

It's a widespread revolution at Stacer Boats

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Stacer Boats have recently seen a revolution at their huge factory, with the alloy manufacturer pulling the covers off a brand new hull design for the 2018 model year.

Coinciding with the release of their Revolution hull design, this progressive Gold Coast company has also reduced the number of models in their 2018 range of boats, which is in many respects a revolution in itself! Whereas some manufacturers strive to increase their presence, Stacer have consolidated

2018 has also seen construction now centring around plate, like smoothed side sheets, with increased bottom and side sheet thickness and fully welded side decks being standard fare within the range. Smoothed (pressings free) side sheets are the modern way of catching the buyer's eye, and let's face it – those smooth side sections



A rainy and bleak day failed to dampen the enjoyment of the Stacer small craft line-up, seen here on the beach at Southport.

In a nutshell, Stacer's Revolution hull has combined the best features from the maker's acclaimed Barra and Assault Pro craft, and the company is claiming enhanced performance, increased stability plus other desirable features. The new hull features a more concave

their models to simplify customer choice as well as make life easier for dealers to maintain readily identified yet quite distinct craft in their yards.

Some examples of range consolidation include Stacer's Crossfire and Nomad, which are now

simply beg for colourful wraps to bring on the bling.

The enhanced 3mm minimum bottom and sides ensure extra rigidity and overall strength, while fully welded side decks conveniently eliminate any gaps along gunwales and top side decks.



The 389 Territory with its Striker hull retains the title of Stacer's ideal car topper. It drives and rides beyond expectations.

bottom section, and pressing techniques carried over from the well established Evo hull range which ensure inherent strength. There's also the addition of a raised chine line.

offered simply as a newly designed Crossfire; the Seaway and Bay Master, now called the Sea Master; and the Nomad Ranger and Sea Ranger, which have become the Sea Ranger.

ON THE WATER WITH THE 2018 STACER RANGE

Stacer arranged a date for boating press reps like myself to inspect and drive some of the new Revolution-



The Assault Pro irons out a bit of wind chop. Hold onto your hat!

based rigs (along with other newly-upgraded Stacer craft). As luck would have it, the day was a shocker. There were strong winds and frequent rain squalls –

One thing that did brighten up an otherwise soggy time on the sea was the sheer capability of the craft we had at our disposal. From the little Territory 389 right

blew the rain in under the canopies anyway.

That aside, the sheer enjoyment of driving different boats, assessing handling and performance –



The Crossfire range featured the new Revolution hull, and there were plenty of smiles from those aboard the 469, despite the rain.

the kind of weather that has you scrambling for your rain jacket. Those attendees who hadn't brought one just had to grin and bear it. With people coming from as far away as South Australia, the show had to go on, so it was all aboard.

up to the feisty 529 Assault Pro Tournament, with its all grunt 150 Evinrude G2 150, there was fun for all. A couple of the Stacers with biminis were understandably popular, although it didn't really matter as the wind

often with near maximum loads aboard – cut through the gloom with ease.

THE 2018 RANGE Territory

Stacer's Territory, which comes in 349, 369 and 389 sizes, remains the maker's



A glance at the well-proportioned Stacer Sea Master 499 reveals the depth of sides, rubber gunwale tops and nice lines.

cartopper of choice. This year's models are 160mm deeper, 90mm wider and have welded seats and a steeper deadrise. The time-proven Striker hull remains the build format for the Territory. The bigger 389 model is rated for engines up to 30hp so there's some performance there as well.

Crossfire

In sizes 469, 499, 519, 539 and 569, the new hull shape is a great upgrade for this family fishing favourite. Standard across the board are increased freeboard, alloy live well with glass window, welded side decks, scupper drainage system, underfloor storage, and

through dash and a flat panel dash section with lip on some models. A factory-fitted drum winch is a popular option for the new Sea Master range.

Wild Rider

An entirely new model, the Wild Rider has replaced the Easy Rider range with 499, 519, 539, 589 and 619 sizes now standard. As these



The Wild Rider 619 proved to be a bowrider with bite; there's 200 horses on the transom there.



Many of the features in Stacer's 2018 range can be seen in this shot of the Wild Rider 539 at rest. Note the full height transom, high sides offering plenty of freeboard, and the great proportions of this rig as a whole.

Assault Pro

The Assault Pro Tournament is the big news in Stacer's competition-style craft. These rigs feature the new Revolution style hull along with options for dual consoles and expanded live wells (80L), as well as over 30 other options!

Sizes are from 469/509/529 to suit any budget. All come with a 50L live well, rod lockers, extendable front and rear cast platforms, lockable

options for side or centre console drive systems. Drum winches are offered for all versions, including the new fishing iteration, called the CrossFisher. This model sports a raised front platform with space for a 100L icebox under it, a lockable rod locker and extra large transom.

Sea Master

In sizes 429, 449, 469, 499 and 519, the new Revolution hull is also standard in this handy-sized runabout with its bucket

are larger craft, the option list is also expanded to take in over 50 different items.

The seven person 619 I drove was equipped with a bimini and envelope which were, fortunately, now standard along with the Revo hull, a drop nose, very smooth rolled side decks, fully welded sheets, 3mm topsides, 4mm bottoms, and concealed anchor well under the bowrider front cushioning. It also has increased underfloor storage

transom, the Wild Rider was a bowrider with bite, being seriously fast and just plain fun to drive.

Sea Ranger

The Sea Ranger stays with the Evo Advance hull but now offers buyers additional sizes. In the side console range there are 499, 529 and 559 models, with

With over 40 items on the options list, the Sea Ranger is a serious offshore rig with credentials to match.

Ocean Ranger

These are the big hitters in the Stacer range of offshore craft. They are available in both soft top, hard top and centre cab styles, with all three variants gracing the

station with enclosed storage is also a useful option.

All Ocean Rangers feature self-draining floors – a useful feature for offshore work and the clean-up afterwards.

SUMMING UP

So that's the rundown on the new Stacer line-up. In many respects it is



Stacer's range of Revolution-based rigs exhibit higher and flatter sides, along with bucket loads of bling.

hatches and standard thruster brackets.

The 520 Assault Pro was a big favourite on the press day, with the 150 H.O. Evinrude G2 E-Tec really turning heads and treating the occupants to some eye-watering, high speed rain in the face!

pedestal seats up front, and wide bench aft. Sea Masters all feature the standard smooth sides, along with 3mm topsides, rubber gunwale extremities, welded side decks, carpeted floor, storage under the floor as well as under the dash, and a stainless ladder aft. There's also a step-

space. This big bow rider pretty much has the lot, with everything from a sound system to a recessed ski locker. An optional Angler Pack provides a live well and an aft seating set-up that converts into a useful casting platform. With a 200 Evinrude G2 on the



With the rain temporarily eased off it was time to open the 150 Gen2 E-Tec's taps to see what the Assault Pro could do.

centre console rigs available in 499, 529, 559, 659 and 709 sizes. New standard features are 4mm bottom and sides on the 449-559 models, 5mm bottoms, 4mm sides on 659-709 with fully welded floors and casting platforms also standard. A self-draining floor with scuppers makes sense on an offshore rig of this quality, as does a raised front cast platform able to conceal a 100L icebox. The Sea Ranger's big kill tank drains straight overboard, which is useful, and welded rod holders come standard. There's also a glass-sided live well along with big cockpit side pockets.

boat yards in 589, 609, 659, 709 and 759 sizes.

Interestingly, all cabins are the same size in all models. These Stacers also come with a strike chair with swivel backrest, swept floors and casting platforms also standard. A self-draining floor with scuppers makes sense on an offshore rig of this quality, as does a raised front cast platform able to conceal a 100L icebox. The Sea Ranger's big kill tank drains straight overboard, which is useful, and welded rod holders come standard. There's also a glass-sided live well along with big cockpit side pockets.

An Expedition Version (709/759) is part of the package, and these are built with extended hard tops over enlarged cabins with lockable doors, electric toilets, plus a bow mount plate up front. An aft bait

indeed a revolution, with the introduction of a brand new hull and a swag of new features across the range, from the smallest car toppers right through to the largest of their offshore trailer boats. Unfortunately, press days are always busy events, and between dodging rain squalls and moving between boats for assessment, it wasn't possible to compile enough notes and photos for a thorough report on any one rig. However, I'm looking forward to reviewing some selected models from Stacer's new range later this year.