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MAKEOVER FOR IRON MAIDEN

When Peter Gascoigne finally found his Iron Maiden, there were a couple of conditions he had to meet to avoid rocking the boat with his family.

Before buying the 580 HT Stabi-Craft, the skulls painted on either side of the hard top had to go and extra seating for family and friends was to be installed.

Peter believes the newly painted Iron Maiden is now the perfect all round boat for the lake and sea fishing he enjoys with wife Jocelyn and teenage son Stephen.

After about a year of boat hunting, Peter, who lives at Tepuna, near Tauranga, found the Iron Maiden at Power Boat Services in Mount Maunganui earlier this year and traded in his 440 Fyran.

"In the back of my mind I had always wanted a Stabi-Craft, mainly from a safety angle due to its stability in the water," Peter said.

"We also really enjoy taking other people out on the boat with us and that's where the size of the six metre Stabi-Craft has been really good."

After buying the boat, the gothic lettering and twin skulls were replaced with a smart white with blue trim paint job. Two alloy seats have been tucked in behind the sides to the hard top and a small gas cooker has been mounted in behind the driver's seat to cater for the traditional cup of tea after the first fish of the day has been landed.

"We also changed the outboard from a 2 stroke Evinrude and put in a 4 stroke 100hp Yamaha."

While Peter and his family enjoy lake fishing at Rotorua, most of their time is spent out at sea which they can see from their orchard property. He admits the beautiful setting can be frustrating at times with the water almost calling them out to play.

"It has been a really frustrating winter and we have felt like caged chickens, hemmed in by the weather. We are itching to get out much more in the spring. We are really looking forward to the trout season!"



the word ON THE WATER

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2007



latest word

MATT'S CRAZY - BUT NOT STUPID



He's hauled in monstrous marlin with a hand line from a dingy and landed big game catches from a jetski – nothing's too daring for adventure fisherman Matt Watson.

His antics on the ITM Fishing Show have seen him dubbed crazy – a label he's happy to wear – but he says he's not stupid. Safety is paramount for the Kerikeri father-of-two so he relies on Stabi-Craft.

He's just taken possession of a 389 Frontier model, which was christened on the hunt for 300kg giant blue fin 40 miles off the West Coast.

"I felt safer out there in my Stabi 389 than I would in a lot of 18-20ft boats I've been in."

"When we are out fishing and filming, I get to go out and concentrate on the fishing and not have to worry about what's going to happen if the weather cuts up rough."

Other boat builders have since offered up an array of boats.

"I just tell them it's not even worth discussing. With Stabi-Craft I genuinely believe in the boat. And it's rare in business to form a relationship with someone like (Stabi-Craft managing director) Paul Adams that's so easy to maintain with no bullshit."

Since learning to cast as a toddler, Matt has racked up an impressive array of big game catches, with a personal marlin tally of "990-odd at last count".

"I'm always trying to get that same first rush I got ... by adding the challenge of doing it off a jetski or something, it gives me that first fish rush all over again – it allows me to re-live it."

"The best fishing trip is the next one."

Matt's longest stint without casting a rod was three months in Europe.

"Then I broke my knee at Beerfest in Germany – it was a relief because I finally had an excuse to bail out of the OE. I was out fishing on crutches as soon as I got back to New Zealand," he said.

The injury proved a blessing in disguise and Matt landed a job on Primetime in 2001,

which went on to earn "most successful boat" status for the next three seasons.

In 2004 Matt joined the Ultimate Lady, a 90ft luxury sportfisher which amassed an incredible 405 marlin – the highest tally ever in a season.

While famous in fishing circles, Matt's profile is set to soar with his show – still produced in a room he built at the back of his garage – recently signed up by international giant Fox Sports.

"I'm a fisherman trying to make television, not a presenter trying to fish – and that's what people can relate to."

It's a major coup in his quest to promote the sport.

"If what I do gets more people fired up about fishing, then I'm doing my job," he said.

"When you land the big one, snap a photo and get your trophy that way. If you let it go, it's win-win – it will breed and your kids can catch fish in the future. The concept is a bit of a change in the psyche of the average bloke though."

"Limit your catch, don't catch your limit. Gone are the days where your fishing peers will judge the best fisherman by the fullest catch tank," Matt said.



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STABI-CRAFT

technical word

THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB



Already regarded as a global leader in our field, we've bolstered our technology with New Zealand's biggest profile cutting router.

Installed at the Bluff Road factory, the router was made by Australian company Advance Robotic Technology.

At 15m in length, the new machine dwarfs our old 8m router, which will be shifted into a new factory on site later this year.

Stabi-Craft Marine managing director Paul Adams said the state-of-the-art technology will increase production by at least 25 percent.

"This is the biggest router in the marine industry in New Zealand and possibly across all fields," he said.

"It's a substantial investment for the company but to compete on a global scale, you need the right tools for the job and that means the latest technology."

Fully computerised, the equipment will be tasked with cutting out all components of the boats featured in Stabi-Craft's 23-strong range.

Staff will simply programme in the boat model required and the router will manufacture the correct aluminium pieces.

Other mod cons on the profile cutting table include load and height sensing technology, 12 cutting tools, an automatic tool changer and cyclone extraction.

The increased accuracy it provides is predicted to reduce scrap metal by at least 20 percent.

dealer word

TWO TRADESMEN, A DESIGNER AND 10 YEARS SERVICE

When Daniel Upperton's perfect job appeared, he wasn't about to let a move to the other end of the country get in his way.

The former Auckland resident is the latest edition to our talented design team, venturing south with fiancée Naomi three months ago to take up the position. The couple recently brought their first house and are settling into life in the deep south.

"It's definitely a change of pace but it's a nice change," Daniel said.

"The weather's not perfect but I didn't come here for the weather."

Experienced in working on charter and commercial vessels, Daniel graduated from Massey University last year with a Bachelor of Transport Design, specialising in boats.

"This was the only job of its kind in New Zealand and it was exactly what I was looking for," he said.

"Stabi-Craft has a very good reputation and in terms of trailer boats in New Zealand, this would be the pick of the bunch."

The job itself offered a lot of design work and the opportunity to contribute ideas to boating innovations.

While Stabi-Craft has earned a global reputation for safety and performance, Daniel said even the best designs needed modification as the industry evolved.

Tasked with implementing those ideas on the shop floor are our newest qualified tradesmen, Caleb Edminstin and Cole Roughan, aged 23.

The pair, have completed their apprenticeships to earn the National Certificate in Boat Building Alloy Boat Building level 4.

Caleb has also completed extra units to achieve the Alloy Production Trailer Boats level 4 certificate, and Cole plans to undertake the additional study as well.

Production manager Maurice O'Rourke said Stabi-Craft has now produced 10 qualified tradesmen and can boast a 100 percent success record.

"That's impressive, particularly when you compare it to the national standard which is about 50 percent of apprentices completing their time," he said.

"There is still a major shortage of skilled boat builders nationwide. If you can't find quality workers, you've got to train them yourselves and that's exactly what we've done."

Speaking of quality workers, Owen Miller recently clocked over 10 years as a member of the Stabi-Craft team.

Owen is team leader of work centre two in the construction process of the boats and is also our warranties manager.

His efforts since joining Stabi-Craft in 1997 were recognised at a presentation by managing director Paul Adams.



Owen Miller (left) during his 10-year service presentation with Stabi-Craft managing director Paul Adams

Cole Roughan and Caleb Edminstin

Daniel Upperton

dealer word

JOINING THE TEAM

Boats, beacons or biscuits - West Coast Marine is a boater's paradise in New Plymouth.

The latest business to join Stabi-Craft Marine's stable of dealers, owners Lindsay and Diana Hollard are experienced in meeting the needs of local water enthusiasts.

"We're really excited to become a Stabi-Craft dealer—they're a superior product with an excellent reputation for safety and quality," Diana said.

Given the unpredictable nature of Taranaki's coastline, making the right choice when it came to vessel selection was vital.

Diana believed the unrivaled safety provided by Stabi-Craft's innovative positive buoyancy pontoons would prove popular among the region's boaties.

"That safety factor is paramount."

Since establishing West Coast Marine in 2003, the couple has been supplying boats, water toys and everything in between, such as outboard motors, safety equipment and electronics.

From humble beginnings, the company expanded rapidly and a new dealership was built, opening in October last year.

"Boating is part of the New Zealand psyche and New Plymouth is no different—it's very popular here," Diana said.

Across the Tasman, Ken Bullen Marine in Sydney has resumed the Stabi-Craft dealership in New South Wales.



Stabi-Craft at work.

ADVENTURE FOR HIRE

Our 609 SuperCab is rated for eight passengers in inland and coastal waters and four in the open sea and comes complete with life-jackets and safety equipment, GPS/Chart plotter/Fish Finder, VHF Radio, Yamaha 150HP 4-stroke outboard with 15HP auxiliary motor, full survey gear, Webesto demister and heater.

Casual hire from \$250 per day. Contact Sean McColl or Simon Swale at Stabi-Craft Marine. Wakeboards and kneeboards also available for hire.



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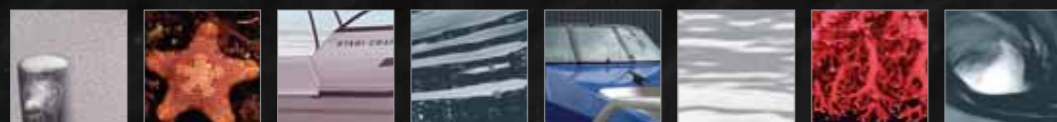
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first word

PAUL'S LATEST CATCH

Stabi-Craft managing director Paul Adams and his wife Liza landed themselves a 7 pound 1 oz baby girl, Fiah Rebecca, on Saturday, September 1. A gorgeous baby sister for Tomas, Bronte, Piper and big sister Becky.



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