



The Amazing Cylinder Craft

These are the quad bikes of the boating world. Unusual, even strange by conventional standards, they have a number of overwhelming advantages that make them a unique breed of boats. As well, they have a number of overwhelming disadvantages! In this special report, editor Peter Webster shares his experience with cylinder craft over quite a few years and countless hours on smooth - and often very rough - water. Make no mistake, like the quad bike on the farm or out in the bush – these craft can serve a very useful purpose in many types of fishing adventures.

The Cylinder boat concept has been around since Adam was a boy – almost literally. The idea of adding buoyant chambers to the outside edges of boats has been used all the way back to Egyptian times – and most readers would be aware that the peoples of the South Pacific developed their canoes and sailing craft over the years with all sorts of outriggers and buoyancy arms.

Anybody who has ever stood up in a small boat will work out in about 2 or 3 seconds flat, that with more

buoyancy along each side, the boat will be more stable.

So first off, we need to acknowledge that Cylinder boats are really only a modern derivation of an age old theme.

However, the modern Cylinder craft that is now produced by many boat builders both in Australia and NZ, certainly came of age when the techniques of welding thin sheets of aluminium were established.

In this case, it was the Kiwis who pioneered and subsequently popularised the concept. The original

“Ocean Cylinders” were arguably the first commercially successful version of true Cylinder boats.

Subsequently, many companies have toyed with the idea, as it’s something that just about any competent aluminium fabricator or welder, boilermaker or architect can create.

However, there’s a long gap between thinking about something over a beer coaster or BBQ discussion, and making one commercially viable, and to that extent, this month we’re going to look at those manufacturers who have taken