

The sun rises on local favourite *Sundowner*

It's taken us more than a decade to get aboard a Sundowner but now, thanks to Andrew Voigt, new owner of the moulds, we've been able to experience both the 4.57m and 5.3m hulls, both of which proved to be a revelation.

After working with the original builder in Elizabeth West for a year or so, Andrew purchased the moulds and moved them to his premises at Minlaton on Yorke Peninsula, where he also carries out fibreglass repairs.

For our purposes, Andrew brought both a 4.57m runabout



Clean entry and excellent freeboard – standout features...



Sundowner 5.3m Quarter Cab in action off Stansbury – 140hp Suzuki proved to be an ideal power package while the hull really impressed with its lively performance, responsive handling, dry ride and stability...

and 5.3m cuddy to the boat ramp at Stansbury, the first with a 100hp Yamaha and the second, a 140hp Suzuki. Neither boats nor engines were new, but a sparkling example of what Sundowner Boats Pty Ltd of Minlaton would produce came in the form of a striking, blue on white 5.3m Quarter Cab, not yet fitted with an engine.

With both boats launched into the excellent Stansbury haven we boarded the *Quarter Cab* first and headed out. The willing 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki, with around 150 hours on the clock and spinning a 3-blade stainless steel prop., soon had the Sundowner flying effortlessly along at 40 knots (75kph) over a mild chop.

Turned progressively tighter, the hull heeled nicely, gripped and delivered then, on another fast run along the wash of our other boat, rode the wake easily, remaining very stable and right on course. Its manoeuvrability in reverse was equally impressive, both to port and starboard. All the while we felt snug and secure



SPECIFICATIONS:

- 12 Volt DC Motor – Forward/Reverse
- Torque 1.57Nm
- 60 RPM (9.4metres/min when empty & 47 metres/min when full)
- 58.8 amps
- 500 Watts Power

Locally manufactured on the Yorke Peninsula, SA

NEW TRAILERS, CUSTOM BOAT TRAILERS AND REPAIRS



- Minlaton Engineering carries a wide range of trailer parts & accessories
- Repairs to aluminium boats

39 Maitland Road, Minlaton **Ph: 8853 2226** Fax: 8853 2265
E: kwilliams@minlatoneng.com.au W: www.minlatoneng.com.au



Sundowner Boats Pty Ltd's first Minlaton build, beautifully presented 5.3m Quarter Cab at Stage 1, priced at less than \$20,000...

boats now being built on Yorke Peninsula

at the helm, more so than in any other boat we can recall.

Back in the haven we moved to the smaller Sundowner 4.6m Runabout and headed out once more. Again there was that remarkable feeling of being protectively enclosed by the boat as we threw the hull into a series of turns and through disturbed wash.

This boat was the essence of simplicity, with even the usual walk-through foredeck closed off, leaving just a dry storage area under, yet its performance was exhilarating. The 100hp Yamaha gave plenty of power, cable steering provided light yet firm helm control and the hull just loved being pushed hard.

Having finally driven these two Sundowners we began to understand their enduring popularity with both recreational and professional owners, over what must be at least three decades. Their designs, while not radically different, nonetheless endow these craft with what comes very close to a personality, making them very pleasant to ride in, while giving a reassuring, sure-footed, stable, dry and exciting ride.



Modest spray chine worked well with running strakes...

Sundowner Boats not only build their craft to order but also supply galvanised drive-on custom trailers.

As mentioned, the 4.6m Runabout usually sports an opening centre panel in the 'screen and full walk-through to the bow.

The 5.3m Quarter Cab is also available as a Half Cab, even as a runabout. Standard equipment on the new 5.3, built at time of writing to Stage 1, comprised windscreen, cabin light, navigation lights, cable steering, two helm seats, two bunk cushions, stern cleats, a bollard, bow roller and stainless steel keel strip.

Factory options include those trailers and in the case of the larger hull, a 115 litre stainless steel underfloor fuel tank, single bait well, 'glass POD, bimini, bow rail, baitboard and two tone colour treatments.

For further information on these tried and true, very popular Sundowner boats, contact Andrew Voigt of Sundowner Boats Pty Ltd in Minlaton on 0438 547 058, or go to www.sundownerboats.com.au.



Roomy, clean, well protected interior, perfect for fishing...



Sundowner 4.6m Runabout, a spirited performer usually presented in walk-through configuration, although our test boat was custom built with an enclosed dry storage area under the foredeck ...

SUNDOWNER 4.6m Runabout

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Length overall: 4.57m (15')
- Beam: 1.83m (6')
- Height on trailer: 2.0m (6'6")
- Weight on trailer: 850kg
- Max. power: 115hp (86 kW)
- Accommodation: 6 adults

Priced from: **\$23,045**

(inc. drive-on trailer & GST)

SUNDOWNER 5.3m Quarter Cab

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Length overall: 5.30m (17'5")
- Beam: 2.10m (6'9")
- Height on trailer: 2.10m (6'9")
- Weight on trailer: 1,400kg
- Max. power: 200hp (149 kW)
- Fuel capacity: 115 litres
- Accommodation: 6 adults

Priced from: **\$25,518**

(inc. drive-on trailer & GST)

BUILT IN S.A.

Sundowner BOATS

WEAVERS
NORTH RD,
MINLATON S.A.
5575

5.3m Quarter Cab Sundowner (17'5")



SPECIFICATIONS

- Length 5.3m (17.5ft)
- Beam 2.16m
- Max 200 hp
- Recommended 115hp
- Capacity 6 persons

Standard Equipment

- S/Steel keel strip
- Navigation lights
- Bollard
- Stern Cleats
- Bow Roller
- 2 x Seats + Bunk Cushions
- Steering
- Cabin Light
- Windscreen

OPTIONAL EXTRAS INCLUDE:

- Galvanised drive-on boat trailer, custom manufactured to suit Sundowner Boats
- 115L Stainless steel, under-floor fuel tank
- Single well
- Two tone colour

Sundowner Boats are proudly manufactured near Minlaton, South Australia by Andrew Voigt, proprietor of Sundowner Boats P/L

ANDREW VOIGT

Mobile
0438 547 058

Priced from
\$19,018.00
(GST inclusive)

Sundowner BOATS

Email: andrew@sundownerboats.com.au
Web: www.sundownerboats.com.au