



Adjustable seats make this boat more versatile. No large opening to bunk area.



The split rear lounge is easy to fold away.



The 21-degree deadrise gives a soft ride when punching through bigger waves.



A great all-round cruising and fishing boat.

Performance

RPM	KM/H
2000	10
3000	22
4000	38
4500	46
5000	52
5800	63



With the 115hp E-TEC the Tournament 1800 jumped on the plane with ease.

Tournament 1800 - 115hp E-TEC

I MENTIONED in my editorial last month about supporting local marine dealers and local manufacturers, so with this in mind I was more than keen to test the new 1800 Tournament Pleasure Boat when asked.

Tournament Pleasure Boats currently range in size from 16ft to 26ft and with the development of the new 1800, this model has created a great all-round boating package.

Although only 20cm longer than its smaller brother the 1750, it is 20cm wider.

This is a massive increase in the width of the beam, giving you a completely new and much bigger boat.

The same 21-degree dead rise has been kept on the proven hull design but much bigger chines have been incorporated with the extra beam.

These bigger chines enhance the ride of the hull, making it smoother while under way and giving you more stability when at rest.

Plus with the extra beam you get heaps more room in the back to fish out of, which is definitely a bonus in my book.

As with all Tournament boats the 1800 is backed by a 10-year structural warranty.

It incorporates a fibreglass foam-filled stringer matrix giving the hull strength and making it safer.

I recently put one of the 1800 Tournaments through its paces at the Broadwater.

The test boat was fitted



Boat Test

by BEN COLLINS

with an 115hp Evinrude E-TEC, which was a good match considering the boat is capable of carrying six passengers.

Rated to a maximum of 135hp, you still have the option to run a bigger model if you're so inclined.

The E-TEC had plenty of punch out of the hole and would be a good size for pushing the boat along with a family on board or a few mates heading out in the bay or offshore for a fishing trip.

If opting up to the maximum, you would probably just end up with similar acceleration, but a bit more top end.

Speaking of top end, with two POB, half a tank of fuel and about 70 per cent trim, the Tournament 1800 sat comfortably at around 63km/h.

As a point of interest, there was plenty of trim to play with, which enables you to get a good ride at varying speeds and with different weight distributions on the boat.

Designed as a bit of an all-rounder, there are various positive features that make this a great fishing boat and also a great cruising or pleasure boat.

For instance, the split rear lounge is very easy to put up and down with the foldaway legs.

When folded away, there is room to get your toes under the cushions for a solid fishing position.

Side pockets on the boat

also allow for your toes to be placed under them, giving you a large amount of practical and useable fishing room.

Plus there is heaps of convenient storage in the wide pockets.

At the helm, the upholstered seats have also moved away from the traditional pedestal design to a more functional design, allowing room to place an icebox or tackle box underneath them.

This is a much better use of space so you can get them out of the way but still keep them within easy reach.

On the test boat a GPS sounder unit was flush mounted with room for additional units if required.

Additional units could also be mounted on the dash or flush mounted.

Extending off the helm is a good size bunk area with an optional fill in.

In addition there is a large opening to the bunk area.

The opening serves a couple of purposes in that it makes it easy to get in and out, plus the bunk area feels more open when you are sitting on it or lying down.

Full length side pockets are also a handy addition, adding to the easy accessible storage.

Access to an anchor well is also through the bunk area.

The test boat was fitted with a bimini and rocket launcher and although an

additional option, these items are a great idea as they improve the functionality of the boat for either fishing or cruising.

Some of the standard inclusions are bunk cushions, cabin windows, boarding ladder, navigation lights, rear lounge, ski hooks and two stainless steel rod holders.

Under floor is a 160 litre capacity fuel tank, which would give you a good range with the economical 115hp E-TEC on the back.

There was also an additional large underfloor storage area or kill tank.

Overall you have a well-finished, multi-purpose boat at home towing kids around on a tube in a dam or venturing offshore for a fish.

And these days any extra time you can spend on the water is a bonus, so having a boat that can do a few different things is certainly worth considering.

For more information on this or other Tournament Pleasure Boats call the guys at Australian Marine Centre on 07 3808 7333 or drop in and check them out for yourself.

The price of the Tournament 1800 as tested is \$51,700 including the 115hp E-TEC, hydraulic steering, Dumbier trailer, bunk infill, full slab coloured sides, bimini, extension and rockets, Garmin 551 colour combo, 12 months rego and inshore safety gear.

If fitted with a 90hp Yamaha 2-stroke, the Tournament 1800 is priced from \$41,900. ↴

Photos and article by:

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