

# Surtees 6.7 Gamefisher

Much as it annoys the hell out of Aussie boat builders to admit it, the fact remains that those blokes from 'the land of the long white cloud' can do more than play football; they also know how to build damn good boats - and it doesn't seem to matter whether they are in 'GRP, composite timber/resin or like this - beautifully built in plate ally.

Di Ross and John Batty report from South Aussie on a special fisherman all the way from New Zealand . . . .



**W**e usually mosey down to the annual Hindmarsh Island On Water Expo to see what is new in the way of boats and new marine gear on the market.

The event this year was again well supported by the industry with an excellent representation of boats of all sizes and constructions although the on water demonstrations and opportunity for a test drive were severely hampered by the lack of water in the lower

Murray River lakes.

The basin here is 4Km from the Murray mouth with a system of man made barrages between the mainland and several islands separating Lake Alexandrina and the Coorong. Barrage water levels are currently at .32m below sea level, 0.7m lower than in 2003.

It is a sad indictment on what has been allowed to happen to this once magnificent water system

and frankly all a bit depressing. Many grand old river boats have been moved upstream in an attempt to keep their hulls in some water - those grand old ladies don't like having dry wooden hulls. Sand banks outweigh the channels in size.

Whilst the polliies ponder, the water wanes and the Murray is becoming mud. Then Cairns gets a dumping of 400mm of rain only to have it run out to sea! (Cont)

