

Geelong Coast Guard Chooses Yamaha Rescue Power

Yamaha four stroke outboards have been selected to power the latest Coast Guard boat launched in Victoria.

The new Coast Guard vessel is a Razerline 8.5m plate

aluminium boat with an enclosed wheelhouse. It is a big beast so Yamaha four stroke outboard engines were chosen for their power, reliability and efficiency.

Coast Guard Geelong (Flotilla 8) is a long established organisation which generally operates through the southern end of Port Phillip Bay and out the notoriously dangerous Rip into Bass Strait. Commander Peter Barrow joined the Coast Guard in 1963 and has been Commander since 1986.

“We desperately needed a bigger boat to replace our Savage aluminium hull,” Peter said.

“Our Savage is running a pair of Yamaha 90hp 2-stroke outboards and we have been exceptionally happy with these engines. When it came time to put



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Above: The new Coast Guard Geelong boat is put through her paces during a shakedown run on Corio Bay.

Right: Commander Peter Barrow, head of Coast Guard Flotilla 8.



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a specification together for a bigger boat that would give us a more extensive patrol range, we requested that Yamaha be specified in the tender document.”

“Our association with Geelong Boating, our local Yamaha dealer, goes back over 30 years. We looked at alternative hulls, but we knew that the Yamaha and Geelong Boating combination was the very best available.”

The final package is as awesome as it is impressive. The Geelong Coast Guard selected an aluminium vee bottom hull design as it was felt that this configuration best suited the local water conditions. While the Razerline 8.5m model is rated to carry 600hp on the transom, the dual 200hp Yamaha four stroke engines provide more than enough power and sheer grunt for both routine patrol work and towing.

Fitted with 17” pitch props, the optimum cruise speed of 25 knots (46 km/h) is achieved at 3400 RPM. Fuel consumption at this power setting is a very impressive 25 litre per hour per engine.

This serves just how far Yamaha engineers have extended fuel economy – the 2009 model F200 uses the same amount of fuel as an old 2 stroke 90.

With 500 litres of fuel on board, the new Coast Guard boat has a cruise range of 10 hours at 25 knots or a distance of 250 nautical miles (460 kilometers). And when there is a genuine emergency to attend, the Yamaha engines can be wound out 6000 rpm for a wide open throttle speed of 40 knots (75 km/h).

In an ever changing scenario in the area of emergency services, the Coast Guard boat is also a fully accredited CFA (Country Fire Brigade) unit. The boat has a portable CFA certified mobile water pump for fire fighting and can be called on by the CFA to attend boat fires if required.

Of course getting a new Coast Guard boat onto the water is made possible with a sizeable \$135,000 grant from Marine Safety Victoria. Under the Boating Safety and Facilities Program, the Minister for Roads and Ports (the

Honorable Tim Pallas) awarded the funding to Flotilla 8 who through their own resources raised a further \$64,000 to complete the project.

According to Brad Last at Geelong Boating, the addition of a big new boat for the Coast Guard at Geelong is a benefit to boaters and the community.

“This is an exceptional effort,” Brad said. “In addition to the boat being built to survey standards, only high quality equipment has been used and installed. This ranges from the electronics to pumps to safety gear – all the equipment on board is the highest quality marine gear.”

Yamaha outboards are available through an Australia-wide network of authorised Yamaha outboard dealers. All Yamaha 4-stroke outboards are supported with a full 4-year manufacturer’s warranty and all 2-stroke outboards are backed by a 3 year warranty – standard conditions apply.

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