

Boat Test

The Savage Jabiru Pro 435 won't give you the ride of a traditional v-bottom dinghy the same length, but it's better than it used to, and not a worry in the estuaries, lagoons and rivers.



SAVAGE 435 JABIRU PRO

By Alex Julius

The Savage 435 Jabiru Pro comes from an old but good family. Revamped under new owners, it's an ideal entry-level, specialised barra, bass and bream boat.

It must be getting close to 25 years ago now that a new boat range burst onto the inland freshwater fishing scene, gaining instant approval from northern barra fishos, in particular. That was the Savage Jabiru range

hulls that were specifically targeted at the northern barra/estuary market: the Quintrex 4.3m Barra Punt and the Cairns Custom Craft 4.0m. They were both extremely popular, but the Jabirus, being far more basic, were affordable by many more anglers. They were definitely a major part of that early barra-trailer-boat folklore.

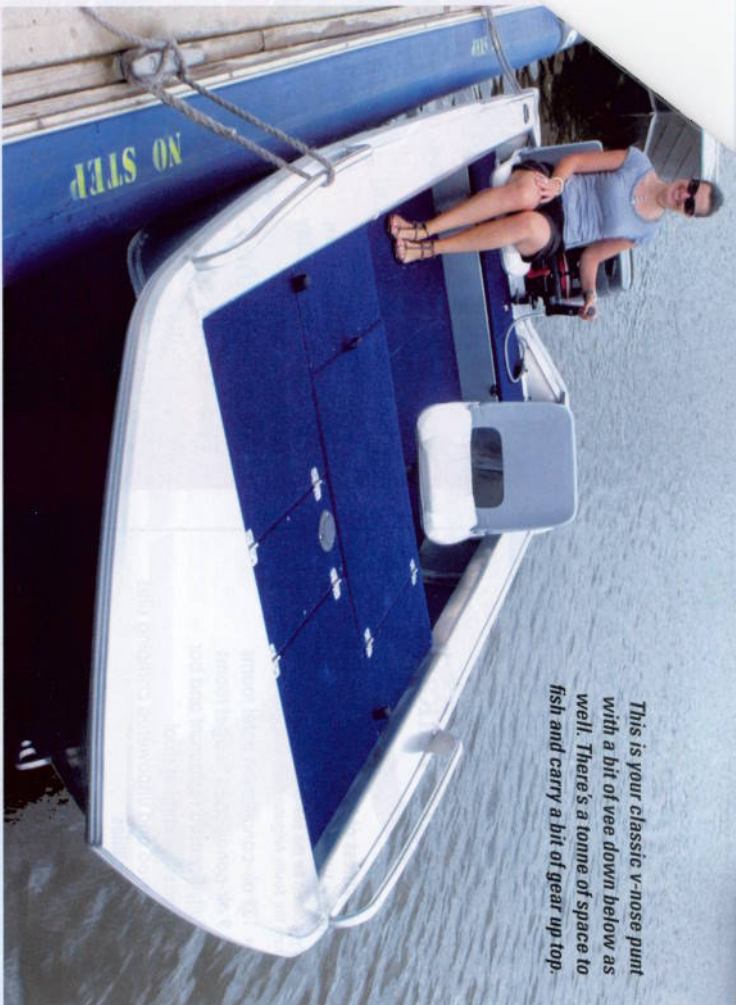
Jump to present day and Australia's largest manufacturer of aluminium boats, the giant Telwater company, has acquired Savage Boats. The upshot has been the release of

some revamped models, including a 435 Savage Pro L/S. I had the opportunity to test one of these boats on the Gold Coast recently.

RIDE

The test boat was fitted with an electric-start Mercury 40hp four-stroke tiller-steer outboard. This is the maximum horsepower rating for the 435 Jabiru, and you really don't want any more for a boat that weighs only 222kg unloaded.





This is your classic v-nose punt with a bit of vee down below as well. There's a tonne of space to fish and carry a bit of gear up top.

That's a fantastic attribute for a barra/bass/bream boat with anglers often all casting lures from the one side.

The Jabiru is a v-nosed punt with a bit of bottom angle, and I was surprised at the comfort of the ride over a slightly-ruffled water surface. I'm sure there's more v-bottom angle than the Jabirus I remember, although no doubt that developed over the years and is not just a recent innovation. Regardless, the ride was better than I expected, even when I spun the boat around a bit to stir up the water so I could drive over waves a little steeper than what the inlet where we tested the boat offered.

With more vee comes more rock 'n roll, but this new-version Jabiru 435 is wider than its predecessor, and there was no sideways movement to speak of.

STABILITY

Stability is what Jabirus are all

WATERMOT

and rope, but there's enough space to jam heaps more in there) including a dry storage box, and room for three anglers side-by-side on the big platform. You can't help but be impressed by it.

Stepping to the rear, there is a stern raised platform beneath which are the battery and fuel tank tray. One portable 20L tank is all that can be carried underfloor at the rear, although you could easily store another tank up front. I'd be thinking seriously about forking out for the optional underfloor 40L fuel tank.

The Jabiru Pro comes with just two fold-down pedestal seats, but there are four seat positions. Ordering one of these boats with three or even four seats could come in handy later on.

The floor is marine plywood, fully carpeted and with underfloor flotation.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

There is a host of extras on offer. I've mentioned a couple but others I would consider seriously are:

- an alloy cleat at the bow (essential)
- battery tray inside the casting platform so you could power an electric outboard (if you only had the one battery fitted, and it was up front, then you could carry two 20L portable tanks at the rear)
- a side pocket (always so handy)
- auto bilge pump fitted/wired up
- RAM-111 sounder bracket
- Ignition box (3 switch)

NB. The test boat was unpainted but a fully-painted Savage 435 Jabiru Pro will be standard.



Damien Duncan puts the Savage 435 Jabiru Pro's stability to the test and comes up with a huge tick.



The standard fuel arrangement is the first thing you should consider optioning up.

