

# Whittley 660

Unquestionably the trailer boat star of the 2002 Boat Show Circuit, the new Whittley 660 has swept boring old design standards away in a single dynamic move – and introduced a new benchmark for styling, elegance and extremely practical family boating.

It's a great shame that the Whittley 660 wasn't completed in time for the judging of The Australian Boat Of The Year Awards. If it had been there (and it only missed out by a couple of weeks) it would have almost certainly swept everything else away. As it stands now, it's the

benchmark for the 2003 Awards, but given the fall of the dates for nominations, entries and judging, by the time we get to next year's Awards, you can bet London to a brick half a dozen other manufacturers will have introduced similar types of "vest pocket" cruisers.

Why? Such is the intensity of competition for your boating dollar in this part of the market, any manufacturer who doesn't lift to this new cruiser standard, will just get left behind.

Thanks to the co-operation of one of Brisbane's Northside Marine's long-term customers,

we were able to secure the very first production Whittley 660 for an afternoon on an unbelievably "glassy" Moreton Bay.

So whilst we weren't able to "test" the boat in severe conditions, we were able to take a long hard look at a boat that will almost certainly prove to be a turning point in Australian recreational boat design standards.

As you can see in the various photographs accompanying this report, this is a striking, innovative design, that somehow manages to blend traditional flowing and curvy lines that



Introducing a very special new trailer boat . . . the Whittley 660. It is destined to re-write the sales books, and change the way we think about going trailer boating. Following the huge success of their Cruisemaster 700 Series, the Whittley family realised they had a gap in their range between the 7.0 m Cruisemaster and the 5.8 m Monterey. Families who needed a Prado, Jackaroo, Challenger friendly, 2.5 tonne weekend cruiser in the \$75-\$90 K range, in the true blue Whittley tradition. And the rest, now, is history.

## Cruise, Be Free

Words & Photography by Peter Webster