



Boarder Magazine Article

Matrix Marine was established by two Australian Boat Builders, Neil Boyd and John Noorlander, whose desire to produce a world class Australian manufactured ski boat resulted in the establishment of their own company in 2000. Their first model release, the Sorrento, was an all purpose wakeboard and family ski boat. Its fresh aesthetic and quality finish were noticeable features on the famed Murray River and within the first year of production Matrix took and delivered orders for 35 Sorrento's, almost tripling their expected sales. A dedication to serving the needs of wake boarders, which began when the first boat hit the water, has been reciprocated in customer loyalty. As a result of being the major towboat of all SA & many QLD Wakeboard rounds for five committed years, their R&D facility has consisted of input from the entire wakeboard community of the Murray River. Their ears have been open and in 2004 this resulted in a more hardcore oriented boat for wake boarders.

The Matrix Expression is the big brother of the range. It was built to serve the needs of the more hardcore wake boarder, producing a world class wake found in higher priced international imports, while having a price tag that leaves plenty of loose change in your pocket. Having only been in production since 2005, recent sales figures of the Expression have eclipsed the Sorrento, which now makes the Expression the flag ship model in the Matrix Range. This comes from 2 factories now producing over 80 boats per year.

Being the only mid-mount flag ship vessel in Australia, its roominess and extremely spacious interior breathes life back into the practicality of the endangered mid-mount wakeboard boat. Having seating from the bow to the stern it can comfortably hold 12 passengers. It has plenty of freeboard, allowing everyone to sit deep and dry inside the boat and the extra room around the engine cover leaves plenty of room for a couple of water bags. So if you want to get silly with wake size but not the bank manager the Expression is your ticket to ride. Not that you would need extra weight because the Expression comes standard with 500kg ballast, which is hidden away from view behind the rear seat and in the bow section. At a flick of the switch the ballast fills and empties in less than 6 minutes. Even with the boat loaded full of passengers, the Expression pulls out of the hole and gets on plane extremely easy.

The wake shape is great for beginner's right through to the budding pro tour competitor. It holds a peaky clean wake shape under load at all speeds and gives you the ability to ride any rope length up to 80 feet long.

The build quality in Matrix sets it a rung above the rest. The entire boat, except the engine hatch and rear ballast seats, is formed in two moulds - the deck and hull mould. This reduces the need for screws or separate components, which allow boats to buckle and stress riding through rough water or large double-ups. The one piece top deck, which incorporates the cockpit, dash, bow seating and observer seating, strengthens the entire boat, giving it a longer life, and as a result, a greater re-sale value.

The vacuum formed dash module has a silver ABS moulded insert with well positioned chrome bezelled gauges, and the Matrix tower and flick switch ballast come as standard in the price. The Expression is your chance to crack into the real sport of wakeboarding; get on a bigger wake for a smaller price tag.

Driving

Power is delivered by Mercruiser. Motor options start with the 315hp 350 MAG, which was fitted to the test boat. This proven power plant easily copes with the size and weight of the Expression, providing strong performance and pulling power. An optional OJ stainless steel prop gives optimum performance and a super smooth ride.

The ride from the boat is very smooth through chop and over double-ups, due to the solid construction and foam filled floors.

Ballast & Tower

Ballast is pump-in pump-out using switches on the dash and is provided in two options. The system has one tank running under the bow walkway and one across the back.

The alloy tower complements the styling of the boat and windscreen shape, and can be easily folded down for storage.

Wake

As expected from past Matrix products, and from the size of the new Expression, the wake is big and clean. With a huge amount of freeboard the boat rides high in the water making it very dry, comfortable and easy to manage, even when loaded.

This freeboard also allows the flexibility of loading the boat in different ways to adjust wake shape. Rope length can be stretched out for a big wide wake on longer lines.

Summary

The guys from Matrix worked tirelessly to deliver a bigger, more luxurious boat for the wakeboard market and their efforts have been well placed.

This is great news for the buying public who now have another very worthy option to consider. The Expression offers lots of space, a high level of standard features, plus a good wake, and all at a price that won't scare the bank manager.