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- >> BOSTON WHALER MONTAUK 150
- >> SAVAGE PIRANHA
- >> HAINES SIGNATURE 502DF
- >> SAILFISH REEFRUNNER

HOW TO CATCH A MARLIN FROM YOUR BOAT



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QUINTREX



⌄ The 500 Hornet Trophy as pictured with the BLUE ADRENALIN

HORNET TROPHY 500

Let's have a look at the latest developments from the Quintrex stable; a great new Hornet and some stylish wraps

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY PAUL BOURKE



The Hornet Trophy's dash

Well I must say, Quintrex know how to build boats. It doesn't seem to matter what boat you are looking for, they have a model that will suit your every need. Now they are offering a vinyl wrap to lift the otherwise standard paint job.

I have decided to hone in on the Hornet range of boats designed for recreational and competition fishing with a specialised fit out. The RAAF might have some new super Hornets, but as I watched them do a fly over display to the public, I thought to myself, I bet the pilots would love to spend some time in these new Hornet fishing boats. Personally I have been out in the 450 and 480 Hornet Trophies before and really enjoyed my time on the water.

I asked Quintrex to demo the new 500 model for me. The crew met me at the boat ramp on the Goldie all saddled up and rearing to go. After three days of rain, the clouds cleared and the team greeted me with smiles and a camera boat in the water as well. I couldn't help myself, the early start, beautiful day, and the boats looking great pulled up onto the beach at the broadwater. I just had to start taking pictures!

The standard 480 Hornet Trophy in Red and the 500 Hornet Trophy with the new Blue Adrenalin

vinyl wrap looked a treat. Ebony and Brad in one boat with Jess and Cliff in the other. I thought how do you decide? I know, let's go with the new one. As we motored out around wave break island in a light five to ten knot breeze Cliff ran through some of the features. Mind you the list was endless. Quintrex don't just bang a boat together like some others do. After many years building them, using them and selling them all over the country side they are put together with everything you would need on the water.

The 500 Hornet Trophy is suitable for loads of different waterways. It was set-up with a live bait tank, battery compartment and lifejacket storage separated into three sections under the rear casting platform.

While fishing with soft plastics and dead bait is good, I still reckon you need some live bait and of course fresh is best. Even if you just head out at low tide and pump some yabbies, they can be kept alive in this roomy aerated rear tank. Not to mention some live worms placed in some sand in the bottom, or even casting a bait net out for some poddy mullet. Now how can you go past that?

The large forward casting platform is ideal for poking your nose into the snags or flicking some

lures into some rocky outcrops. It has an electric motor mounted to the bow plate and under floor storage for the deep cycle battery. It has a large catch tank with a baffle to minimise the water sloshing around and is aerated for upgrading your fish.


You never know who will get the big one. I can remember fishing in a siltation like this with my son. I was casting into a deep hole running along a rock wall out the starboard side of the boat and doing alright, hooking up a few decent size bream. To keep my young fella out of the way, oh I mean out of the rocks, I got him to cast his brand new 2-4kg boat rod out the port side.

We were in a good spot with nobody else in sight and a sand to muddy bottom. Lo and behold he got smashed in about one minute from the bait hitting the water. He brought it in to find a ripper of a mangrove jack on the end of the line. We both stepped down to the lower section of the boat and landed him. So you can see why I like this type of set-up.

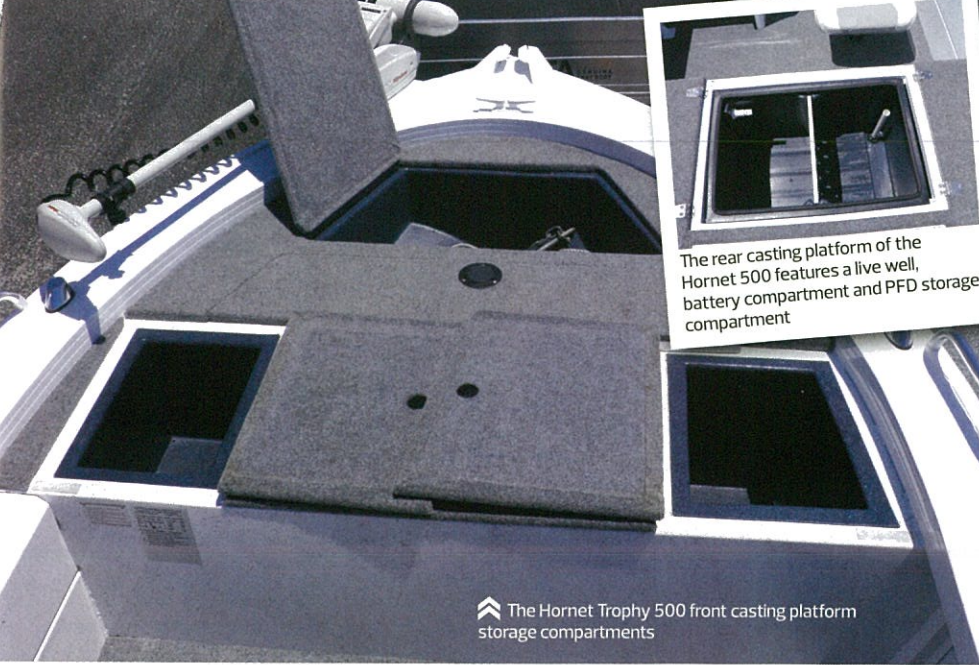
The five metre Hornet Trophy has loads of room to move around the boat and ample storage. Along the port side it has a full length rod locker. This is a must when travelling and locking up those precious

SPECIFICATIONS

Max Length: 5.21m
Length of Hull: 5.11m
Beam: 2.10m
Depth: 0.93m
Length on Trailer: 6.32m
Bottomsides: 4.00mm
Topsides: 2.00mm
Transom Material: 4.00mm
Recommended HP: 70
Maximum HP: 115
Number of People: 4



The rear casting platform of the Hornet 500 features a live well, battery compartment and PFD storage compartment



The Hornet Trophy 500 front casting platform storage compartments


sticks and reels. It is also handy for keeping the essentials in the boat protected from damage by standing on the fishing gear, accidentally of course, and this allows easy walking throughout. When you put out the crab pots or just when mooring and docking it is essential to keep things out of the way.

There are plenty of multi-storage places in this boat, such as the anchor well, additional life jacket positions, tackle compartments, food and drink boxes under the platforms. These rota-moulded compartments are easy to clean out and there are loads of them.

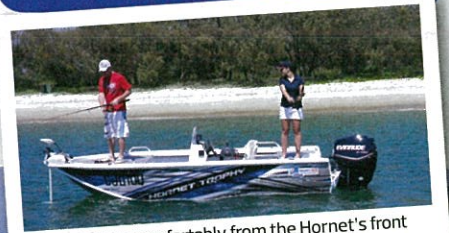
The helm seat is positioned behind a well-appointed side console, not too big or small, complete with windscreen and grab rail. The dash has a Lowrance Mark 5 sounder unit mounted for easy viewing. The Evinrude E-Tec I-command gauges tell you everything including fuel flow from the 75-litre underfloor fuel tank. No need for a stereo but a VHF radio would be a good option. Both folding seats swivel and can be placed in any of the four positions as required. This will enable the best spot to fish from in changing conditions like wind direction, tidal movement and location.

The Hornet is renowned for the exceptional hull design known as the Eclipse V-Flared Hull. To get the boat on the plane with the upgraded transom (that can accommodate up to 115hp) the E-Tec is quick and smooth. This hull design comes into its own, particularly when heading up river systems and making high speed turns.

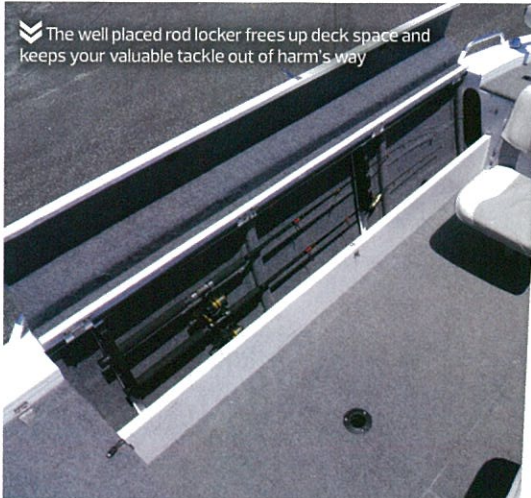
The boat sits very level gliding across the surface for long distances. The extra line of length from the 480 to the 500 is noticeably better. When you venture close offshore it seems to catch the air underneath and cushion the landings through the swell. It is a good idea to balance the load out by putting the navigator seat in the forward position instead of next to the skipper. It corners hard, is extremely manoeuvrable at top end speed of around 40 knots, cruising speed of 20 knots and at six knots while docking. Most well-made boats can do this but the Hornet does it really well especially at wide open throttle.



THE Hornet Trophy's front casting platform in use



Two fishing comfortably from the Hornet's front and rear casting platforms



The well placed rod locker frees up deck space and keeps your valuable tackle out of harm's way



The Hornet Trophy 500 gets up on the plane quickly and rides beautifully

TEST » QUINTREX HORNET TROPHY 500

↳ The 530 Freedom Sport as pictured with the RED ADRENALIN



↳ The 440 Hornet Trophy as pictured with the BLUE MANGROVE



↳ The boat's fuel tank stores neatly under the deck and can easily be removed for filling



↳ The 470 Topender as pictured with the GREEN ADRENALIN



↳ The 450 Hornet Trophy as pictured with the GREEN BASS

NEW VINYL WRAPS

Although Quintrex offer a good range of paints colours, these wraps are something new. There is a range of different designs and colours to choose from that will give your boat a whole new look. Quintrex recently released them to the boating market by demoing a variety of them on various different boat models. You can now have just about any colour on just about any boat you like.

A five-metre boat is a good size for all round fishing and boating. You could easily tow a tube behind for some great fun and the capacity is four people, which is perfect. A gutsy four cylinder or lazy six would easily tow this complete package. A 4WD is not necessary but if you have one you could go even more places. Trailer it up the beach and launch it in the bay. This size boat is perfect for sneaking around the headlands and chasing pelagics like tuna.

The Quintrex trailer is set up for simple launching and drive-on retrievals. By the way don't forget to insist on hydraulic steering for motors that are 90hp and over. Just like this tournament package, it's the simple things that make your time on the water a pleasure.

The Hornets have more options to choose from like the bimini and envelope that fold down flat on the deck while doing some serious fishing. A rear boarding ladder, berley bucket, cockpit lights and a GPS unit offer the fisherman additional features to customise their boat. The 480 and 500 Hornet Trophies that I tested were set up really well and the new wrap looks amazing.

If you are considering what sort of boat would work for you, this could be just the one!

For more information on the vinyl wraps and boat specifications, check out the Quintrex interactive website www.quintrex.com.au. ↴

↳ The Hornet Trophy 500 rear casting platform is raised and gives good clearance while providing valuable storage space

