



The repower revealed a rusty fuel tank and filler pipe, issues that owner Ian Gordon resolved immediately. "Bay Belle looks and feels like new," he says.

BELLE OF THE BAY

Bay Belle cruises cleaner and quieter with her new engine repower

Everyone loves progress, but who likes change? When it was time to repower his Moreton Bay Cruiser *Bay Belle*, Ian Gordon wanted the least obtrusive, most efficient power solution. So he teamed up with John Deere engine dealer Marine Diesel Pty Ltd to get it. Marine Diesel delivered the goods by marrying a powerful, fuel-efficient, clean, 4-cylinder engine with *Bay Belle's* original propeller and gearbox, which resulted in a hassle-free solution that combined the best of old and new.

Gordon, who grew up on the Australian Gold Coast, bought *Bay Belle* in 2002. "While I

can only do short local trips right now, they still must be enjoyable and safe," he said. "I need an engine that provides a smooth and quiet ride, yet can get me out of nasty weather situations."

A simple choice

Steve Shale of Marine Diesel suggested replacing *Bay Belle's* original 6-cylinder, non-turbo engine with a smaller John Deere 112-kW (150-hp) PowerTech™ 4045TFM50 turbo engine. "This mechanical engine meets Gordon's request for simplicity and low purchase cost, while providing 22 kW (30 hp) more power at the same maximum rpm," explained Shale.

Marine Diesel took care of the entire installation, connecting the engine to the reconditioned Borg Warner gearbox with a 2.1:1 reduction ratio and original three-blade propeller. They even manufactured a custom bronze "cotton reel" to take up the length differential between the 6-cylinder engine and the shorter 4-cylinder engine.

"Bay Belle now achieves the same cruise speed at a lower engine speed."

— Steve Shale, Marine Diesel

Minor changes, major benefits

"*Bay Belle* now achieves the same cruise speed at a lower engine speed," says Shale. "Noise and vibration levels are considerably reduced, while leaving more power in reserve. The new engine fits in a tighter envelope, both because it is shorter and because we mounted the accessories as a more integral part of the engine package. This increased the clear space around the engine, making servicing a lot easier."

Built in 1984, *Bay Belle* measures 9.4 meters (30 feet) long, has a beam of 4.15 meters (13 feet 6 inches), a draught of 1.2 meters (4 feet), and a displacement of 13 metric tons (14.3 tons). She is a classic beauty in Australian spotted gum, which is excellent for keel and structure where strength is critical. With her cutaway stern and attractive hull she certainly has good looks, but she is a fine sea boat too, says Gordon. "She takes waves kindly, is safe, dry, and comfortable, and is dead quiet at anchor, which is convenient when you are sleeping," he says. "With the new engine, I know that she's ready to take on whatever nature throws at her!"

 Distributor: John Deere Australia;
www.deere.com.au

Dealer: Marine Diesel Pty Ltd in Capalaba, Queensland, Australia; www.marinediesel.net.au



Morton Bay cruiser *Bay Belle* now achieves the same cruise speed at lower engine rpm, which has resulted in lower noise and vibration levels and more power in reserve.