

# A thoroughly lovely vessel

*Eros pierces the heart of all who see her*



Brad Bishopp has two passions in life: his outdoor advertising company and sailing the high seas. The latter comes from the time spent with his late father on the bridge deck cruiser, *Eros*. Like the name suggests, *Eros* has besotted many during her time with her unusually alluring history, beautiful mixed wood design, and now, a newly installed John Deere engine.

**A labor of love.** Since her initial construction in 1931, *Eros'* desirability has never been in question. Using locally sourced hardwood and softwood timber, years were invested in building the vessel. When *Eros* was finally completed six years later, she was commandeered by the Australian Navy, where the next chapter of her fascinating story takes place.

During WW II, she served as an armed coastal surveillance vessel, servicing lighthouses and beacons along the southern Queensland Coast, operating from her home port of Maryborough.

Adding to her mystique is the possibility that *Eros* was even involved in covert training operations that prepared undercover operatives.

When she finally came into the possession of Brad's father in 2002, the cruiser had already seen over half a century of adventure. However, when she was passed down to Brad in 2006, he decided to refit the whole boat as a tribute to his late father. With a new coat of paint, a complete rewiring and new instrumentation, the other major decision was the boat's new engine.

**Exceeding expectations.** There was no doubt in Brad's mind for this particular selection, a John Deere PowerTech 6068TFM engine. "We made this choice as my view is keeping things as simple as possible. This particular engine I believe is probably the most reliable and straightforward engine that exists on the market today and will continue to run for probably another 50 years."

The control panel allows the captain to keep a close eye on engine performance, such as oil pressure, coolant temperature, and battery voltage.

Russell Salisbury Marine Maintenance and Steve Shale from John Deere dealer Marine Diesel were responsible for the installation of the engine. "It was nice doing business with Steve. He provides a straightforward, reliable service; he simply gets things done."

Replacing its 2-stroke predecessor, described by Brad as "possibly the noisiest engine in the world," the new PowerTech 6068TFM engine meets all of Brad's requirements with easy maintenance, fuel efficiency, and low noise that "exceeds expectations."

With a successful refit completed, Brad hopes to undertake a voyage in 2013 of just over 2,000 km (1,242 mi.) to Australia's premium wooden boat festival in Hobart Tasmania. And if he does get there, it is almost guaranteed that *Eros* will set pulses alight.

Engine Model	PowerTech 6068TFM50
Displacement	6.8L
Rated Power	168 kW (225 hp) @ 2600 rpm
Cylinders	6
Aspiration	Turbocharged
Distributor	John Deere Limited Camden, NSW Australia +61 2 4647 4857 23SYDDC@JohnDeere.com
Dealer	Marine Diesel Pty Ltd Capalaba, Queensland, Australia +61 7 3390 3633 steve@marinediesel.net.au



*Eros* — a truly enchanting sight.

Empowering the *Eros* is John Deere's sleek PowerTech 6068TFM engine.

