

Show and tell: the *Sealestia*

Lex Baddiley Marine Engineering showcases its marine engineering expertise



Specialized in ship fit outs and refits, Lex Baddiley Marine Engineering restores neglected and even derelict craft to their former glory. It's a service that is much in demand. "We have worked with the Queensland Water Police, the Brisbane Marine Pilots, and thousands of private customers, sometimes for three generations," comments owner Lex Baddiley. "We get most business through word of mouth, but having a craft that showcases our expertise is essential." That's where the *Sealestia* comes in.

"When we purchased the *Sealestia* in 2006, she was run down and tired," begins Lex. "There were pipes and hoses running everywhere, no gearboxes, and the generator was missing."

Major changes in the engineering department were definitely a must. "We needed to be able to see everything, and to fix problems at sea. So we sorted out the pipes and hoses situation, sealing up numerous through-hull fittings and re-running new pipe work."

Room to move. In the engine room, Lex found the existing V8 engines too bulky, and replaced them with two inline John Deere PowerTech 6068TFM engines. "The 6068TFM engines are slim, simple, and clean, and offer great value for the money. Installation was easy, and no modifications were needed. We did install galvanized steel stools to support the engines. Replacing the two existing generators with a single one also opened up more space. Now, I have plenty of room to move around the engines and generator for servicing and cleaning."

The *Sealestia* was Lex's first experience with John Deere engines. But he had known Steve Shale of John Deere dealer Marine Diesel for years. "We knew Steve was the 'engine man' for us. With Steve, there's never any drama; he just makes it happen."

Fuel efficiency and ideal horsepower.

Lex is very pleased with the fuel efficiency of the John Deere engines. "Running 8 knots @ 1600 rpm, we use 21 l/h (4.62 gal.), with the gen-set running about four hours a day. We can also run at full revs and get 11 knots, although I am not sure of the fuel consumption then. At that speed, she is past hull speed and pushing hard."

"I'm confident we selected the perfect horsepower for this size displacement boat. Why double this horsepower? I would rather cruise and enjoy the journey: I use a quarter of the fuel, but only run 3 knots slower."

The slim twin PowerTech 6068TFM engines are easy to access and service in the spacious engine room.

The personal touch. With all the modifications, the 18 m (60 ft.) *Sealestia* has become more than just a showcase. "We also use it privately. We changed the layout of the main saloon and added satellite TV. It makes the craft more contemporary and keeps the family happy."

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

The *Sealestia* is a prime example of Lex Baddiley Engineering's expertise in refits, fit outs, and repowers.

