

# FREE FOR ALL

WORDS + PHOTOS ANDREW RICHARDSON





## Bluewater battlewagon or family cruiser... the Offshore 595 gives you freedom of choice

It was holiday time for the kids and I, but my wife had taken a part-time job during January, so I decided to bring my kids along for the ride. To Alan Blake, we probably seemed like a panel of extremely demanding judges but he took it in his stride and endeavoured to answer a string of questions put to him by my three-year-old boy.

"Scuse me, what's this button for? Can I climb up there?" Alan did have a bit of trouble grasping the complex emotions of my six-year-old daughter who continually fought with her little brother over the ever-changing 'best seat' on the boat — all in a days family boating!

### KIDS ONBOARD

Having kids onboard is a good test for a family fishing boat and straight away the Queensland-built Freedom 595 WA revealed her good points. Such as the way that substantial stainless steel Targa top provides good protection from the sun and the walk-around deck and wide, flat aft combings offer

safe access around the boat. The kids also loved the large custom-made bow hatch that made forward access easy and they spent a lot of time jumping around in the roomy cabin and on the practical vee-berth in the bow.

But most importantly for a family boat, there's a portable toilet located under the berth.

This is the first time I've been onboard any Freedom boats and I was pleasantly surprised by the build quality. She features thick aluminium windscreen surrounds and stainless steel grab rails in all the right places. The Targa top, with its rocket launcher rod rack, is exceptionally well built and has the ability to fold down to reduce the rig's height. And the bowrail is high enough to offer genuine security and easy access when forward to the open bow with pulpit.

### WE HAVE LIFT OFF!

Alan explained that the Freedom's hull has a concave running plank that



