

# Vindicator 6.2 built for fishing

**A**LTHOUGH seen at the Brisbane Boat Show for the first time this year, Vindicator is anything but the new kid on the boating block.

With family involvement in the marine industry spanning over 60 years and three generations, this is one company that has boating in its blood, especially when it comes to building quality aluminium fishing boats.

And in this slightly turbulent economy it is important to know that your boat builder will be around in years to come.

The true testament to these boats actually comes from Vindicator owners who are almost cult-like followers with nothing but high praise for these boats.

This is easy to understand because the boats are practical, functional and exceptionally well finished.

Based out of Gympie, Watson's Marine, manufacturer of these architecturally designed boats, has a great playground for testing.

Areas including the Wide Bay Bar and a myriad of fishing spots off Double Island, Rainbow Beach and Fraser are just some of the waters where these boats have been put through their paces with hours of fishing.

And that is what these boats have been designed to do – fish offshore.

By spending countless hours offshore, the crew at Watson's Marine knows firsthand what is needed in a premium fishing boat.

I recently water tested two Vindicator boats, the 6.2 and the 5.5, but this review will focus on the larger 6.2m.

With an overall length of 6.8m this model has been specifically designed for offshore fishos.

The test boat was fitted with a Yamaha 200hp 4-stroke outboard, the maximum recommended for this boat, and an ideal match.

The construction of all Vindicator boats also allows you to run twin rigs, which would be a good option if you intend travelling long distances offshore.

One of the advantages in running the twin rig is that you reduce your draft, as the engines run higher up on the vee of the hull due to being farther apart at the stern of the boat.

And reducing draft makes jumping on the plane in a shallow gutter, such as those at Fraser Island, much easier.

As standard, the 6.2 Vindicator has fuel capacity of 250 litres, which is more than ample when combined with the big Yammy 4-stroke or twins.

And as you can see from the performance data, at about 3500-4000rpm you are getting the optimal fuel economy and range, about 1.4km per litre.



Boat Test  
by BEN COLLINS

These numbers for a boat this size (about two tonne) are quite impressive, especially when you consider (depending on conditions) that this is the sort of speed you would probably be sitting on when travelling offshore.

One of the reasons for these good numbers is the hull design.

From the photos you will see that the 6.2m Vindicator has a high swept bow with a good sharp entry point, although the beam of the boat has been carried through a long way towards the bow, giving a very large boat for actual overall length.

Something you may not see from the photos is the vee that runs the entire length of the boat, which aids in the smooth ride.

This also limits how much the boat leans into the wind and hence the need for trim tabs.

I was actually surprised that it didn't lean into the wind as most hard tops do.

So the hull design is definitely working as it is meant to.

A small reverse chine is also part of the hull design and even with three adults on one side the boat barley moved, making it a perfect platform for fishing and landing fish.

Padded combing has been fitted to inside the side decks, so you have a comfortable area to lean against when fishing.

The flare of the hull also allows you to stand with your toes under the full-length shelf, adding to the comfort of your fishing position.

With a beam of about 2.45m and a cockpit length of 2.85m there is a massive amount of room, which could easily fish six people if necessary.

A clever addition to this very functional fishing rig is the well-designed bait board.

There are also two storage areas underneath the cutting boards that make an ideal place to put your frozen bait to defrost.

You can even bung up one of the wells and use it as a sink if planning on extended trips or over-nighters.

Six rod holders are fitted with the outside ones gimballled.

Four additional rod holders are built in the gun-wales of the boat and this model has also been fitted with two Reef Master holders.

Reef Masters are the big deck winches that we are seeing more and more of these days and what are sometimes needed to get those big reds up off the bottom and into the boat before the sharks have

their way.

A good size bait tank has been plumbed with the pump also running the deck wash.

I have started to use a deck wash more and more these days and find having a good one is essential.

Cleaning up the mess as it happens makes the cleaning of your boat at the end of the day so much easier.

Plus you don't get that lingering smell in your boat.

The Vindicator 6.2 has a sealed floor with three airtight compartments, so there is no drama in giving the deck or inside area a good going over with the deck wash.

The self-draining deck runs the water to the stern and you simply open the scuppers and the water gets away.

Another feature that is essential in a good fishing boat is a large amount of storage.

Now even though there are mountains of clear fishing space, a surprising amount of storage room is still available.

Beneath the seat is storage and there is the option of having a tackle tray installed or a shelf, depending on your needs.

The very large dash is handy to keep things within easy reach.

Two long shelves run the length of the cockpit and two more are located in the cabin.

Storage is also found under the side seats with provision for a toilet in the middle compartment.

A large hatch allows access to the anchor well and there is also a walk-around

section on the outside of the cabin.

Batteries have been raised off the floor and concealed behind removable canvas for easy access.

And as I have already touched on, the finish is topnotch and evidenced through many aspects of the boat.

Firstly the top of the side decks are not welded but pressed.

This eliminates the weld line, giving a clean, smooth finish and reduces areas where corrosion could occur, such as along the weld.

It also provides an area that is easy to clean and looks the part when painted.

The quality of the paintwork is something that the team at Watson's Marine pays particular attention to and a feature that is immediately noticeable.

All wiring under the floors is contained in sealed alloy tubing, ensuring it is neat and tidy but more importantly protected from the elements.

High-grade stainless steel hose clamps are also used to provide trouble-free boating.

This is a boat that has been built with pride and I guess if you are going to stick your name on the side you want it to look and perform well.

And that's what these Vindicator boats do.

For more information on the Vindicator 6.2 or other models in the range (currently 5.5m to 7.2m) check out [www.watsonsmarine.com.au](http://www.watsonsmarine.com.au) or give the crew at Watson's Marine a call on 07 5482 2135. ⚓



The hull design eliminates leaning into the wind which most hard tops do.



Plenty of visibility from the helm.



Live bait tank, functional bait board and access panel.



The large bunks with storage and toilet facility in the centre.



The Vindicator in motion.



The pressed top decks lift the quality of this boat to another level.