

Gliding through the chop

Challenger Boats have been gliding around the waters of the Bay and beyond as long as your favourite boating magazine.

Waterline and Challenger both launched in the mid nineties and are coming up to 15 years as icons of the local marine scene.

This year has marked a significant change for the Te Puke designed, built and marketed Challenger Boats, with all craft now being marketed from the factory, direct to the customer.

New director Tony Hawker says this not only gives the boat owner a better deal and service, but provides a whole new range of options – from hull colour right up to interior design choices.

It's a luxury that works well with direct marketing from the factory, along with a huge selection of customising potential.

It also signals a great emphasis on the family market, with the Challenger pitched as an all-rounder for skiing and fishing.

Tony says Challenger will be working hard to raise awareness of the craft's excellent qualities – something that enthusiasts already know – but he's keen to spread the good word.

Many exuberant owners are watching the Challenger evolving with interest and some considering trading up to their second craft.

Challengers are also about to get a fresh new livery, with the branding undergoing a re-vamp.

Combined with Challenger Boat's ability to supply suzuki engines, the moves are giving the Challenger brand new momentum and a good reason for boaties to take a closer look at this homegrown success story. *continued....*





Fresh new look and feel

The latest off the Te Puke production line is the 595 Sport, fitted up with a Suzuki 115 four stroke outboard.

Waterline took a spin around the harbour on a choppy afternoon and we soon settled in to enjoy the quiet, smooth ride for which the strakeless Challenger hull is legendary.

It's a concept that has proven highly successful for Challenger and a hallmark of the first designs. It's taken a long time for other fibreglass boat manufacturers to cotton on, but some are now following.

There's virtually zero noise, due to the complete absence of strakes or chines; the philosophy is that good hull shape provides its own lift. Gone is the chatter and clatter that emanates from beneath many of today's fibreglass boats.

The test boat has a new style bimini and in keeping with the revamped colour schemes and wider options, the beige top makes the cabin and cuddy much lighter and roomier feeling.

The Suzuki ran quiet and smooth and

pushed the 595 up to a top speed of 45 mph.

Handling was impeccable despite a pretty steep westerly chop rolling down the harbour.

Challengers have always been nicely fitted out and the new look décor offers a fresh look and feel.

Challenger boats will be launching their new 720 hardtop boat with 220hp diesel engine in May.

By Brian Rogers



Come in for a test glide.

The gliding effect of our unique smooth hull design needs to be experienced to be believed. We've challenged convention to develop a hull that delivers an un-equalled glide through our water conditions. There are 18 boats in the Challenger range across 4 sizes – the 550, 595, 650 and 720. Contact us today to arrange a free test of any of our models and experience the glide you get from our focus on crafting pleasure.

Phone 07 573 5956 • www.challengerboats.co.nz

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