

Arvor Boats Australia

Arvor Weekender

PHOTOS: ARVOR AUSTRALIA



Sydney is famous for many things, including the southerly buster. The change is always refreshing, often welcome in summer, but not to be laughed at when you are on the water.

Ordinarily, one wouldn't venture out in the teeth of a southerly buster. But it's nice to know the new Arvor Weekender, based on the company's popular 23-foot hull, has the seaworthiness to get you through it and back to your berth safely. We know this because mid-test we encountered a terrific southerly, the kind that can turn the ocean to spume in the blink of an eye.

Arvor? Surely you've heard of the jaunty little cabin cruisers? Diesel shaftdrive? Check. Bowthruster? Check. Walkaround sidedecks? Check. Self-draining cockpit? Check. Lock-up cabin? Check. All these things have contributed to Arvor's success since the first 20-footer. But now there's even more sway.

Amenities? Check. Whereas the attraction of Arvors has always been utility, economy and low maintenance, the trade-off has been a lack

of comforts. The cabin of the 20 to 28-foot range has room to stretch your legs but that's about it. Anglers would gravitate but fishwives would swim the other way.

The new Arvor Weekender will arrest that migration. In fact, a family of four will feel right at home during their weekends afloat.

TOUGH NUGGET

There are now 300-odd Arvors in Australia. Do your research and you will discover the boats aren't all that freely available on the second-hand market and those that are for sale have held their value remarkably well. Therein lies the advantage of a shaftdrive over sterndrive for boats kept in water.

The hull itself is interesting, a kind of gull-wing design, with big running strakes and downturned chines to generate lift. A keel assists with tracking, while also protecting the running gear. Thus, the boat can be left to dry out in areas of big tidal variance. Waterfronts with shallow water are another good fit.

Full head and shoulder room around the internal dinette allows you to concentrate on the fabulous outdoor views.

HIGHS

- Great value for money
- Low maintenance and frugal cruising
- Terrific utility for family, fishing and fun
- Good balance of outdoor and indoor areas
- Enlarged cabin with amenities for weekending
- Strong brand with good resale value and local support



Power comes from a frugal 150hp Cummins MerCruiser diesel engine. To counter the effects of prop walk when reversing, the builder had the good sense to fit a Vetus bowthruster. All the running gear, including the 1.5in shaft, appears up to the task and, moreover, the longevity of the boats underscores such things.

Interestingly, the Arvor Weekender on trailer weighs about 3500kg. While its 2.78m beam means some kind of towing permit, doing so is not beyond the realms of possibility if that fits your charter.

DECKED OUT

As with most Arvors, you get a moulded swimplatform with fold-down ladder and cold-water shower. The transom also has moulded fender holders, twin rodholders, and cushions for back support when sitting on the moulded cockpit seats with supplied clip-in cushions.

The dedicated dinette lives in an under-seat cockpit hold and is assembled for an alfresco lunch. Afterwards, the table may be lowered and converted to a sunpad.

As with all Arvors, walkaround sidedecks backed by bow and cabin-top rails mean you can access the foredeck safely. Unlike some Arvors, this is a symmetrical cabin layout with equal access along either sidedeck. A windlass is bundled with the boat for push-button anchoring and the split bowrail provides forward deck access.

Meantime, while the cockpit is big enough to fish, it's smaller than the Arvor 230 based on the same hull. That's because this Weekender has a bigger cabin. The idea is that you will spend at least a night ensconced within. Indeed, at no time did anyone feel cramped during a test spent largely indoors to avoid the aforesaid southerly buster.

IN THE CABIN

Besides full headroom, you get plenty of shoulder room around the internal dinette with L-shaped lounge for four that converts into a double bed. When seated, while cruising



Storage galore, plenty of fresh water aboard, plus the kitchen sink.

or kicking back, you get to enjoy great views out the windows. The huge skyroof adds to the open feel.

The galley has a sink under the flip-down helm seat, Waeco 12V fridge, solid servery with fiddles, and lockers for crockery. There's a dedicated battery for the bowthruster and a shared engine-start and house battery, while the engine has a 100amp alternator.

The primary sleeping arrangement comes via a vee-berth with infill that makes a double in the bow. There's an additional single berth to port running back under the saloon sole. So it is possible for a family of four to weekend aboard.

The private head is a boon. There's a moulded sink and 100lt of cold water



**ARVOR
WEEKENDER**

GENERAL

MATERIAL: GRP
TYPE: Moderate-vee planing monohull
LENGTH OVERALL: 7.65m
HULL LENGTH: 6.95m
BEAM: 2.78m
DRAFT: 0.85m
WEIGHT: Approx 2300kg

CAPACITIES

PEOPLE (NIGHT): 4 + 1
FUEL: 135lt
WATER: 100lt

ENGINE

MAKE/MODEL: Cummins MerCruiser Diesel QSD 2.0L
TYPE: Inline four-cylinder diesel
RATED HP: 150 at 4000rpm

SUPPLIED BY

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tradeaboat says...

The Weekender is just perfect for that big bay, big river or harbour sortie with a spot of fishing and family fun.

aboard, plus storage space. However, there isn't a holding tank so a portable toilet is fitted.

PERFORMANCE & HANDLING

Back to that brilliant southerly buster that turned the harbour into foam. These weren't the kind of conditions in which to mount your sortie. But it was good to know the Arvor has the seaworthiness to get you home.

We trained the bow on the melee and, while it wasn't exactly dry running, at least in the cabin we remained that way while maintaining a 13.5kts cruise at 3400rpm for 21.8lt/h.

Then, after swinging the wheel, calling on the wipers and making a dash for it back downwind, we gained an extra 1 to 1.5kts for the same revs. But with more time, we might have run for cover and hunkered down in this back-to-basics Weekender. Add a bottle of wine, a wheel of brie, some music and break bread with friends or family. The cabin accommodates such things to a greater degree than any previous Arvor. 

Visit www.tradeaboat.com.au to see the full report on this boat.

