

Test: The Haines Hunter 500BR Carnival

Words - Michael Peterson
Pictures: Courtney Colour



WOW.....



How good is this !

The release of the newest in the Haines Hunter Carnival range came as somewhat of a shock.

A shock in as much as, I really wasn't expecting what I saw and felt from what can only be described as a pocket rocket.

Maybe I should lay my cards on the table first. In my business we get to test a whole range of boats, and over the past 12 months for some reason or another, we've been exposed to quite a number of 5.5 metre and upwards craft, and you do get used to the style, power and size, so, again when I knew that I had to test the Haines Hunter 5.0, with the new 90HP Honda attached, I really wasn't expecting all that much. Of course, over the past couple of years we have come to expect anything from Haines Hunter comes with an exceptional quality and toughness stamp, and together with the Honda 4 stroke power plant, which itself has now been fully proven, what I saw was little more than fantastic.

An example, remember we are speaking about a 5 metre boat with a 90 HP on the back, but this boat, ran around, pulling a single slalom skier, with 3 adults on board - with ease. Also, we all bought along a clothing bag each, along with food and water, all tucked away nicely, and I really had to pinch myself that this was all happening, in, what sometimes can be regarded as a small boat.

The day started out as most test do, doing our speed runs (we topped 42MPH), and although I am very familiar with the Haines Hunter (PDV) Performance Deadrise V hull, that really does provide an excellent ride, this was no exception.

During our speed trails we did the obligatory figure 8's, and really made the turns as tight as we could, with the Carnival performing as it was on railway tracks, I also pushed this boat as hard as it would go - an wow did she go. I also tested at low speed, as it can be a craft to do the odd bit of fishing in, and again proved very successful.

I said I like the four stroke configuration, here's some more reasons why you should too.

There is no Fuss, it starts with absolute ease

Requires no Oil

And uses approximately 10 litres per hour (under normal usage) and that's very good.

Testing was carried in two areas at Patterson Lakes, the water centre for our speed trails, and Port Phillip Bay for the general testing, where seas were relatively slight, she really did perform well relatively slight, she really did perform well in these conditions, and I can only assume, given it has the same hull style as it's bigger brother the 535, that it will perform in most seaways.

At this time we then loaded her up, and as I mentioned earlier, we had 3 adults on boat, pulling an 85 kilo skier - with no effort. I suppose at this stage we should mentioned that we were using the all new Honda 90HP EFT engine, and right from the time I turned the key, this machine was ready to work.



The Bow is very spacious, with good stowage underneath each of the cushions, and of course drink holders - for two



Honda Marine has released its much-anticipated completely redesigned BF90 four-stroke EFI outboards. The new BF90's 1.5lt, SOHC, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder VTEC™ (BF90) engine is inspired by the same remarkable engine that powers Honda's number one selling motor vehicle, the 'Jazz'. A range of Honda-exclusive technologies, superior performance and impressive power-to-weight ratios place these new models at the top of their class. The engine was designed around three key themes - economy, efficiency and durability.

The Carnival 500 BR - by Haines Hunter

from New World Honda - Berwick

Also when you look what you get as standard, it becomes even more impressive.

Included are:

Single Tone Hull and Two Tone Deck - Bow Eye - Bow Roller and Bollard
Separate Anchor Locker - Moulded Bow Seating with Stowage Lockers
Centre Opening Walk through Screen - Ergonomically Designed Instruments Panel - Lockable
Glove Box

Deluxe Swivel Bucket Seats with Seat Slide on Driver's Side
Fully Carpeted Interior - Fully Upholstered Cockpit Side Pockets
Fully Padded Cockpit Coamings - Under floor Locker - Boarding Ladder
Fuel Tank 100 Litre with Deck Fill/Sender - Full Width Rear Lounge
Rear Cleats - Rear Boarding Platforms Built In - Rear Tow Eyes
Mechanical Steering - Non Feedback Tilt Helm - Sports Steering Wheel
Water Resistant Switch Panel - Navigation Lights - Automatic Bilge Pump

There were two more points that impressed me, the first was the fact that this boat has a bit of width, 2.10metres, it also weighs approximately 450 kilograms, together with a 100 litre fuel tank - tank and when you think about this, this becomes close to the perfect boat.

With boating one of Australia's fastest growing pastimes, And the Bowrider style of craft has contributed to this boating success, because it provides a perfect platform, for all the family, this 5m Bowrider was a perfect example of this incorporating performance and style with advanced thinking.

The Carnival Range consists of three models, 500, 535 and the 550.

They are all purpose built family runabouts which carry your loved ones in absolute safety and comfort. Your family and friends will have a ball because the Carnival Range is everything the name suggests.

With their sporty designs every day is a celebration on the water with a Carnival. Not since Haines Hunter introduced the first Australian designed and built bowrider, the 540SLA, back in the late 1980s has it released such an exciting and impressive little family boat as the 500 Carnival. Just as that 540SLA broke from traditional company styling, this carnival does the same. Capable of carrying 5 adults comfortably, the Haines Hunter Carnival is an extremely roomy boat with a host of modern and stylish features.

Behind the sleek looking windscreen is a modern helm that offers an impressive automotive styled dashboard with wood grain finish and comfortable seats featuring stylish upholstery. As with every Haines Hunter, the Carnival has a race bred hull that provides exceptional control at all speeds and that same legendary Haines Hunter soft ride. As a complete package, the 500 BR Carnival is a serious fun machine offering exceptional value for money with the capacity to achieve 42mph when powered with a 90hp Honda swinging a standard 17" alloy prop.

Overall:

Don't be fooled by the size, it is a pocket rocket, that provides space for the family - fun for all - economical power, and a lot of fun - I was very impressed with this boat.

Take the ride of your life! and you can. The boat was supplied by

New World Honda, Berwick

The Dash carries full Honda Instrumentation, with plenty of room for further accessories



The Haines Hunter 500 BR Carnival



Available from
New World Honda

518 Princes Highway Berwick 3806

Phone: 03 8794 0000

Fax: 03 8794 0099

Email: info@newworldhonda.com.au