

Lewis 590 Walk Around

If you have had any involvement in skiing or wakeboarding, the name Lewis would be one recognised immediately.

Having been in the boat building industry since the early 1930s, Lewis ski boats are renowned for their quality workmanship and unsurpassed performance.

Established on the Central Coast of NSW, Lewis is 100 percent Australian owned.

Now Lewis has turned the focus of their boat building skills to developing and manufacturing Lewis leisure boats.

One such boat in this range is the 590 Walk Around.

Designed as an all-rounder with inshore and offshore capabilities, the Lewis 590 Walk Around provides a good entry level boat.

I recently took one for a run on the Broadwater and out through the Seaway.

On the test day it was glass, with barely a ripple on the bar – although as I'm sure most of you are aware there is usually plenty of traffic producing wake in this area and this day was no exception.

Fitted with a 135hp Mercury Optimax the 590 was well balanced and pulled onto the plane around 2800-2900rpm and a tick under 15 knots.

The 590 Walk Around is rated to a maximum horsepower of 175, but the 135 was ample and at around 5000rpm (the engine was brand spanking new so we didn't open it right up) we hit a comfortable 35 knots.

Maybe a bit of ski and wake boat mentality went into constructing and designing the boat to handle a 175hp, because it would certainly get along.

Hull construction consists of a solid underfloor fibreglass grid system providing integral strength.

This is bolstered by the injection of underfloor foam flotation, which has a twofold effect.

Firstly it improves safety with emergency flotation and secondly assists in providing a smoother, quieter ride.

Internally the boat is well designed with the layout utilising as much space as possible.

There are two rear quarter seats, which are perfect for the kids, or they can be removed to provide additional fishing area.

Stainless steel grab rails have also been partially recessed into the side of the boat to give a bracing point to hold on to.

The test boat was fitted with a large removable storage compartment at the stern that also doubles as an additional seat.

Side pockets are located on both port and starboard sides and although not massive provide enough storage to get various tackle and odd ends out of the way.

As for rod storage there are two standard rod holders built into the gunwale, but the option of a rocket launcher is the best way to carry them around.

Another option included on the test boat was a bimini, a must for cruising in this climate.

And although not fitted,



Boat Test
by BEN COLLINS

Specifications

Length: 5.90m (overall)
Beam: 2.30m
Weight: 820kg (approx)
Deadrise: 23 degrees
Max hp: 175hp
Transom: 25"

Speed figures

rpm	knots
1000	3.6
2000	5.7
2900	Planing
3000	15
3500	23
4000	27
5000	35

a set of front and side clears would make this an even more comfortable all-weather boat.

As mentioned earlier this is a bit of an all-rounder as the cabin is quite large considering the overall size of the boat, which as the name suggests is 5.9m.

Cabin walls are fully carpeted providing a cosy spot to have a rest or put the kids down for an afternoon nap.

Additional storage is also available under the seats and there is a shelf around the cabin.

The helm position is slightly raised, giving good vision while seated or standing.

However, I am not a total fan of different floor levels in boats.

What I am a fan of is the easy access to the bow.

This makes access to the anchor a breeze (although I'm sure an electric anchor could be fitted making anchoring even easier).

There is ample room to manoeuvre around and the high bow rails give you something to brace yourself with, plus they are an ideal height to hang on to as you make your way around the cabin.

An additional bonus in having the grab rails this high is that you could easily slide under them when you wanted to get off the boat on shore or at the ramp.

Too often you see people struggling to fit through a small gap or jumping over the rail but on the 590 Walk Around it was easy to disembark from the bow.

Alternatively there are rear steps.

Summing up the overall package, the ride was very comfortable, the finish is good and for the dollars you get yourself a very tidy boating and fishing package.

So how much are we talking I can hear you ask?

Well the test boat with options mentioned and shown in the picture comes in at \$44,880.

That price also includes a tandem Swiftco galvanised trailer, inshore safe-ty pack, Navman 4433



The walk around provides good access to the bow.



Inside the cab. Note the shelf.



There is good all round vision from the helm.



The rear quarter seats with additional storage box seat.



The hull design provided a responsive smooth ride.