



Press Release
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New Stabicraft on patrol in Nelson

A stylish new Stabicraft vessel will be patrolling Nelson harbour this summer – a welcome addition to the dedicated harbourmaster team.

The Nelson Harbourmaster has officially launched its 609 SuperCab – Punawai, which means spring water.

Nelson Harbourmaster Roy Skucek estimated the boat would clock up over 300 hours annually, most in the summer months.

“We’ve had it out for a few spins and it’s going great,” he said.

“It’s very busy on the water around here and it will be very good for us to have a presence on the water and keep an eye on what’s going on.”

Punawai would be used to enforce the Nelson City Council Navigation Safety bylaw, as an incident response vessel, and for general harbourmaster duties, including a vital educational role.

“Amendments to the Navigation Safety bylaw are planned and there will be a lot of education required to implement those – the best place to do that is on the water.”

Mr Skucek said the boat – a first for the harbourmaster – would prove a valuable asset.

“Monitoring the harbour from the shore isn’t too successful.”

Several boats were tested during the tender process, with Stabicraft emerging the top contender following on-water trials.

“We’re very happy with our choice. We liked the finish of the Stabicraft, the stability and safety it offered and the way it handled pleased us,” Mr Skucek said.

“And Totally Boating was extremely obliging in helping us put it all together.”

Totally Boating owner Michael Dobson said the combination of Stabicraft, Mercury and his own team proved “a winning package”.

“It was a very competitive tender process. Price was important with it being ratepayers money so they had to be accountable and get the best value for their money,” he said.

“It will also be used as a first response vessel, able to deliver assistance quickly so the Police and the search and rescue guys are pleased to see it on the water as well.”

Stabicraft Marine managing director Paul Adams said the Invercargill-manufactured boats were an excellent fit with the harbourmaster role.

“The neighbouring Tasman District Council has been operating a Stabicraft for many years and its great Nelson has decided to invest in one for its team as well,” he said.

“Nelson is undoubtedly picturesque but, like any waterway, conditions can turn nasty. We stake our reputation on the safety factor with Stabicraft boats designed to handle whatever is thrown at them.”

Stabicraft were no strangers to enforcement and rescue duties, with several of its boats enlisted by various coastguard units in Australia, Mr Adams said.

Ends

Caption: Punawai, the Nelson Harbourmaster's Stabicraft 609 SuperCab.

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