

NOOSA CAT 3000 SERIES

By MIKE BROWN



FAR AND AWAY THE OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL OF CHOICE FOR NSW POLICE

Queensland's Noosa Cat Australia has recently delivered a series of seven eight-metre patrol vessels to the New South Wales Water Police (NSW Police). The 3000 Series Noosa Cat is a new model evolved from the company's long standing 2700 Series. The catamarans will be used by the NSW Police for offshore patrol duties to the limits of their NSCV 2C survey. Whereas NSW Police has opted for larger and more costly RHIB monohulls for inshore work, the Noosa Cat-built catamarans are the patrol craft of choice for

the much harder offshore use. For these operations, endurance, reliability, safety, and stability are of paramount importance and maintenance costs must be kept to a minimum – features a Noosa Cat vessel consistently exhibits.

Noosa Cat has supplied offshore patrol vessels to various Australian water police departments from as early as 1990, after the builder acquired the prestigious SharkCat brand of powered catamarans. All of the delivered vessels have performed extremely well over this timeframe, with minimal repairs needed beyond routine maintenance and the occasional re-power.

Between 1990 and 2000, 18 Noosa Cats have been delivered to the NSW Water Police fleet, with Noosa Cat consistently updating and evolving the vessel designs. The latest batch of vessels for the NSW Police each measure eight metres in length and feature a greater waterline beam of the hull compared to RHIBs. Representing a significant evolution from Noosa Cat's 2700 series, the builder applied a whole raft of changes and refinements to the vessel design, including (amongst other things) increasing the beam, applying a greater depth in the sponsons, and integrating a pod into the hull to increase buoyancy and immersion.

Structurally, timber has been eradicated from everywhere except the transom core, where laminated marine ply is universally acknowledged as the best material for dealing with the compression from the outboard motors' mountings. These outboards are a pair of Yamaha four-stroke V6s, each rated for 168kW and delivering a top speed of 42-44 knots fully loaded and providing very good performance and range for a vessel of this size and power plant.

A particularly noteworthy characteristic of the NSW Police patrol vessels is their remarkable turning ability. Compared to a

monohull or a RHIB, turning is a lot flatter and with far less lean, whatever the speed or rudder angle.

All seven NSW Police vessels incorporate an on board wheelhouse, with two of the vessels featuring an open rear to the wheelhouse and the other five bestowed with bulkheads and lock up ability. On board each vessel, the aft cockpits have side and rear doors for casualty recovery, with clear spaces facilitating operations such as helicopter medivac rescue or dive support. To further maintain clear space on the vessels, a portable fire pump and a rope reel are mounted on slides that slide into a locker. "You open the lockers up, slide the equipment out, and can push it all back out of the way when done," commented Noosa Cat Managing Director Wayne Hennig.

For good footing and added fatigue protection, the cockpit decks also feature non-slip Aquadeck matting. The five vessels provided with lockup cabin versions of the wheelhouse also contain a chart table/dinette and a settee for additional crewmembers. Specifically catering to the requirements of the NSW Police, ventilation is also provided by fans and opening roof hatches.

For the electronic fit out, the vessels' driving and navigating positions have been installed with dual-station Furuno TZT

Navnet systems. The operators sit in top line Ullman suspension seats, and for special operations an advanced FLIR thermal imaging camera works in tandem with the vessel's radar to lock onto a target and track its progress. A remote controlled spotlight further backs up police operations.

The vessels' upper works use foam sandwich construction for lightness and thermal insulation. The topsides are finished with NSW Police's traditional livery, which is protected from abrasion by D-section fenders. Completing the vessel's exceptional stability and seaworthiness, the under deck volume is divided into 16 separate water-tight foam-filled compartments.

The Noosa Cat range is from 5-14 metres in length applicable for a range of commercial and government operations, including rescue, patrol, dive support, surveying, and commercial fishing as well as a wide variety of leisure applications. Well-regarded by commercial operators throughout Australia, the seven newly delivered NSW Police vessels are a testament to Noosa Cat's quality and longevity.

For further information contact: Noosa Cat Australia, Queensland. Email: mail@noosacat.com.au Web: www.noosacat.com.au

Noosa Cat 3000 Series

SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel:	Patrol boat
In survey to:	NSW Maritime
Owner/operator:	NSW Police
Designer/builder:	Noosa Cat, Queensland
Construction material:	FRP
Length overall:	8.2 metres
Length waterline:	7.2 metres
Beam:	2.5 metres
Draught:	0.45 metres
Depth:	1.5 metres
Displacement:	3.4 tonnes (fully loaded)
Outboards:	2 x Yamaha V6 four-stroke, each 167kW
Steering:	Sea Star hydraulic
Maximum speed:	44 knots
Cruising speed:	30 knots
Range:	250nm
Electronics supplied by:	Taylor Marine, Western Australia
Radar:	Furuno TZT navnet
Depth sounder:	Furuno
Radios:	Icom VHF, Icom UHF
Other electronics:	ELI8 thermal imaging camera (interfaced w/Furuno radar)
Refrigeration system:	Wuoco
Vinyl wrap supplied by:	Planetwrap
Windows supplied by:	Australian Marine Windows (direct glaze)
Seating:	Ullman
Lighting supplied by:	Hella marine
Safety flooring:	Aquadeck
Fuel capacity:	600 litres
Freshwater capacity:	50 litres
Crew:	2-2