



'Gundoo Spirit'

New 12-metre aluminium catamaran from Sealife Designs

BY JONATHON WALLIS



The delivery on October 14, 2007 of the new aluminium catamaran 'Gundoo Spirit' to Keppel Island marked the conclusion of a highly successful delivery voyage, and also saw Jon Pattie's Sealife Designs extend the range of successfully designed and modified vessels working for very satisfied clients.

This vessel is the result of close collaboration between Phil Todkill, of Marine Applications, who is also the builder, and Jon Pattie. Phil had previously come up with a basic design, but after intensive and professional consideration of the requirements of the vessel, and the potential clients, Jon came up with just the right modified design for the job.

A "no frills" vessel in some ways, 'Gundoo Spirit' is certainly right for her owners, the Queensland Department of Education Training and Arts, and her operators, the North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre.

'Gundoo' is the Darrumbal word for "child," and as the vessel is largely involved with carrying children, it seemed entirely appropriate. Apart from running service trips between Rosslyn Bay and Keppel Island, her main usage is taking children for school camps ranging from three days to a week, enhanced by diving, snorkelling, exploring the islands, and even plankton-hauling night trips. The waters up there can occasionally be pretty rough, and they needed a versatile vessel with maximum passenger comfort and ride combined with a good sea-keeping hull.

Originally the owners looked at the design Jon Pattie presented, and after due process chose the winning combination of Sea Life Designs and Marine Applications.

At twelve metres, this Marine Grade aluminium catamaran is fitted with a bow ramp giving ease of accessibility, and is of sturdy construction to withstand the choppy seas often experienced in this

"Capricorn section" of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Powered by two 246kW QSB5.9 Cummins engines, renowned for their quiet operation and low emissions, 'Gundoo Spirit' achieved a top speed of 26 knots with ease on trials on Moreton Bay with 20 people aboard, and has an optimum cruising speed of 24 knots.

Her two 650-litre fuel tanks give her adequate range, and she carries 400 litres of fresh water.

The interior is fitted out to a high quality commercial standard with a combination of padded beach seating with island tables and chairs. The large windows give adequate ventilation for the cabin, as well as maximising the view for passengers. There is a small galley on the starboard side for'd fitted with a sink and stove and an under-bench fridge adequate for day voyages, and there are two toilets, port and starboard, aft.

The helm position is sited amidships for'd on a slightly raised platform giving excellent visibility, and clear access to the electronics consol and radios. Electronic Marine Solutions have provided her with a Raymarine electronics system including a Raymarine E80 combination radar/plotter/sounder, a Raymarine ST6002 autopilot, and a Raymarine RAY54E VHF radio for communications. The LSA were supplied by Marine Applications who also supplied and installed the engines.

Jon Pattie's Sealife have now collaborated with Marine Applications' Phil Todkill on three of these vessels, one for Education Queensland at Jacob's Well, another, 'Top Cat', for Gold Cats from Cleveland and they have three more on the drawing board.

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'Gundoo Spirit'

SPECIFICATIONS

Classed:	USL 1D 52 persons
Home Port:	North Keppel Island, Queensland
Owner:	Department of Education Training and Arts, Queensland
Operator:	North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre
Designer:	Sealife Designs/Marine Applications, Queensland
Builder:	Marine Applications, Queensland
Construction material:	Aluminium
Length overall:	11.99 metres
Beam:	5.7 metres
Draught:	1.2 metres
Displacement:	15.4 tonnes
Main Engines:	2 x Cummins QSB5.9 (246kW)
Set up:	Down Angle Box, 7°
Gear Box:	ZF 80A
Propulsion:	Shaft drive
Steering:	Hydrive manual
Maximum Speed:	26 knots
Cruising Speed:	24 knots
Electronics supplied:	Electronic Maritime Solutions (EMS)
Electronic package:	Raymarine E80 (Radar/Plotter/Sounder system)
Radios:	Raymarine RAY54E VHF
Auto Pilot:	Raymarine ST6002
Anchor winch:	Muir
Safety Equipment:	Marine Applications, Queensland
Liferaft:	Carley Floats
Fuel capacity:	2 x 650 litres
Fresh water:	400 Litres
Crew:	3 persons
Operational Area:	Keppel Island