

SAVAGE RELAUNCHES

SAVAGE Australia's oldest aluminium boat brand, is seeking to build on its reputation with a range of 22 boats, some entirely new, manufactured in its Queensland factory.

According to national accounts manager Cameron Wood, Savage is the only boat builder to incorporate moulded fibreglass tops into their aluminium boat range.

Western Angler magazine recently joined boating media from all around the country at the Savage test day on the Gold Coast. Early conditions were benign by WA standards, with a light 8-12 knot northerly barely roughing the enclosed waters inside the seaway. However, as the morning wore on, a continuous stream of 12m-plus cruisers and screaming jet skis along the main channel made for a more legitimate test.

The boats ranged from the 435 Jabiru Pro open dinghy through to the 545 Blue Water cuddy cabin, and also included the rather sleek, all fibreglass 195 Bowrider complete with 3.0-litre Mercruiser stern drive.



The little Jabiru 435 will be popular with crabbers, and bream/barra chasers.

A standout feature on all the aluminium boats was the very wide gunwales. The extra width provides ample room for positioning rod holders, but combined with a very smooth rolled edge, had the added benefit of providing a comfortable seat and a far better surface to press thighs or knees against when fighting fish.

Below decks, all the tested boats were fitted with laminated sheets of closed cell flotation, which are guaranteed to not only keep the boat afloat in the event of a swamping, but also to not react adversely with the hull or fittings. Some models have additional flotation behind side panels to help achieve right-

way-up flotation, but I'm pleased to say I'm unable to comment on its effectiveness.

The runabout and cuddy cabin models featured fibreglass topsides, and the rounded lines and smooth corners were not only appealing to the eye, but also less dangerous for passengers when lurching about in rough water. None of the test boats came with clears, but they can be ordered as an option, which I'd



Savage's new line of aluminium boat trailers promises a low-maintenance alternative.



Savage has put aluminium hulls and fibreglass topsides back in the mix.

recommend for WA waters.

To complement the boats off-water, Savage has also begun manufacturing its own line of A-frame trailers. The trailers are a hybrid aluminium/galvanised steel design, seeking to minimise maintenance for owners. Two large aluminium I-beams make up the longitudinal structure, with pre-bent heavy aluminium RHS tubing bolted across as laterals.

The hot-dip galvanised components include the draw bar and winch post, and the wheel support carriage. According to Savage's service and warranty manager, Graham Kennedy, having the major components bolted together rather than welded gives the unit extreme strength, with some built in flexibility. He also assured me that the dissimilar metals posed no corrosion threat.

In recent test-track trialling designed to simulate a 100,000km trial, the aluminium trailers fared better than Savage's equivalent steel trailer. The aluminium trailers will be standard on all boats of 5m and over.

Check out the Savage range at Aquasports Marine in Midvale, Chivers Marine in Bibra Lake, Kingswood Marine in Broome and Mandurah Boat and Jet Skis.

GARY WOTHERSPOON

WEST Australian propeller manufacturer VEEM Engineering has won the Most Innovative Marine Exported Product at the Australia Marine Industry awards.

Conducted by the Australia International Marine Export Group, the judges said they were extremely impressed with the high calibre and broad range of businesses that entered the program.

VEEM, based in Canning Vale, produces high tech propellers for some of the world's top luxury motor yacht builders, including Riviera in Australia.

Using robotic technology, once the propeller has been made to the engine and boat manufacturer's specifications it avoids time consuming and expensive sea trials to achieve optimum performance. If damaged an exact replacement prop can be produced using the data on record.