



Trailcraft 'Cross Sport' 500 Bow Rider

F&B's Darren Shiel heads to West Australia for a series of Trailcraft adventures - including this test report of the new Trailcraft 500 "Cross Sport" Bow Rider. Big, beamy, stable, strong and safe, he's predicting a very successful future for this new sandgroper - and this is only one of four different Cross Sport models in a range from 4.75 - 5.30 metres.

Having attended the Trailcraft media day in Mandurah, WA recently, it became very clear that the Trailcraft Company has set their sights firmly on developing their bowrider range of boats. To do this, a range of so-called "Cross Sport" models has been developed to ensure buyers see Trailcraft in a new and quite different perspective.

The 500 model tested this month, is joined by similar 480, 530 and 580 model bow riders, ensuring Trailcraft

can effectively 'bracket' this most popular section of the market. After several hours aboard the 500, it is not hard to see these bowriders achieving the success Trailcraft has planned.

Design

A standard bowrider design, the 500 Cross Sport offers seating forward in the bow area complemented by storage areas, twin helm passenger seats, and a rear lounge to the transom.

Gone is the boxy look of the old deck and windscreen area, and in its place comes the overdue curved lines and rounded windscreen.

The boat lends itself very well to the family fisherman on a budget, one who values a well built boat with excellent safety features, which still fits the pocket of a lower budget buyer.

Engineering/Construction

After a recent tour of Trailcraft's Mandurah manufacturing facility, I

The 500 Cross Sport is certainly big. isn't it ? There's masses of room for the family, and because it's so big, beamy and has such high freeboard, it engenders a feeling of real confidence and safety. Easily adapted for serious fishing as well as diving, cruising, wakeboarding, tubing and just plain lazing around, this rig is destined to enjoy great success in the market.

