

SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2017

PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM



Stylish 590CR cruiser to appear at Perth International Boat Show

He's done it again: another boat show and another new boat to show off. Victorian veteran of the Aussie pleasure boat market, Sam Catanese, is the owner of the Revival brand of fibreglass recreational boats and hot out of the mould for WA boaters comes the 590CR cruiser. It's so hot it wasn't even on the company website when Warwick Rann, from Rockingham's Midway marine, invited me aboard.

Catanese, 75, is an old-school timber-boat shipwright and will not stop working despite pleas by his family to take it easy.

Even as you read this, and his latest 590CR is being readied to take its place at this week's Club Marine Perth International Boat Show, Mr Catanese is developing another model. In 2012, I wrote a review on the release of the Revival 640 DLX in time for the Oz boat show circuit. The next year, Mr Catanese introduced the 580 Sports. Every year, this talented man aims to introduce something new in the range for the new season.

Every summer a great deal of my boating hours involve heading out and back through the south channel, the stretch of water between the Cape Peron mainland and the southern end of Garden Island. We head to the Five Fathom Bank and nine times out of 10, the swell is rolling in through what is a narrow neck between the Indian Ocean and Cockburn Sound. Add a south-westerly breeze and a bit of chop and you can see the crew's knuckles turn white as they brace themselves for what's to come.

When I get the opportunity I like to take new creations through this channel and past the Jon Ledge marker, reef breaking metres away to the left and Garden Island's South Point and more reef to the right. It's a good testing ground.

No sooner had Mr Rann explained this was a new hull, with a sharper entry and a new upper deck, I was heading into the lumps at a good clip.

You're doing 28 knots, Mr Rann said as I glimpsed at the Mercury tachometer linked to the 135hp Four-Stroke on the transom. I was paying more attention to the nose of the vessel and how effortlessly it sliced through the oncoming walls of green water, the boat remaining completely level.

I took it to 30 knots and, as someone who can suffer from lower-back injury, this ride was joyous.

The cost involved in making a complete new wooden plug, fibreglass mould and the refined additions to this boat's interior in a difficult time in the industry, is a credit to this mariner. We topped 39 knots this day.

The deluxe upholstered shade brim to the massive dash is new, moulded flat to accommodate any range and size of instrumentation; dash wells for sunnies, car keys, phones and the like; upholstered side walls in the cabin and extra-big side pockets which now run the full length from the cabin bulkhead to the transom.

Access to the bow and its Viper electric anchor winch is via the huge hatch at the front so there's no need for a walk-around deck. In the cockpit the side pockets have taken on a new look, bigger than previous models making way for banks of fishing rod holders and upholstered bottom panels to protect your shins when leaning into the sides.

Complete with full-fibreglass stringers and frames under the deck for added strength, the reviewed Revival 590CR comes with camper covers, infill cushions to convert to bunks into a big bed, plus toilet. It's well set-up for Rotto sleepovers.

A portable table screws into the rear mounting, the below-deck hatch can store food and drinks, the split rear lounge bins can double as ice boxes and new extra-long marlin board either side of the motor make it easier for swimmers entering through the three-step transom door.

At the same time this family cruiser can quickly switch to a great offshore fishing platform by removing the rear covers and adding the deluxe bait board.

LOWDOWN

Boat: Revival 590 Cruiser

Price: from \$64,800 (\$71,000 as tested)

Length: 5.9m

Beam: 2.35m

Power: Mercury 135hp

Hull Weight: 830kg

Agent: Midway Marine, 43 Hurrell Way, Rockingham, 9527 6963

Article courtesy of The Weekend Western's On the Water Boating, written by **Barry Wiseman**.