

Winners are in league of own

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Sailing Boat of the Year – Buizen 48

Founded more than 30 years ago, Mastercraft Marine provided the industry with a previously unobtainable level of quality and finish in boat interiors.

In just four short years the company has become Australia's largest manufacturer of production motor-sailers.

In response to a growing market demand in the late '80s, Eddy Buizen started to plan a new yacht that had live-aboard comfort and was capable of extensive offshore passage making.

The years of collaboration with naval Architect Paul Stanyon culminated in the launch of the first Buizen 48 in 1991.

From the outset the Buizen 48 was conceived as being the ultimate in Australian offshore pleasure cruising.

Eddy Buizen's vision was for a state-of-the-art pilothouse yacht, which would deliver the best of both worlds – sail and power.

It was to be a craft, which despite its size, could be easily handled by a couple without extra crew.

Over the years the Buizen 48 has been refined and updated and finished to a world class standard.

The judges said: "The Australian designed and built Buizen 48 is an outstanding vessel by world standards.

"It is a tribute to the vision of Eddy Buizen, naval architect Paul Stanyon and the Mastercraft Marine design team who have produced a yacht of quality and style.

"The state-of-the-art pilothouse yacht delivers offshore pleasure cruising under sail and power.

"As well as being luxurious, the Buizen 48 has been designed to tackle serious blue water passages safely.

"It is strong and fast under sail, with a sleek, modern medium displacement type hull that performs well under a wide range of conditions.

"The Buizen 48 is a tribute to Aussie boat-building, know-how, skill, technology and experience."

The judges also made special mention of the South Australian-built Theodore 720 Offshore and awarded it a Special Commendation saying: "The Theodore 720 Offshore is a worthy contender for Boat of the Year and delivers a hull full of innovative and clever touches for the serious fisherman.

"It's built with the harsh Australian fishing environment in mind, but still manages to incorporate plenty of passenger comfort into its layout.

"A large and well-laid-out cockpit will be welcomed by anglers, while build quality and attention to detail are hard to fault.

"And its ride, handling and range will be appreciated by those who venture wide in search of that elusive trophy winning fish."

There were also two other special awards. The Judges' Award for Innovation went to the Queensland-built Brava 45.

They said it was: "A very clever boat that incorporates a lot of innovative thought in the hull design, construction and layout.

"In particular, the judges were impressed by the use of composites and overall attention to detail."

And the Judges' Excellence in Boat Building Award went to another Queensland-manufactured boat – the Powercat 3000 Sport Cabriolet.

They said: "This is a boat that excels in just about every aspect of boat building.

"Finish and attention to detail are nothing less than superb.

"Whether it's wiring, plumbing, upholstery, surface finishes or accessories fitment, the Powercat 3000 Sport Cabriolet is a worthy winner."

The other categories

• Fishing Trailerable – Fibreglass-GRP under 6m

Winner: PM Marine Manufacturing, Revolution 550 Platinum

• Fishing Trailerable – Fibreglass-GRP over 6m

Winner: Theodore Marine, 720 Offshore
Commendation: The Haines Group, Signature 675F

• Fishing Trailerable – Aluminium under 6m

Winner: Evolution Boat Builders, Evolution Outsider 520

Commendation: Stacer, 459 Barra pro

• Fishing Trailerable-Aluminium over 6m

Winner: Quintrex, 670 Offshore SDD
Commendation: Goldstar Boats, 7600 Excalibur Centre Cab

• Fishing Non-Trailerable up to 10m

Winner: Leisurecat Australia, 8000 Sportfisher

• Fishing Non-Trailerable over 10m

Winner: Maritimo, Maritimo 550 Offshore Convertible

• Cruiser Trailerable Fibreglass-GRP over 6m

Winner: Whittley Marine Group, Whittley 2800 Cruiser
Commendation: Theodore Marine, 720 Soft Top Coastal

• Cruiser Trailerable-Aluminium over 6m

Winner: Kirby Marine, DV8 1m Nauid

• Cruiser Trailerable-Aluminium under 6m
Winner: Brunswick Boat Group, Savage 540 Beachcomber SD



The Buizen 48 is the ultimate in off-shore pleasure cruising

• Cruiser Non-Trailerable up to 10m

Winner: Powercat Marine, 3000 Sport Cabriolet

• Cruiser Non-Trailerable over 10m

Winner: The Riviera Group, Riviera 4400 Sport Yacht
Commendation: Brava Marine, Brava 45 Sports

• Imported Fishing Non-Trailerable

Winner: G4 Marine, Grady White Express 305

• Imported Fishing Trailerable

Winner: Marine Network, Seafax 206CC

• Imported Trailerable Cruiser

Winner: Cobalt Boats Australia, Cobalt 222
Commendation: Blakes Marine, Campion Allante 825

• Imported Non-Trailerable Cruiser

Winner: Boats International, Horizon 65 Flybridge
Commendation: The Riviera Group, Grand Blanks Heritage 59

• Sailing Non-Trailerable over 10m

Winner: Mastercraft Marine, Buizen 48

• Imported Non-Trailerable Sail up to 10m
Winner: Antill International Marine, Dufour D325

• Imported Non-Trailerable Sail over 10m

Winner: Antill International Marine, Dufour 425

• Imported Trailerable Sail Cruising

Winner: Multihull Yacht Sales Australia, Corsair Sprint 750

• Ski

Winner: Performance Marine, Spyboats RX22
Commendation: The Haines Group, Super Air Nautique 210

• Dayboat

Winner: Theodore Marine, 720 Open Coastal
Commendation: Quintrex, Quintrex 530 Freedom Cruiser

• House Boat

Winner: Houseboat Concepts, Absolute

• Innovative Product

Winner: Walter Peter Wright, Boatbook-Mooring system
Commendation: Marine Protection, System Grounding Strap