



Built equally for work and play – Formosa's 620 Tomahawk.

REVIEW

Workhorse At Play

Mark Ward reviews the Formosa 620 Tomahawk, a workhorse hull equally at home catching sportfish.

THERE are plenty of tradies who modify their work ute to allow for weekend getaways. These workhorses can double nicely as a recreational vehicle. The same can be said for Bay Island Marine's Formosa Tomahawk 620 Centre Console. The son of Bay Island Marine's owner manages the Formosa factory and built the 620 Tomahawk to allow for the demands of the working day and for weekends out on the bay or chasing mackerel offshore.

Formosa's Tomahawk range of centre consoles start at the 5.33m 520 model and go up to the 6.75m 650.

With its solid build and self-draining deck, the Tomahawk is built for offshore work. Hull only

weight of the 620 is 800kgs. A unique design of the Tomahawk is solid alloy tubing instead of ribs. This allows for all wiring and plumbing to be hidden, as well as adding valuable structural strength. Not that strength is a major issue with 5mm high tensile 5083 grade plate bottom and 4mm sides, along with a solid aluminium deck.

This is the first Formosa I've reviewed that didn't feature a faultless paint job and sexy graphics. Being a true workhorse, all the pretty touches are missing, which allows the 620 to be judged on build and quality alone.

The raised sheer line gives the Formosa a flared bow appearance and adds to the sharp looks. It also has a functional component by allowing anglers to punch through a decent swell and providing plenty of spray deflection.

The layout of the 620 Tomahawk is a centre console with T-top and forward raised casting deck. The transom also has plenty of fishing room largely due to the pod, which allows the transom to be free from any clutter. The test boat, not having a rear seat or bait board, allows the boys at Bay Island Marine to lay engines and parts across that rear deck. These guys are

located on Macleay Island in Moreton Bay and require plenty of room for couriering parts over from the mainland. Not having a bait board can be an issue for bait fishing but for those casting slugs for mackerel or jigging plastics for snapper, the roomy transom is a nice touch. Add to this a massive open front casting deck and it's a pelagic hunter's paradise. Shoes were required for the test boat as there were no luxuries such as carpet. However, floor coverings, folding windshield, transom door and ladder, hydraulic steering, dual seats and paint are normally all standard features on the Tomahawk. This makes the standard boat/motor/trailer package of \$59K reasonable for a boat of this quality.

This is not the first Tomahawk I've reviewed. These vessels have been tested in a number of different conditions and the ride quality has always been excellent. A fully loaded 620 with the recommended 175hp four-stroke will see the weight exceed 1500kg, allowing the 17 degree deadrise to slice through swell and chop and, more importantly, cushion the landing.

The test boat was fitted with a 150hp Mercury four-stroke that provided enough power to launch the hull onto the plane but more grunt would have been nice. The Mercury achieved a comfortable 29 knots at full throttle and a cruise speed of 24 knots at 3900RPM.

Fishability

All up, the Tomahawk seemed ideal for offshore and bay sportfishing. The casting deck and the open transom makes the Formosa ideal for casting lures at working fish. Anything that requires a little casting or jigging space will be well suited to this set-up, especially with the T-top being lifted to allow more height around the middle of the deck as well. The Tomahawk can look a whole lot sexier when it's not fitted out as a workhorse but this rig does show the versatility of the hull and the variety of options that can be utilised to customise the set-up.

As with all Formosas, the build quality is second to none with a smooth ride and excellent fishability to match. A nice boat!

FORMOSA 620 TOMAHAWK

LENGTH: 6.35m

BEAM: 2.5m

WEIGHT: (dry hull) 800kg

MAX HP: 200hp

FUEL: 220lt

DEADRISE: 17 degrees

PRICE BOAT/MOTOR/TRAILER FROM \$59,000

CONTACT: formosamarineboats.com.au