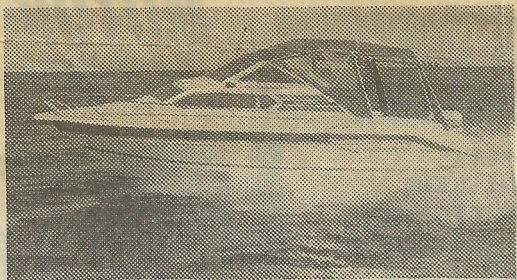


17-7-93

THE AGE - MELB

PURE VEHI

• B O A T S • M O



The Monterey incorporates a range of design ideas to maximise the space.

Innovative family boat

By CHRISTOPHER de FRAGA

MAKING a 5.8-metre boat feel large enough for family cruising is a challenge which Jim Whittlely took to heart with the latest model from his boat company, the Monterey.

Boats of this length can be stunning in their performance by day when the sun is out; those aboard wander in and out of the cabin and spend most of their time in the cockpit.

As darkness falls, the cabin's space can begin to feel tight, as though space leaked out with the light as the sun fell.

The interior of the Monterey cabin has a moulded liner as expected of a craft of its type. It is aimed at the enthusiast who is seeking a trailable boat for family cruising on primarily sheltered waters. The bow has a fine entry, however, which suits it to the sort of chop found on the broadwater in Queensland, Sydney's Botany Bay and, in Victoria, Port Phillip and the Gippsland Lakes.

The vee angle at the transom is 19 degrees and there are a couple of lifting strakes on either side of the keel. The tall-sided hull finishes in a transom arranged for either a longshaft outboard or sterndrive. Whittlely claims more than 38.2 knots with a 130 kW V6 sterndrive and 36.5 knots with an 89 kW outboard.

Forward of the outboard well, the cockpit has a teak table which can be hinged and propped in position for meals.

The cockpit is clearly a living area with a sink hidden under the hinged top of the helmsman's position and a single burner spirit stove similarly stowed under the passenger's seat.

The cabin design uses space quite well with the portable toilet to starboard behind the bulkhead. The teak cabin doors allow the cockpit to be shut away from those seeking privacy in the cabin.

Opposite the toilet, the portside bunk covers a sealed, self-draining insulated ice box and there are teak racks for storing kitchen items nearby. The distance between the two day-time seats and night-time berths is reasonable due to room allowed by the boat's external 2.33 metre beam.

There is storage under the bunks and under the moulded floor is a 100-litre aluminium fuel tank and it is the floor above this which is the boat's most unusual feature.

The floor has no step. Where most cabin layouts have a flat cockpit floor and then one or two steps down into the cabin, the Monterey has a single-level floor. This means that during the day, when the bed's centre cushion is stowed, the boat seems much larger than its 5.8 metre length.