

## Boating

By BOB CARTER

**D**EVELOPING a power boat for general all-round family use on Port Phillip Bay, is difficult.

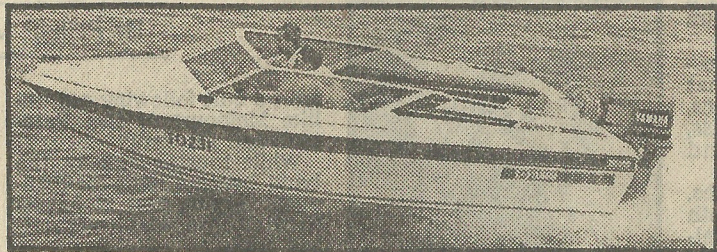
Providing a craft for a little fishing, some cruising about and family water skiing can become a pretty tall order when the customer rightly demands that the rig does more than an average job at each.

Accountant Bruce Abott had enjoyed power boating in his youth, and after being boatless for some time decided to take the plunge and become a boat owner once more.

After scouring dealer yards looking for the right style of boat for general family use he settled for a Whittley Cherokee.

I tested the Cherokee in sterndrive format a year ago. I was amazed to find that under outboard power the perform-

# Cherokee with sting in its tail



The Whittley Cherokee shows sparkling acceleration.

ance of the rig could be so different.

Whether stern-driven or with an outboard, the interior layout of the Cherokee is basically the same. It has a beautiful walk-through dash arrangement, with excellent storage up front and first rate access to the bow.

Twin plush covered back-to-back seats accommodate four adults with stern quarter seats catering for another two people.

Bruce Abott's new boat was

well appointed with safety gear. In addition to jackets, flares and so on, a 27 meg. radio had been mounted under the passenger coaming and a big fire extinguisher prominently located inside the cockpit.

Powered by a 175 Yamaha outboard, the Cherokee had ample horses strapped to her rear end. The Cherokee is rated to carry engines in the 75 hp to 175 hp bracket.

Ocean Marine had installed

one of their Clear Water brand outboard engine extension brackets to the boat. This modest but tidy device is mounted to the transom and the engine mounts on to the bracket.

The Clear Water bracket is a clever device, drilled with a bolt pattern suitable for any V-6 outboard. Designed to improve top-end speed and overall handling, the cast aluminium bracket retails for \$250.

For this Cherokee's maiden outing, Port Phillip Bay was at her nastiest. A 30 knot wind blasted away from the south east, churning the Bay into a bumpy unfriendly stretch of water.

In the lee of St. Kilda Marina, the Cherokee was able to strut her stuff, albeit in a confined area. From a standing start, the big Yammie blasted the Cherokee on to the plane in a flash.

Once up and away, she

showed sparkling acceleration.

In turns, the Whittley skated around nicely, keeping her bow well up in the controlled arc. Dabbling about the fringe of the protected water the Cherokee was able to turn precisely.

Venturing further out into the rough stuff, the Cherokee soon met her limitations with the big but close swells giving the boat a real buffeting.

Running with the Clear Water bracket, I felt that the effect of engine trim was heavily accentuated. A little blip on the button brought about big changes to the hull's planing attitude.

As delivered to her new owner complete with radio and safety gear on a roller trailer, the Cherokee carried a price ticket of \$10,000.

● Test boat supplied by Ocean Marine, 101 McIntyre Rd., North Sunshine.