

# Stabcraft Marine Limited

**Adventure with Confidence**

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## **Kids explore aboard Stabcraft**

For 20 years Southland youngsters have explored the wonders of Deep Cove aboard two rugged Stabcraft boats.

But two decades of being hauled up on stoney beaches while transporting kids in majestic Fiordland waters has taken its toll on the vessels.

When an upgrade finally loomed, the Deep Cove Outdoor Education Trust returned to its original supplier – Stabcraft.

Chairman Paul Gay said the boats had undoubtedly stood the test of time, carting “thousands and thousands” of students on various marine study and fishing expeditions.

“They would be used practically every day,” he said. “They would be used more than most Stabcraft boats I’d say.”

Now the next wave of students will create unforgettable memories aboard two new 4.5m custom-built dinghies currently in production.

Stabcraft Marine designed the new boats, which are under construction at its Invercargill factory, adding new initiatives to enhance children’s learning – like a life fish tank that gives a whole new meaning to catch and release. Students will be able to study their catch in the onboard viewing aquarium before deciding to release to the wild, or take it for dinner.

The custom boats also have extra rod holders and seating.

“The boats can each accommodate half an average school class – so it will be great to get the whole classroom out on the water at the same time,” Mr Gay said.

Stabcraft New Zealand sales manager Sean McColl said safety was paramount, especially for boats transporting children.

“It’s great that we have been able to custom-build boats which not only meet their needs at Deep Cove, but exceed international standards for safety and build quality,” he said.

“There’s been a fair few kids through those original boats and it’s great that more generations will now be able to experience that environment and the outstanding programme they operate at Deep Cove.”

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For further information, please contact:

Sean McColl  
Stabcraft Marine  
(03) 2111 828 ext 1