

# STREAKER 6.35 Cuddy Hardtop

Report by Greg Edwards, Pics by Greg & Streaker



Born and bred on Port Phillip Bay, trained in Bermagui over many years, and more recently, sent into deep exposure against Portland's SBTs, this is the latest edition of one of Victoria's favourite sons. Streakers have an terrific rep down South, and this new hardtop model is going to increase it exponentially. As our resident F&B Victorian, Greg Edwards, discovered, it is very much a boat for today's fishing demands on comfort, performance . . . . and fishability.

**L**eon and Paul Savage's Streaker Boats is a Victorian built boat brand that has proven remarkably robust over a very long period.

In an industry renowned for its peaks and troughs, Streaker Boats has simply kept on doing what it has always done from its inception in 1973. Although not particularly well known outside their home state, Streaker Boats continue to manufacture and sell a range of fibreglass boats that they know will suit the needs of their customers, a successful strategy that has allowed this small company to flourish while many others have failed.

By both manufacturing and selling their boats, in conjunction with a long term relationship with Yamaha, they are in the enviable position of retaining tight control of all elements of their business. More importantly for the consumer, they control the quality of the overall package that ends up in the hands of the buyer. With this business model it is no surprise that the company enjoys strong customer loyalty and repeat business.

In this context, the boat reviewed is the largest in the Streaker range and has been developed predominantly in response to Streaker's customers looking to upgrade to a bigger boat, a pattern that also reflects previous developments in the Streaker range of boats that commences with their 458 series, then progresses through the 502, the 545, the 585 and now

**“ . . . you could pick up your new boat en route to Bermagui, and be confidently trolling for billfish off the Shelf the next day . . . ”**

the 635 series.

Although the Commander 635 is an entirely new hull design at 6.35m long (6.8m if you add the bow sprit and transom platforms) and with a beam of 2.5m, the hull shares visual clues with other models in the Streaker range. The 20 degree deep vee hull with its flared bow and planing strakes is a well proven design that has stood the test of time and one that quite literally has taken thousands of people safely to sea. What makes this craft stand out from the crowd, however, is the inclusion of a fibreglass hardtop that adds a whole new dimension of comfort, protection and shelter to the equation.

While this 635 Commander hull is also available in more conventional cuddy cab style with bimini and clears, I must confess to being a fan of the hard top configuration. This layout is becoming increasingly common, but more likely to be seen on a plate alloy boat than a production 'glass boat and I think Streaker is definitely on a winner with this development.

The boat provided for review was in fact a customer's boat and had accumulated around 150 hours of engine hours; it was good to see how well the boat presented after that much use. To all intents and purposes the boat has stood up remarkably well and there was nothing obviously worn or deteriorated – a big plus for anyone looking at long term ownership.

In terms of styling, the hard top has been grafted onto the regular cuddy cab design of other Commander versions, and to my eyes is not quite in tune with other elements of the topsides, but given that style is very much a personal thing, others will have a different view. In terms of its function, however, it is absolutely spot on.

The glass windscreen with its wiper provides very good visibility and the fixed side screens are sized to also give a good view. There is an overhead clear hatch that will provide ventilation on the hot days and it still lets in light on the cooler days. The roof and sides are lined and the whole area remains dry and

