

Stacer 549 Sportster



What's bright red, 5.49m long and goes like a shell? Well, as you can see it's the new Stacer 549 bow rider the Telwater organisation has released across Australia as a prelude to its 2007 model year. Peter Webster, a veteran of many Stacer and Quintrex boat tests, went along to check out the new kid on the block . . .

The idea of putting a sterndrive in a pressed aluminium runabout or bowrider is not new, but when a company as big as Telwater creates a special model around a particular engine and sterndrive combination, then this must be seen as a marked shift in strategy.

In America, pleasure boats are dominated by sterndrives for the very simple reason that installing a sterndrive is much more cost effective for the boat builder and gives them the profit margin on the engine that the dealer otherwise gets by installing an outboard motor. That was the original theory, but of course in this day and age of pre-rigged boats, where most big factories are installing outboard motors anyway, the imperative to pursue the ultimate profit is possibly not as great as it once was. Nevertheless, it does enable the factory to build a more complete total package to their own standards, thus eliminating the possibility of dealer stuff-ups further down the track. *(Over)*