

ANOTHER MAN'S BOAT



Daryl Gillett's 5.2m JBS W/Around

One of the great pleasures of boating is to swap notes with mates at the ramp, or check out the 'opposition' - and study how everybody else has gone about putting THEIR rig together. In a similar vein, articles about other bloke's boats are always interesting to read; for ideas, comments, in-field experience and just the straight out benefit of having owned the rig in question. So when long time F&B reader Daryl Gillett offered to share his thoughts and experience with his JBS 5.2, we jumped at the chance . . . this then, is Daryl's report . . .



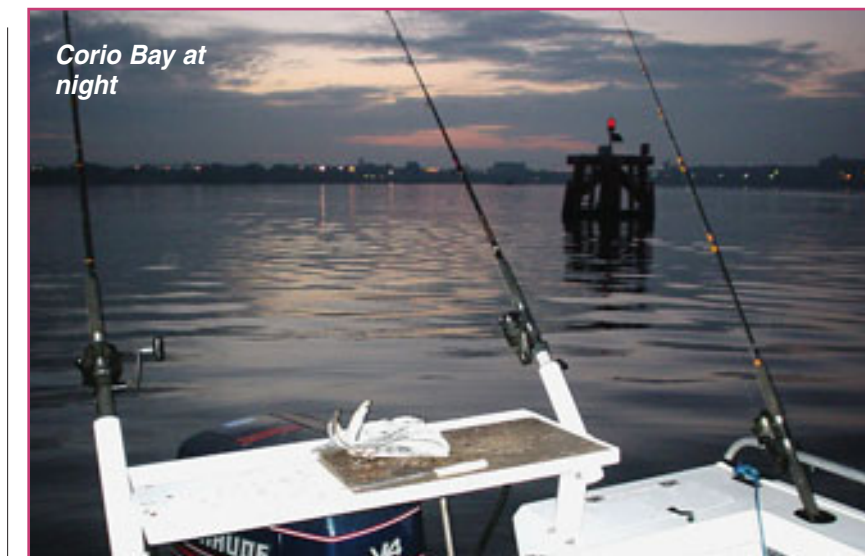
"I'm Looking Forward To A Little R&R . . ."

Hi to all the F&B team . . . I just thought I'd drop you a note to thank you for helping me with research on my new boat and give you a report on how my the project is going after over three years in service.

When we last spoke I had placed an order with Cliff & Lillian Joshua and Family (JBS Marine) for a 5.2m Centre Cab (this was way back in Oct 1999). The boat (project name R&R) has now completed three seasons both on Corio Bay where it is used an average of twice per week and the NSW south coast at Batemans Bay.

I have to say that this rig has exceeded all my expectations and given that the first time I ever laid eyes on a JBS boat in the flesh was when I arrived at the transport depot to unload it from Queensland, I have been very, very happy.

In short, the project was a huge success, and wherever I go people come up to me and ask me about the rig. Centre cabs are a bit rare down here (Geelong) but I have to say that for the style of fishing I do I think this rig is nearly perfect. I typically head out on the bay by myself at night targeting snapper &



Corio Bay at night

whiting. Because I am rarely at home in time to plan outings with friends, I usually just come home, evaluate the weather and tides and make a decision to go out fishing.

I needed a boat that I could happily load up with gear and mates and head out wide off Port Phillip Heads looking for sharks or whip up the eastern seaboard to NSW chasing some tuna or marlin. But most of the time I launch, retrieve and fish in Corio Bay at night where I can kick back, relax and pick up a few fish while taking in the beautiful night time vista of Geelong and surrounding areas.

For this task R&R is a pleasure to use. The centre cab is a delight to have, it offers plenty of permanent protection and you can just stack in the gear and not have to worry about tripping over things or flipping up a hatch into a stiff westerly gale.

The cabin is huge and the best thing about a walkaround is that you don't have to compromise between storage and access! There is so much room for storage and everything has a permanent home.

Provided the load is distributed well, this even helps with the trim, as these boats love to have the forefoot working hard into the waves.

Fold-Down Targa

What else do I like about R&R... The fold down targa top is brilliant, especially if you need to park under a carport or low roof garage. When it is up, it provides a place for shelter, navigation and cockpit lighting, rod holders (storage and working) and a place to mount the game poles.

The balance of the rig is pretty good and in most seas it is incredibly dry. The sealed buoyancy tanks give me an extra feel of safety although you can never underestimate the sea.

The washable deck, storage areas and the extra large 165L underfloor fuel tank are fantastic. The cockpit is a fisherman's dream and is a delight to use.

Before I decided on a JBS, my friends and I went to the Boat Show and researched over 20 new boats. We may have looked foolish, but we pretended to be fighting a large fish from a standing position. Just about every boat (including some big names) were uncomfortable to fish from. Most had nowhere to wedge your toes beneath for stability as the side pockets were too high, many had narrow side coamings which meant you had to lean outwards over the side of the boat and just about all of them had sides which were too low.

In this respect I give Cliff 10/10. I could stand all day fighting fish from this boat, everything is just where it belongs.

One Sided Affair!

If I was asking Cliff to build me another one today, I would ask him to either trim the cabin by 50-75mm either side or else offset the whole thing over to port by 100mm and make it a one sided walkaround. Either way there would still be heaps of room for two or three people to hide from bad weather behind the amply proportioned cabin.

The whole package went together