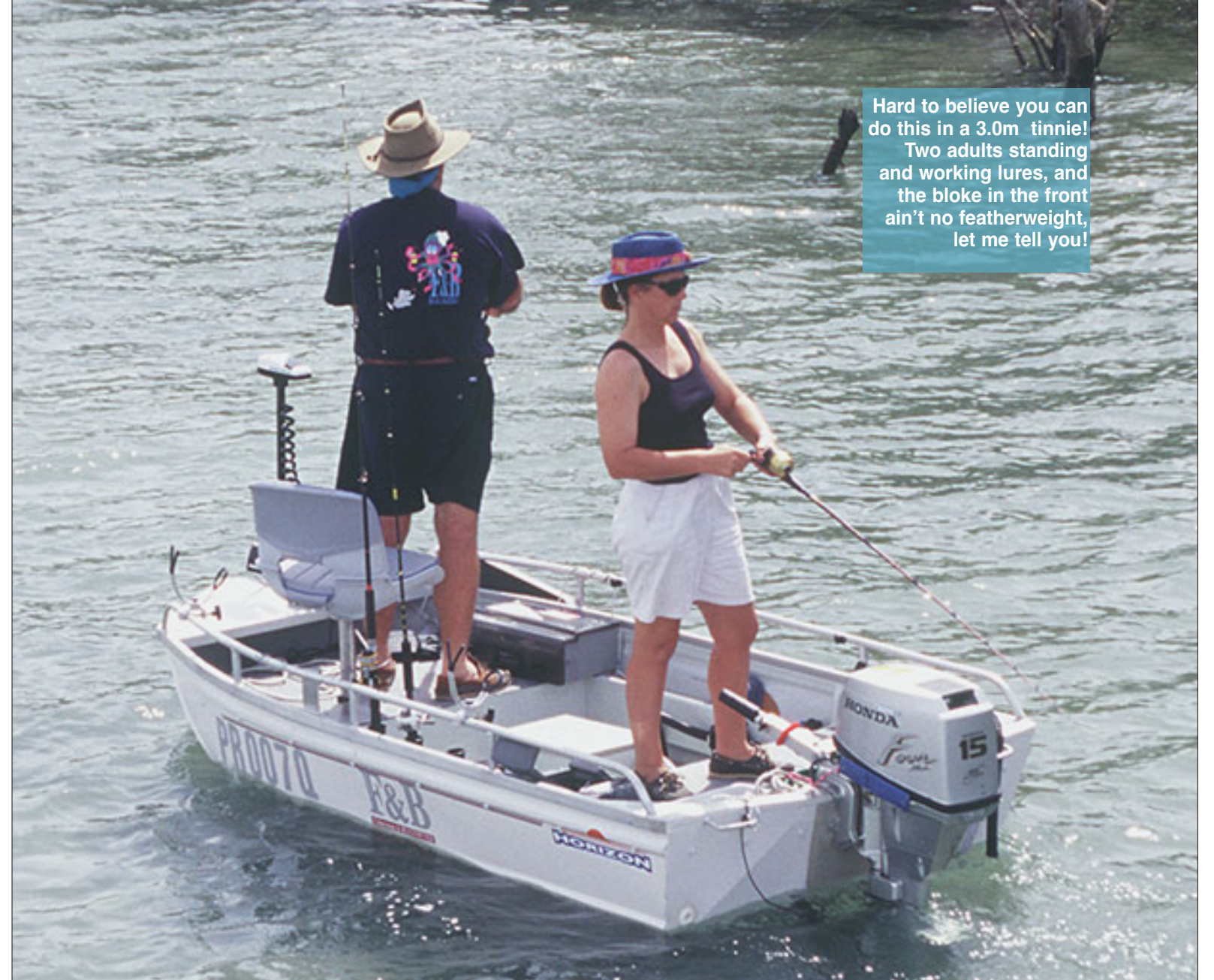
fishing.

But like all forms of boating, vee-bow punts and their kindred types (and there would be at least half a dozen variations of the same theme) do have a couple of downsides, not least of which is their loss in seaworthiness compared to the traditional shape.

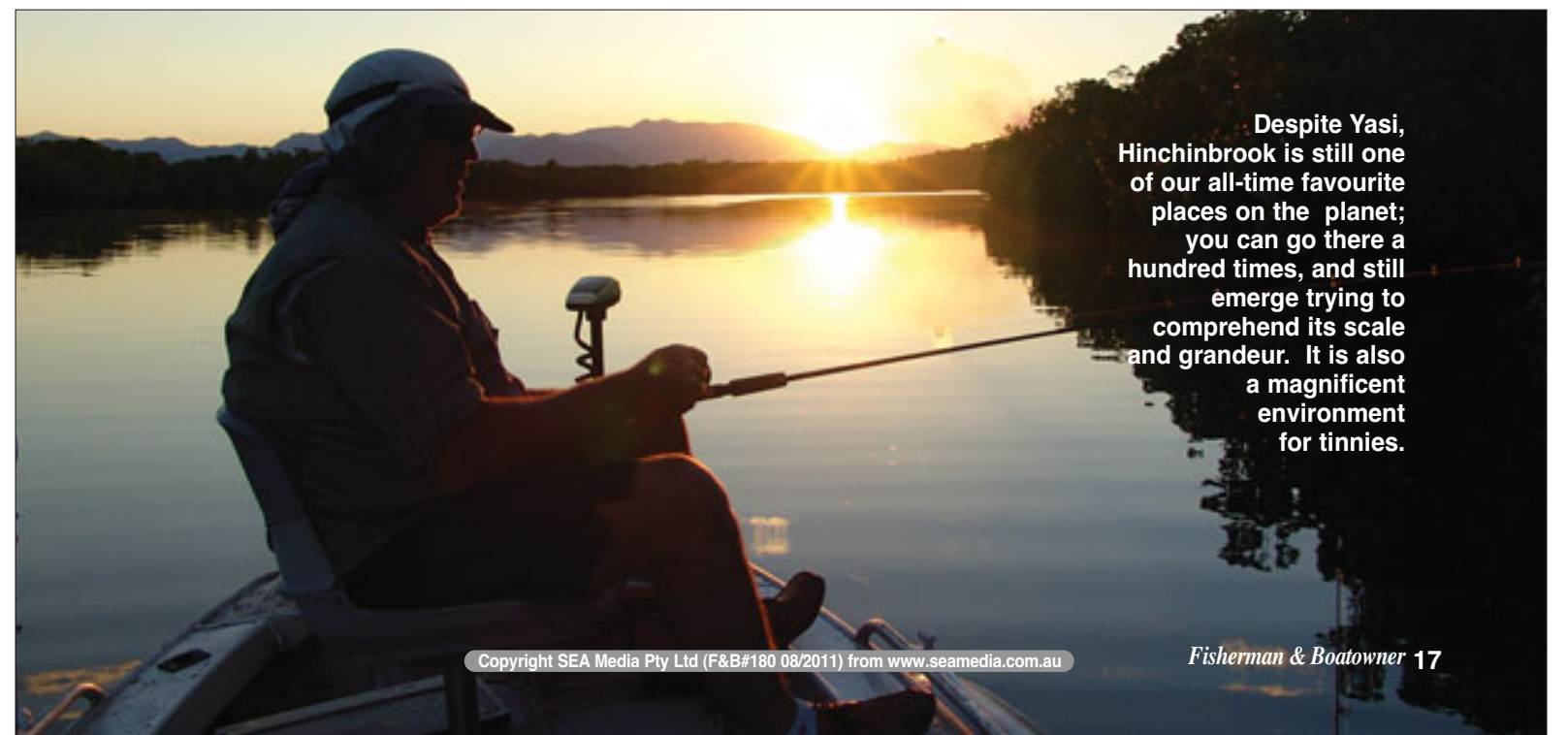
However, the purpose of this month's report is not to do a comparo of the advantages and disadvantages of the different shapes (we're planning to do that in a major report shortly) but this month, we want to look at how you can take the plainest, most ordinary tinny and turn it into a strike weapon that will raise more fish just because it's been set-up properly than the plain Jane that is (then) at a marked disadvantage.

Over the last 10-15 years, the F&B team has built half a dozen tinnies, and several of them have been astonishingly good boats, offering exceptional performance combined with all the accoutrements needed for highly successful, high-action sportfishing.

We have repeatedly shown that you do not



Hard to believe you can do this in a 3.0m tinny! Two adults standing and working lures, and the bloke in the front ain't no featherweight, let me tell you!



Despite Yasi, Hinchinbrook is still one of our all-time favourite places on the planet; you can go there a hundred times, and still emerge trying to comprehend its scale and grandeur. It is also a magnificent environment for tinnies.