

**WEATHER
CONDITIONS**

Wind: 3kt south-easterly
Sea: Calm



STING *in the* TAIL

The new 420 Hornet Trophy from Quintrex is an angler's dream; it will have you heading out for bass and bream in no time.



Looking back around a decade ago, it seems most small tinnies were little more than bare hulls, with only the odd few tricked up with some extra gadgets — shiny pressed silver aluminium with open ribbed flooring comes to mind. It's certainly amazing how things have changed.

When it comes to the avid fishos, I'm seeing so much more going into small tinnies, from paint work and vinyl wraps to serious electronics (that often seem to be worth as much as the boat itself), with much more precision going into today's internal layouts.

LOOK SHARP

Quintrex's new 420 Hornet Trophy (420HT) is a small tinnie with a fierce fishing look and a load of other practical angling features.

The boat is set up with a good-sized

cast deck up front with generous storage space, anchor hatch, twin pedestal seats, small hatch in the deck, rear platform with built-in livewell and a battery hatch.

It also has low gunwales with wide coamings for easy mounting of a sounder or rodholders, and the whole thing is finished off nicely with carpeted top surfaces.

I did notice the 420HT has no side pockets, but this is not a major problem on a boat this size because such pockets would take up of a portion of the deck and there is already adequate covered storage in the hatches.

I also found rod storage somewhat lacking. We all have our own ideas as to how rods should be stored, and here the designers have gone with holders rather than racks.

As the newest addition to the range the 420 sports a number of brand-spanking-new 2013 features, namely the Blade

On the plane...

- ✓ Neat, open layout
- ✓ Plenty of extra features
- ✓ Good storage
- ✓ Decent ride for a small tinnie

Dragging the chain...

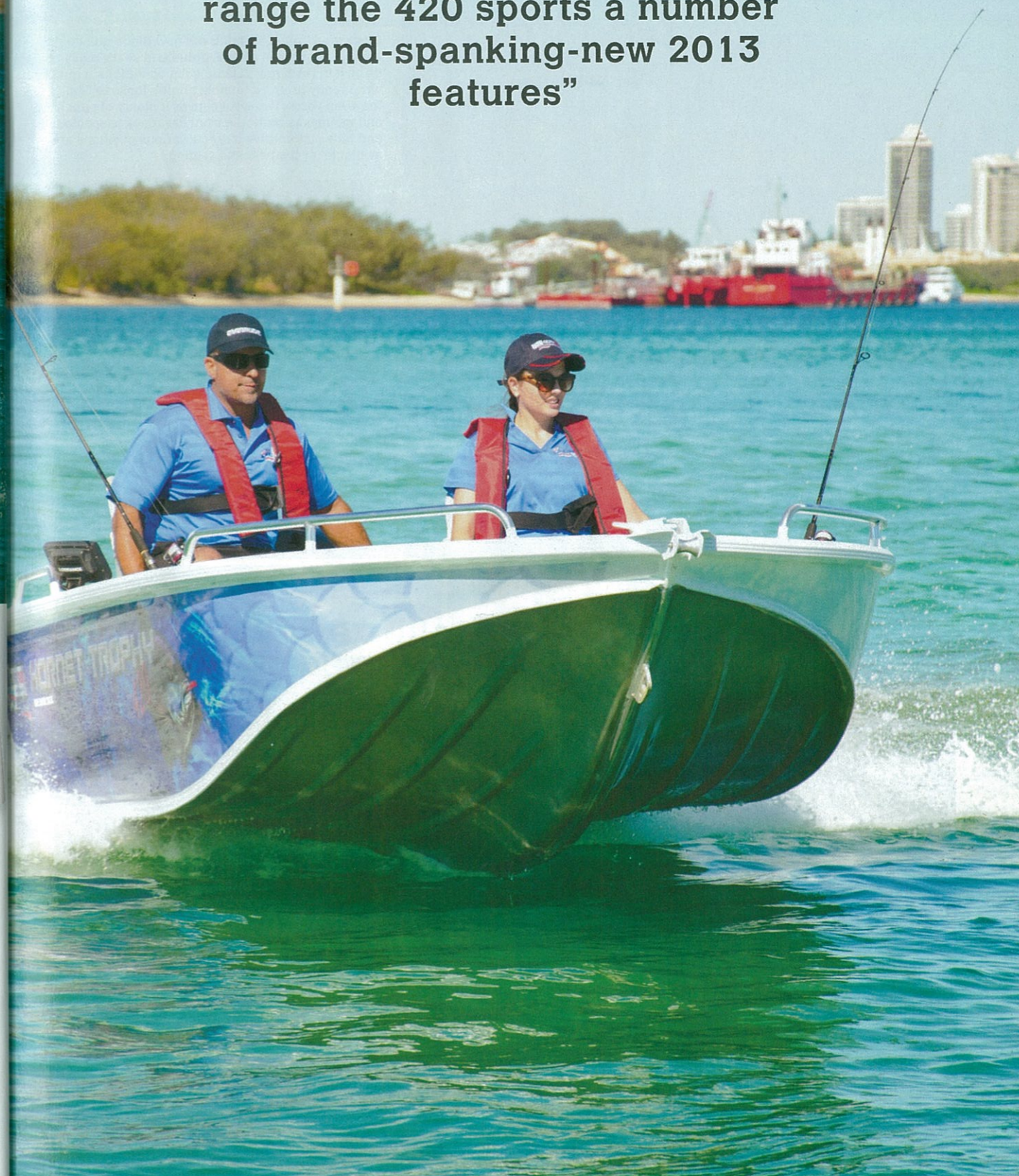
- ✗ Dedicated mount for electric motor as standard would be nice (it's available as an option)

hull, 3mm bottom, and smooth plate-look sides, while it's 300mm deeper than the original 400 Hornet Trophy.

WETTING A LINE

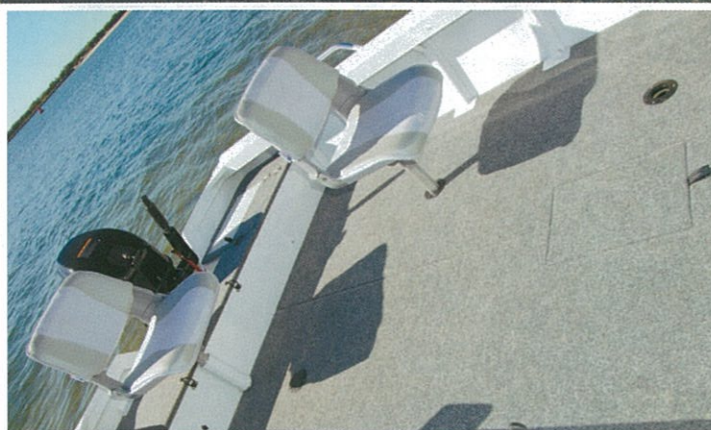
At 4.49m, this bad boy is particularly easy to operate on and off the trailer. Once on the water, the simple and spacious deck can be comfortably fished with two, or even a small family with youngsters on-board. And although it's ideally suited to lure fishing, the 420HT is also just as well set up for sitting back on anchor with bait out the back.

“As the newest addition to the range the 420 sports a number of brand-spanking-new 2013 features”





Clockwise from left: Quintrex's new Blade hull does a top job, but it's still a small tinnie and so it's really at its best in relatively flat and calm conditions; a quality wrap really brings a humble tinnie's looks to life; the 40hp Vortex two-stroke gives it plenty of punch and minimises costs; the front cast deck is spacious and hides impressive storage; various positions are available for the pedestal seating.



TRAILERBOAT RATES THE QUINTREX 420 HORNET TROPHY

1 Fun factor	✓✓✓✓✓
2 Innovation	✓✓✓✓✓
3 Design and layout	✓✓✓✓✓
4 Quality of finish	✓✓✓✓✓
5 Handling and ride	✓✓✓✓✓
6 Stability at rest	✓✓✓✓✓
7 Ergonomics	✓✓✓✓✓
8 Standard equipment	✓✓✓✓✓
9 Value for money	✓✓✓✓✓
10 X-Factor	✓✓✓✓✓
OVERALL	✓✓✓✓✓

“A 40hp Vortex tiller-steer makes the 420HT quite the little dynamo on the water”

The 1.98m beam an imperative for this style of boat because the greater width adds to the stability at rest, which is a handy asset when casting lures. As it is, the 420HT is ideal for fishing in rivers, dams, estuaries and bays, but obviously in suitable conditions.

The only thing missing for me was a base or bracket on the bow for an electric motor, but these boats can be optioned up with one, as well as a number of other accessories.

TWO UP

When it comes to performance on small tinnies, you generally can't expect to fly over the chop like the big guns. Nonetheless, the little 420HT is quite

impressive when you wind it up.

Telwater's Vortex brand of outboard is your good old (well, new) two-stroke, packing a healthy holeshot, a decent crackle of power throughout the rev range and, of course, some two-stroke fumes to bring back memories of yesteryear.

Just to go on a quick tangent, two-stroke motors are still a huge part of the industry and will likely remain so for many years to come.

Let's face it, they're still a lot cheaper than most new-tech motors on the market and I love the fact they are so simple to maintain and repair.

A 40hp Vortex tiller-steer is a good fit for this boat and makes the 420HT quite

the little dynamo on the water. Like most two-strokes, the holeshot is perky and with revs quickly ticking over you get up to a solid 21.6kts (40kmh) within seconds.

That kind of speed is more than ample on this boat although, if you were so inclined, you could probably get a bit more on the top end with a different prop.

The 420HT's ride is comfortable in the chop on the broadwater, with the new Blade hull doing a good job at slicing the water to create a better-than-usual ride for a tinnie of this size.

Spray is deflected away from the hull and off the outer chine around halfway back on the standard trim. I appreciate



PERFORMANCE
 No figures available besides
 21.6kts (40kmh) at WOT

this because taking a bit of spray in the face is a depressingly normal feature in many smaller tinnies — no need for scuba gear when driving this one.

If anything, trim and tilt would have been quite good on this boat because, in addition to making life easier when it comes to lifting the motor, this also aids with fine tuning the ride to suit different conditions.

Trim-and-tilt motors are available as options, and are definitely worth considering.

THE WRAP

With flat decks and plenty of storage this is the ideal small-boat package for dedicated lure chuckers and bait fishers alike. It's good for bass on the dams, bream in the shallows and even chasing some of the bigger species in the bays when conditions suit.

On top of that, the Quintrex 420 Hornet Trophy is a neat, manageably sized unit that can not only be towed with a small vehicle, but can also be easily garaged at home. Ⓡ

It's a great little package that will get you and some mates out on the water and chasing your preferred inshore, dam and estuary species with little fuss and expense.

QUINTREX 420 HORNET TROPHY

HOW MUCH?

Price as tested: \$19,380
 Options fitted: Vinyl wrap; paint.
 Priced from: \$17,600

GENERAL

Type: Fishing tinnie
 Material: Aluminium
 Length: 4.49m
 Beam: 1.98m
 Weight: 250kg

CAPACITIES

People: 5
 Berths: N/A
 Rec. HP: 30
 Max. HP: 50
 Fuel: Tote tank
 Water: N/A

ENGINE

Make/model: Vortex 40hp
 Type: Two-stroke long-shaft
 Weight: 75.1kg
 Displacement: 703cc
 Gear ratio: 2.00
 Propeller: 9 7/8 x 12p

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Quintrex
 Web: www.quintrex.com.au

PRICING SUPPLIED BY

Springwood Marine
 3452 Pacific Highway
 Springwood
 Queensland 4127
 Tel: 07 3297 8200
 Web: www.springwoodmarine.com.au