



“The 150hp Yamaha is an ideal match. There’s great responsive holeshot, comfortable mid-range and it opens up nicely at the top end” - KEVIN SMITH

The Trade-a-Boat crew was first introduced to the sensational Stabicraft 2050 Supercab in the land of the long white cloud during last year’s Kiwi Kings feature where we blasted around the beautiful Bay Of Islands, chasing monster kingfish, kahawai (Australian salmon), snapper and a vast array of other delights.

We all returned the same verdict: “This boat just has to go to Australia’s Greatest Boats competition as it is one of the most versatile sportsfishing weapons on today’s market.”

The freshly redesigned boat features the best of Stabicraft’s never ending research and development regime. The Kiwis were never known to sit on their hands or rest on their laurels and it has been amazing to watch the constant evolution over a long period of time.

It’s also interesting to note how much acceptance Stabicraft has enjoyed in the Australasian markets and the broad spectrum of clientele.

Stabicraft is famous for a number

of factors. Firstly, there is the huge amount of inherent safety with that ring of large compartmentalised positive flotation tanks, formed from plate aluminium, making them virtually indestructible and unsinkable.

Then there is the stability, aided by the flotation, but also thanks to the unique hull designs with aggressive chines and beamy dimensions.

They were once the ugly ducklings but are now more like a beautiful swan for all who venture to sea. They make offshore-capable fishing boats, but also appeal to the family, particularly from safety and layout aspects.

There is also a terrific acceptance in many commercial applications such as safety and rescue services, law enforcement, fisheries and other working ventures.

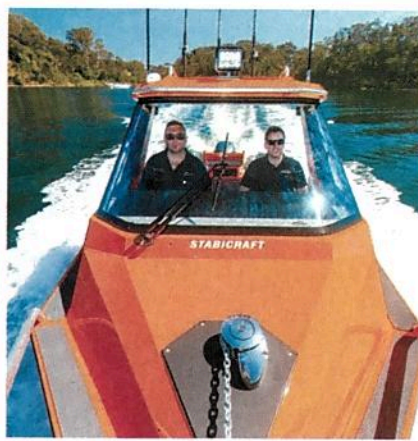
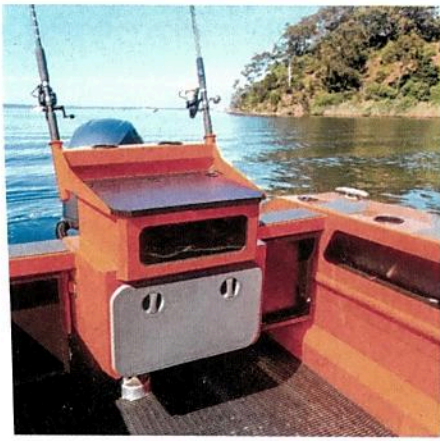
The all-new 2050 features the company’s Arrow Pontoons which see the hull modified, particularly around the shoulders and entry, to reduce hull slap. The Game Chaser Transom allows you to back up on a marauding

pelagic at speed, at the same time creating greater buoyancy at the stern for larger outboards. And the elongated hull plates now run all the way to the back of the pod, in effect creating a longer running surface for bigger boat capability.

Jeff Strang said in his evaluation: “Another stroke of design brilliance is the transom baitstation, which puts the large and solid baitboard at a comfortable working height and the lack of a front lip allows for easier filleting of the day’s catch. Beneath the generous cutting surface, a 65lt livebait aquarium awaits sacrificial occupants.”

Under all that is a fully enclosed battery, electrical and plumbing compartment that is well off the floor and out of harm’s way. On either side are folding seats that double up as steps to the rear platforms and ladder.

It’s truly one of the ultimate rear deck layouts and can only be properly described as a fishing workstation. The big, deep deck and wide coamings, combined with checkerplate floor



Stabicraft 2050

82.4/100

“It’s a wicked orange colour scheme and great dash arrangement, with a clean deck and easy access to batteries and isolators” - JACK MURPHY



OPPOSITE With a clever layout and good water access, the stern of the 2050 is nothing less than a fishing workstation.

ABOVE LEFT The baitboard sits atop a livey tank for easy access, and flip-down seats double as steps to the stern platform.

ABOVE RIGHT The one-piece curved screen gives great vision for the skipper. **LEFT** The Arrow Pontoons make short work of an unruly chop.

and full-length sidepockets add to the workability of the 2050.

Enclosed hardtops are certainly the flavor of the month and the Supercab is a ripper! The huge one-piece windscreen allows unrestricted viewing of what lies ahead and gives ultimate protection from the elements whether cold, hot, windy or becalmed.

ERGONOMICS

Dash and helm facilities may seem a simple matter but they can be quite tricky to get right. Stabicraft shows that it not only builds the boats, it gets out and uses them, as is evident by having the correct dash angles for viewing instruments, along with the capacity to fit the large screen sonar and navigation units of our modern sportsfisher. Seating, steering and even throttle positions are all comfortable and where and as they should be.

The Stabicraft 2050 performed really well, up there at the top in the whole raft of scoring criteria for all of the judges. But the fact that it took out

the highest score rating in the telling X-Factor category means that it was the one boat in the range that made all of our judges go “Wow!”

The majestic 150hp Yamaha four-stroke blitzed the capable offshore contender out of the hole and up to thrilling top speeds evenly and confidently over the full rev range. It is smooth, quiet, fuel-efficient and ultimately dependable, giving huge offshore range to the seafaring Stabi.

The Kiwis are famous for their plate aluminium offerings, so you need to build a tough, dependable package to make it in their market, where bar crossings are an everyday reality. Stabicraft has clawed its way to the top in both Australia and New Zealand with a long, safe history – a new breed of trailerable offshore battleships like the 2050 Supercab will ensure that they stay there.

If you want one you’d best get your order in soon – wait too long, and you might be too old to enjoy it from the tail end of the order list! ■

Talko-Nicholas

Pakula

Murphy

Smith

Ford

1 Fishing suitability	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
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	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★