

WIN AN HDT & YAMAHA JETSKI

trailer BOAT

ISSUE 266 \$6.95 (inc GST)
Feb 16 - Mar 15, 2011

**JETSKI
BUYERS'
GUIDE**



WHITTLEY SNAPS BACK!

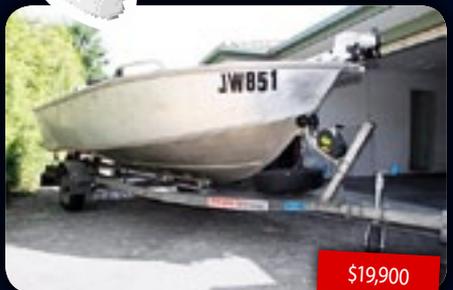
With a Clearwater revival

WHAT ELSE IS HOT

- Evolution 552
- Fi-Glass 640
- TABS 5100
- Rae Line 186C
- Force 21S

boatsales.com.au

ACCESSORY CRAZY!
Best bolt-ons for your boat



\$19,900

TABS TERRITORY 435. Perfect all-round tournament boat. Fully fitted out, ready to go. Twin-sounders. Minn Kota. Vic 0488 733 313.
Sell your boat from \$25 until sold! Visit DIYads.com.au



\$130,000

BASS STRAIT OFFSHORE 24 Full custom fit out for liveaboard diving and fishing. Twin-225hp Yamaha four-strokes. Vic 0407 053 484.
Sell your boat from \$25 until sold! Visit DIYads.com.au



\$30,000 NEG

2005 TRAILCRAFT SPORTSCAB 535 Yamaha 90hp two-stroke. Trailcraft I-Beam trailer. Garmin sounder / GPS. Qld 0409 646 240.
Sell your boat from \$25 until sold! Visit DIYads.com.au



FINANCE FROM

9.98%

* COMPARISON RATE

1300 003 003
www.financeezi.com.au
FINANCE EZI MARINE

*Comparison rate is calculated on a \$100,000 secured loan, 5 years. The comparison rate applies only to the example given. Different amounts and terms will result in different comparison rates. Costs such as redraw fees or early repayment fees, and cost savings such as fee waivers, are not included in the comparison rate but may influence the cost of the loan. Rate correct at 15th December 2010.



Print Post Approved PP255003/02421



9 313006 004974

02



EASTART

The 21S sterndrive is a totally new boat from Force.
We sent John Ford up the river for a quick spin in
this finger lickin' fast machine.



**WEATHER
CONDITIONS**
Wind: 5kts
Sea: Flat river conditions

Every imaginable bit of new technology on the road these days is designed to stop you speeding. Radar, mobile cameras, point-to-point detectors, fixed cameras and even planes are pointed at you, emptying your wallet and making the world a safer place. It's pretty obvious that the government doesn't want you to go fast, yet there's no denying the need for speed. In most states the fastest you can go on the road is 110kmh. On the water there are speed zones but many of our waterways are unrestricted.

This was brought home very obviously in a run along the Hawkesbury River in the new Force 21S, where the willows slipped by us at 70kts (130kmh) and everyone onboard had a grin wider than Mitch Johnson's bowling.

TrailerBoat has long been a fan of Force Boats, and the company's credentials are evident in its long list of race wins around the world (recent success in the iconic Bridge To Bridge event saw the competition race right past the Force factory at Lower Portland in Sydney's west).

Anyway, Rod Bickerton is the force behind Force and he and wife Kelly turn out more than 25 race and social skiboats

every year to a discerning worldwide audience. Recent developments in the sport have seen competitors moving from V-drive to sterndrive for safety reasons; and with the new 21S, there are further new developments.

- The 21S is a variation of the well respected 21 model. It's a dedicated sterndrive with totally new moulds for hull and topsides.
- The new boat has more volume to take the extra weight of the sterndrive/motor combo.
- There's a deeper rear end and better freeboard as well, for improved bow lift and spray deflection for offshore work.
- Smoother lines and a bigger windscreen are found above deck.
- New vents are moulded in for increased motor ventilation.
- Inside are new mouldings for a full fibreglass floor, which is set higher in the hull, providing more floor width than previous models.
- Sidepockets have been raised, giving a feeling of more space in the cockpit.
- The bulkhead has been set further forward and the section below the foredeck is now fully enclosed.

All this means the 21S is visually appealing and delivers the Force guarantee of being built by craftsmen with passion.

LET'S ROCK!

The test boat was finished in white gelcoat with silver detail. In a world of loud graphics and bright colours it might sound a bit drab, and when editor Bazz heard it was "another bloody white boat" he despaired. But he needn't have. All fears were dissolved when we saw the boat, sitting near the river bank on a drop-dead gorgeous trailer. It looked sensational, with just the right blend of silver trim to offset the white.

The 21 is complemented by quality pewter Rex Marine fittings and colour-coded seats. The driver gets a sliding seat and the observer's seat swivels. The new dash layout is a minimalist flat panel with engine information covered by the central Mercury digital readout.

Steering is through an IMCO hydraulic system with a silver Italian wheel. It's very classy, and like the rest of this magnificent boat, it's understated but effective. The bow section is fully carpeted and is accessed through a



Above right: Skiracers around the world have come to trust Rod Bickerton's ability to put together a fast and reliable craft.

Below right: The Bravo One X sterndrive and the swim platforms. Race and social skiboats are swinging towards sterndrives and away from more complicated V-drive setups.

Below: The 21S is a showboat with plenty of go about it as well. There's a custom hotrod mentality here and plenty to love about the big V8. The loud exhaust is not overbearing in the cockpit but you can certainly hear it thumping away as you head down the river.



"The willows slipped by us at 70kts (130kmh) and everyone onboard had a grin wider than Mitch Johnson's bowling."

TRAILERBOAT RATES THE FORCE 21S	
1 Fun factor	★★★★★
2 Innovation	★★★★★
3 Design and layout	★★★★★
4 Quality of finish	★★★★★
5 Handling and ride	★★★★★
6 Stability at rest	★★★★★
7 Ergonomics	★★★★★
8 Standard equipment	★★★★★
9 Value for money	★★★★★
10 X-Factor	★★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★



The glass moulded floor makes for a sleek and easily cleaned interior. Seats are hip-hugging comfortable.

passenger side-hatch. The higher floor height seems to make access a bit more difficult than on previous models but kids will still love the cubby-hole space when they've had enough sun.

The stern area also got a complete makeover. There's a full-width sunpad with Force graphics and wide swim platforms. Under the sunpad sits the big-block MerCruiser, sending 425hp to the prop and a rev head's musical masterpiece through the straight-through exhaust.

PURE EXCITEMENT

The upper reaches of the Hawkesbury are a skiboat heaven and several ski parks have sprung up over the years. On summer weekends there's the continuous roar of thumping V8s and the howl of well-tuned two-strokes, but on the test day we had the river to ourselves.

Underway on a wide ripple-free river, this boat is pure enjoyment and excitement. The well-sorted hull goes and handles superbly as it turns with confidence and sits solidly on the water, giving a feeling of confidence to driver and passengers.

The driver's seat is firm and well contoured to hold you in place in the sharpest high-speed turns. The driving position is adjustable for most people and the Digital Throttle and Shift Mercury (DTS) controls are effortless and smooth. The foot throttle is set at just the right pressure to allow smooth increases in speed, although — trust me — you'll want to plant your foot and leave it there.

The 21S gets moving briskly and on the plane at 16.4kts (30.6kmh) burning

PERFORMANCE

16.4kts (30.4kmh) @ 1600rpm (20lt/h)
 24.2kts (44.7kmh) @ 2000rpm (25lt/h)
 32.9kts (60.8kmh) @ 2500rpm (35lt/h)
 41.6kts (76.9kmh) @ 3000rpm (50lt/h)
 49.4kts (91.5kmh) @ 3500rpm (65lt/h)
 56.5kts (104.5kmh) @ 4000rpm (82lt/h)
 58.9kts (109.7kmh) @ 4500rpm (120lt/h)
 67.8kts (125.6kmh) @ 4800rpm (135lt/h)

20lt/h. A slow cruise at 2500rpm is 32.9kts (60.8kmh) burning 35lt/h — at this rate a full tank would take you nearly 500km! We topped out at 4800rpm doing 68.8kts (125.4kmh) but Rod said he's achieved 70kts (130kmh) on his own. Right through its range, steering is fingertip light and balanced.

At its top speed of 130kmh the driver has to finesse the trim and steering to get the last few clicks of speed out of it, but at anything up to 60.7kts (112.4kmh) it just surges forward when you plant your foot. It'll happily cruise at anything you dial in. There's no denying the fact that things happen fast at these speeds and even an experienced driver and observer need to be vigilant.

THE WRAP

It's hard not to be impressed by this new Force — families looking for an up-market social skiboat or skirace-boat will find it appealing. It will fit into 70mph-class racing or as a social boat with rough-water ability. At over \$120,000 it's not for everyone but, skipping along the river at nearly 43kts (80kmh) with the fuel usage reading 50lt/h, I was thinking, "That's money well spent". It's pure, unadulterated fun. 

FORCES 21S



HOW MUCH?

Price as tested:\$123,250
 Options fitted: Force custom-trailer, steering upgrade, DTS package, sunpad electric ram, seat upgrade and more
 Priced from:\$103,548

GENERAL

Type: Monohull skiboat
 Material: Fibreglass
 Length: 6.5m
 Beam: 2.1m
 Deadrise: 21°
 Weight (hull): 800kg
 Approx. towing weight: 1900kg

CAPACITIES

Fuel: 300lt
 People: 6

ENGINE

Make/model: MerCruiser 496 HO with Bravo One X
 Type: V8 petrol direct injection
 Rated HP: 425hp
 Displacement: 8.1lt
 Weight: 544kg

SUPPLIED AND MANUFACTURED BY

Force Boats
 608 River Rd,
 Lower Portland, NSW, 2756
 Tel: (02) 4575 4038
 Web: www.forceboats.com

TO OWN THIS BOAT

Price as tested\$123,250
 Weekly Repayment TAP\$365.40
 Deposit\$30,813.00
 Final Repayment (%=\$)\$30,813.00
 Term (months) 60

** Customer rate is 9.58% comparison rate is 9.99% for all of the above payments. See rear of magazine for conditions.*



CALL NOW 1300 003 003
www.financeezi.com.au