

MAC 600 MILLENIUM EDITION PRESS RELEASE



Quite often you will read a boat review that is a glowing accolade of the product. It reads as if the boat rides on a cotton wool sea with an appearance the Rolls Royce could only aspire to. In many cases the writers' comments are well deserved as N.Z. does have some of the finest boats in the world.

This review will be neither a glowing accolade nor a harsh critic. The fact is the 6m MAC MILLENIUM reviewed had features that were good and others that deserve comment. Firstly be aware the boat that has been trialed was definitely not going to be what the consumer will see, it was a true prototype that was undergoing the final stages of development. There were still a few bugs that needed to be ironed out.

The design of the Mac Millennium is a fine entry, mono hull, centre console. The design was first released at the N.Z. boat Show this year, and there was a great deal of public interest. The manufacture of all MAC Boats is unique because they are made from plastic using a rotational moulding process. This creates a boat that is very buoyant, warm. With a hull that absorbs shock excellently and is incredibly strong. Nothing sticks to it and it is impervious to chemicals and petrol. On the other side of the coin the material is not so rigid as fibreglass or alloy, therefore flexing is more noticeable. It is also impossible to paint this type of plastic, so the finish will only be the matt coloured appearance that comes out of the mould.



Galloway International Ltd. have been manufacturing MACS up to 5.7 metres for quite a while now using a pontoon styling that has proved to be popular for a wide variety of uses, being used from rescue boats to commercial crayfishing. The primary difference with the MILLENIUM is that it is designed along more traditional styling with a 20-degree fine entry hull to improve rough water handling characteristics.

When we took the MAC MILLENIUM out, there was a steady 15-knot-sou-wester and outgoing

tide which had wiped up the usual Waitemata Harbour chop. Initially we ran the boat at about 4500-rpm, which seemed to get the best out of the hull but these revs we were only pulling about 25 mph. Adjusting the trim picked up the speed a little but the balance of the ride wasn't quite right. After a few minutes playing with the trim we concluded that the propeller was not the right one and some adjustments of the trim setting of the 90HP Mercury was needed. Putting these issues to one side we found a happy medium for the boat as it was set up and were soon cruising at around 35 mph, pulling tight turns and generally putting the rig through its paces.

Running the MAC MILLENNIUM at all quarters the ride was good and responded well, the hydraulic steering made the boat a pleasure to drive. Being a centre console we felt a little exposed to the elements and did catch a bit of spray when running at slower speeds. The ride overall was quiet and comfortable although it was easy to put the balance of the boat off when shifting the weight around, with the addition of trim tabs this would be reduced. As the MACS are so buoyant they sit very high in the water. Stability at rest was good and as a fishing platform centre consoles are ideal. Fishing, moving around the boat, anchoring and landing fish in the middle of a choppy channel proved no problem.



The boat although sparse is well fitted out with adequate grab rails, upholstered seating for at least five and plenty of dry storage. The bimini top and windscreen afford reasonable protection from the elements, if side screens were added protection would be greatly enhanced.

The MAC MILLENIUM offers pretty reasonable entry level 6m boat for fishermen looking to get into a boat of its size, and it would be suitable for most work even up to a bit of blue water work in the right conditions. Nothing will phase it in day to day blokes' fishing boat rather than a mum and kids all-rounder. The propeller and trim issues have subsequently been dealt with and a few minor changes have been made to the mould offering a tidy finished rig that fits into the entry level price category.

Edited Version

