

# BOAT TEST

## Savage planes into a new era

The huge Australian aluminium trailerboat company Telwater has invested big dollars in design and marketing in its quest to rejuvenate Australia's oldest boat brand, Savage.

AUTHOR AND PHOTOGRAPHY: STEVE COOPER



**S**avage has released a new range of aluminium boats called Scorpions, and its aim is to recapture traditional market share. Telwater manufactures Quintrex, Stacer and Yellowfin boats, however, Savage's sales and marketing director, Damien Duncan, said that the new Savage boats were developed as a separate entity.

Based in Victoria for more than a century, Savage was bought by Queensland-based Telwater in 2008 from Mercury Marine, and relocated to Telwater's Coomera manufacturing facility.

Duncan said Savage is Australia's oldest brand of aluminium boat, with the first model released in 1898: "For 116 years, the Savage name has been held in esteem by Australian boaters," Duncan said. "The company has a reputation for designing and building practical boats that last for generations of boating enjoyment."

In keeping with the age of the brand and the new designs, Savage held a media day at Sea World on the Broadwater under the banner: 'Oldest brand, newest boats'. There were seven boats on the water, and several of them were ideal for the barra, bass and bream angler.

Duncan said Savage has a history of creating long-lasting designs; the brand has always been at the forefront of innovative technology, and a market leader in quality and finish. "Throughout the late '80s and early '90s, Savage was the top-selling boat brand within Australia, with boats being passed down through generations: Savage boats have influenced, inspired and been a template for many in the Australian marine industry," he added. "At the Telwater factory, Savage boats are being produced with greater quality controls, and in larger quantities, to meet the demands of the market and an expanding dealer network."

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Duncan said changes incorporated in the new boats were driven by dealer input: "Our dealers told us we need a bigger range of boats to be more competitive, and we added a cabin boat due to dealer requests."

The company made a bold move in redesigning the hulls, even though it would have been easy to reuse existing hulls. Called 'Ultra Lift', the hulls offer a smooth ride similar to that experienced in heavier plate or fibreglass vessels.

Duncan said the Scorpion range replaces the previous Piranha model line-up. The inclusion of a tiller steer option was based on customer demand. "The 435 and 455 Scorpion are the first models in this range of boats that have been available as a tiller steer, and we are expecting it to be popular."

"The great thing about the new Scorpion range is we've packed them full of more standard features like extra rodholders, livebait tank and an extra transducer bracket - all at a competitive price," Duncan said.



## SAVAGE BOAT RANGE

Here is a rundown on the new range, including prices as standard excluding extras. All the boats are available as complete packages, which includes boat, motor, trailer and a three-year limited warranty. For more information, visit: [www.savageboats.com.au](http://www.savageboats.com.au)

Prices were credited to Mark Luttrell at Coffs Harbour Marine, NSW. Tel: (02) 6652 4722 or email: [mark@coffsharbourmarine.com.au](mailto:mark@coffsharbourmarine.com.au)

### 455 Scorpion

Savage's new release, the 455 Scorpion TS, is a brand-new, feature-packed fishing rig perfect for dams, creeks and rivers. The 455 Scorpion is available as a centre or side console, and tiller steer.

Built with tough 3mm smooth side sheets and a soft-riding, reliable hull, the 455 Scorpion is packed with fishing essentials aimed at getting the angler on the water without fuss. The boat comes with a front and rear casting platform, livebait tank, battery tray and plenty of storage.

Added options for the 455 Scorpion include rod storage locker, Bimini and envelope, 70L fuel tank and extra storage bins.



Savage trailer  
Powered by 50HP tiller Evinrude E-TEC  
Incl. registration, safety gear,  
\$20,641

### 485 Scorpion

The 485 Scorpion is hot off the production line, and is available as side or centre console with many options aimed to suit anglers' needs.

This boat features new 3mm smooth-look side sheets and comes fitted out with a rear casting platform, livebait tank, battery tray, 77L fuel tank and storage options that include large side pockets and storage bins in the front casting platform. The 485 Scorpion is a practical fishing boat, offering a smooth, stable ride and room to move about.

The 485 Scorpion is available to be optioned up with a Bimini and envelope, and rod storage locker.



Savage trailer  
Powered by 75HP Evinrude E-TEC  
Incl. registration, safety gear,  
\$26,357

### 485 Scorpion Pro

The marketing people at Savage believe the 485 Scorpion Pro will be a top seller.

Available as a side and centre console, and built with 3mm smooth side sheets, the 485 Scorpion Pro is built to be versatile and tough. The boat comes packed with all the fishing essentials, including front and rear casting platforms complete with a livebait tank, battery tray and plenty of storage.

With an easy-access pod transom, four rodholders and a 77L fuel tank as standard, the 485 Scorpion Pro offers an impressive and practical fishing layout.

Duncan said an important feature retained in the Scorpion Pro was the padded transom: "The transom makes boarding the boat easier. It was a popular feature in the past with customers who like swimming, diving and even spearfishing."

Available options for the 485 Scorpion Pro include Bimini and envelope, rod storage locker, bow mount thruster plate and rear ladder.

Savage trailer  
Powered by 75HP Evinrude E-TEC  
Incl. registration, safety gear,  
\$28,024