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ON THE WATER

A perfect marine all-rounder

If you're after a serious fishing rig, or a family pleasure boat, the Revival 640 Fisherman has all the goods



BARRY WISEMAN

REVIVAL'S 640 FISHERMAN is as much of a family sports boat as it is an offshore performer heading to your favourite grounds.

The special features built in to the bottom of the hull will cope with whatever offshore conditions you throw at it, plus the roomy cabin is well set up for overnight stays. An open bulkhead removes that closed-in feeling and the bunks are a full 2m in length. The infill cushion converts the bulk into a large double, with storage underneath. The wide side pockets will hold plenty of goodies.

Immediately behind the helm and to the right as you enter the cabin, a cushion conceals the chemical toilet. Many vessels have the toilet located in the vee section between the bunks but on this vessel that area is left clear to get to the very big hatch in the cabin roof leading to the bow and anchor well.

The review vessel was fitted with a power winch up front to lower and raise the anchor, so the forward hatch would be used for securing a tether line or for ventilation. Whether used regularly or rarely, the forward hatch on the Revival range of craft suits the big guys. It's wide enough to get the broadest shoulders through and long enough so tall people can walk forward and step up and out the front. It's a solid fibreglass top and hinges to the left. There are no rubber seals to worry about perishing and leaking because the hatch top closes down into its own gutter which drains at the bottom

At 6.4m plus, the boat is ideal for both action and pleasure. Pictures: Barry Wiseman



Having a water-skiing background, builder Sam Catanese designed the Revival with great manoeuvrability. And the boat will cope with a range of off-shore conditions.

front. A wave over the front is going to roll off the sides with ease.

The anchor well is big enough to accommodate the Viper Pro Series 800 drum type winch from Bell Marine, providing a retrieval rate of 40m per minute. The fall rate is 50m per minute, so you can rapidly set the anchor right on location without too much drift. The Sarca sand and reef anchor mounted on the bow is excellent for both applications. I've had one for some years now and find it works well.

Local agent for Victoria's Revival boss Sam Catanese, Midway Marine at Rockingham, had a good showing at the recent Hillarys Boat Show, including the 2014 version of the 640 Fisherman.

Finding enough working space on any vessel is always a challenge, particularly in a family fishing boat that is easy to handle.

"There's not a huge change to last year's model but we wanted to make more space available for an ice box or portable fridge," Midway Marine joint principal Warwick Rann said.

"So we requested a change in the passenger seat configuration. Instead of having the fibreglass seat box and tackle box storage as we have on the skipper's seat, we have a stainless-steel mounting on the port side with room underneath to fit an ice box."

The review boat is fitted with a Waeco unit firmly strapped in place and there's room for a refrigerated unit if required.

"Ice or refrigeration is necessary if you're living on board over at Rottneest for a few days," Rann added.

"It can always double as a dickie seat behind the main passenger chair. We still have the full-length lounge at the rear which drops away when fishing or can be lifted out completely. The infill on the port side of the transom lifts out to create the walk-through door to the aft section.

"They're a versatile boat because they can easily convert from a serious fishing rig into a

VERDICT

Check out the Revival 640 Fisherman for yourself at the Club Marine Geraldton Boat, Caravan and Camping show from 12.30pm on Anzac Day, Friday April, 25 until 4pm on Sunday April 27.



There's plenty of space for a range of instrumentation.

family pleasure craft. The bunk cushions are made from 80mm-thick sponge to make sleeping comfortable. Without the second bulkhead on the passenger side you can get into the cabin hassle free, plus there's plenty of ventilation.

"It's the perfect all-rounder for Rotto or fishing."

Standard features on the review boat include bimini, clears, rod targa, storm sheet, anchor winch, dual batteries, ice box, 27MHz marine radio plus a Lowrance HDS7 combo GPS/sounder. The Mercury 150hp four-stroke motor topped 35 knots on the day with a broad planing strake instead of a sharp keel at the transom, giving it lift and increased manoeuvrability.

LOWDOWN

REVIVAL 640 FISHERMAN
Price: \$69,000 as tested. From \$65,000 (Mercury 150hp Optimax).
Length: 6.4m
Beam: 2.47m
Fuel: 200L
Deadrise: 21 degrees
Hull weight: 1040kg
Agent: Midway Marine, 43 Hurrell Way, Rockingham.
Phone: 9527 6963

