

LOOK AT HER GO!

Odyssey still turns heads at 40, thanks to classy design and a stylish makeover

From her launch in 1971, *Odyssey* seemed destined for fame. Designed by the founder of Queensland's Sea World, she has been used to research and promote the premier marine animal park in Australia, as well as helped in the rescue of injured dolphins. She's also sailed along Harbour Bridge in a procession of thousands of craft celebrating Australia's bicentennial. In view of all this, *Odyssey* is a bit of a celebrity in the Gold Coast Broadwater area. And thanks to new owner Craig Black, she still turns heads today.

The 23-meter (75-foot) monohull Millcraft 70 motor cruiser was handcrafted and custom-built by Brisbane's renowned Millcraft shipyard. She features a clipper bow, transom stern, round bilge, and full keel, and is as much at home at sea as in the shallow Broadwater estuary.

Turning heads

To *Odyssey's* previous owners, she had the most stunning presence of any timber boat in Australia: Her Oregon pine timber hull, teak cabin sides and deck, and impressive cockpit exude ease and elegance. "I have always been a boating enthusiast and owned timber boats before," explains Black. "Whenever I returned to the marina, I admired *Odyssey's* classic lines and always thought to myself that I would love to buy

her if she ever became available." That finally happened in 2012.

Over the years, *Odyssey's* original features had remained almost unchanged, but when Black bought her, he felt she deserved a comprehensive makeover. "We called upon Broadwater Marine and decided to completely refurbish her from hull to deck. We extended the transom by 1.7 meters (5.58 feet) to allow for a usable duckboard and entry into the master cabin from the rear. We moved the galley to the wheelhouse, which was raised and lengthened to accommodate a full kitchen. Where the galley was previously located, below forward, we now have four bunks, laundry, and amenities. On the flybridge level, we extended the floor to cover the rear mid-deck. And we installed Naiad stabilizers, bow and stern thrusters, satellite communication, and the latest navigation technologies." After two years of hard work, *Odyssey* is now a modern, state-of-the-art cruising vessel in classic timber style.

Young at heart

Black also wanted to lift *Odyssey's* power source into the next era, and local John Deere engine dealer Marine Diesel proved a valuable partner. Owner Steve Shale and his team installed twin PowerTech 6090SFM75 engines, complete with Twin Disc MGX-5075 SC transmissions with

a 2.53:1 gear ratio, a Twin Disc EC300 electronic gear and throttle control system with two fixed stations and remote control, an auxiliary-driven bilge pump, an auxiliary drive for stabilizers, flexible mounts, and custom mounting feet. "To fit the new John Deere engines, we completely reconfigured the engine room and installed replacement beds, fiberglass drip trays, new fuel tanks, and a desalination plant," Black comments. "Steve was very helpful, straight to the point, and informative. I had complete confidence in him."

The engines drive 86.36x72.2-centimeter (34x28-inch), 4-blade propellers and supply 335 kW (450 hp) at 2300 rpm. "On test runs, we cruised around 11 knots at 1700 rpm. Pushing her to 2300 rpm, we hit 14 knots. We still have to take her out to sea, but we expect her to reach 15 to 16 knots, which is exceptional for a 75-foot (23-meter) cruiser. At 1700 rpm, we were using about 26.5 liters (7 U.S. gallons) per engine, per hour — truly outstanding! I have a farming background, and John Deere is very strong in agriculture in Australia. Working with these engines gives me peace of mind."

 **Distributor: JD Australia, Brisbane, Australia, JohnDeere.com.au**

Dealer: www.marinediesel.net



Odyssey combines elegance and comfort. She sleeps 10 people very comfortably in large cabins, including three *en suites*, with king size beds or large single bunk beds.



The new PowerTech 6090SFM75 engines give Craig Black and his family peace of mind wherever they cruise.