



AUSTRALASIA'S LEADING MARINE LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

# CLUB MARINE

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**OCEAN OUTLAWS REFINED RIVIERA ELEGANCE MAHI MADNESS  
 MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS UNDERSEA SUPER POWERS ALL-SEAS SURTEES**

Off the Trailer

# A REAL PRO

Surtees has come up with a competent and tough fisher designed to take on all-comers and all seas.



By John Willis  
Photography: John  
Willis and Chris  
Beattie



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**K**iwi boatbuilder Surtees is known for its tough, dependable boats. Whether used close-in, on enclosed waterways or miles offshore, if you're in a Surtees, as far as my experience goes, you're in good hands.

In this case, I happened to be in a new Surtees 610 Pro Fisher centre console, and Mother Nature cooperated for our evaluation by putting on a quite blustery day. Out on Melbourne's Port Phillip we faced a horrid 20- to 25-knot nor'wester that blew windswept moguls of a short, sharp and rocky path full of pits and troughs that might crumble the foundations of lesser craft.



*Top: The 610 Pro Fisher lives up to its name, easily handling sloppy seas.*

*Right: The slim console provides plenty of space to move around.*

*Opposite bottom: Wide gunwales with deck grip extend from stem to stern.*

It's now approaching 10 years since I declared the era of hard-riding aluminium boats over, as selected plate aluminium builders were coming out with hulls that provided rides much closer to their more forgiving fibreglass rivals. As if to underline the progress in aluminium hull design, back in 2017 we blitzed the field in a very lumpy 'Race to the Rock' at Tassie's Eagle Hawk Neck in Deegan Marine's 700 Surtees against a strong field of offshore contenders.

And I'm happy to report Surtees's 610 Pro Fisher continues the trend, as far as the ride goes. In fact, Dromana-based MY Marine's Theo Rozakis and I could be heard whooping and hollering all over nearby Safety Beach as we played like schoolboys in the slop, gaining plenty of air in the process.

### EASY RIDER

What a ride – but more so the incredibly soft landings. You would have expected us to be soaked with the minimal protection offered by the small console windscreen, and sure we did cop a bit of spray, but it was minimal compared to the drowning that we deserved.

I have previously tested the Pro Fisher's siblings, the 610 Game Fisher and 610 Workmate Hard Top cuddy configurations, but having the weight centralised transforms the Pro Fisher into a ballistic missile with the surefootedness of a High

Country brumby. Its layout confers an extremely high-degree of fishability and stability, whether offshore or inshore, and I'd even commend it to anyone heading for the far north in search of tropical adventures.

There's plenty of room to move about unhindered should you be lucky enough to snag a multiple hook-up.

Our 610 Pro Fisher provided 360 degrees of fishing possibilities, with terrific flow throughout. The work area is safely enclosed with high freeboard and features state-of-the-art fittings and design. As its model designation indicates, it is 6.1m (20ft) overall. This includes the full-width transom platform with its fin-friendly ladder and handy step-through transom gate, and includes the convenient bowsprit with its pair of short bowrails and a Lone Star electric anchor winch in the deep well.

### WORTHY PLATFORM

The Kiwi brand has become so familiar that we tend to lose sight of some of the details that make Surtees Boats worthy fishing and general boating platforms. Features include the wide gunwales around the entire hull, including the non-skid deck grip right up to the bow so it can be utilised as a casting platform for dedicated lure tossers. The gunwales also feature mid-section and rear grabrails, plus a terrific selection of cast alloy rodholders, most with sinker cups that double as refreshment holders.

Providing adequate storage is always a challenge in centre consoles, yet the 610 Pro Fisher features long side pockets, a twin-shelf compartment under the dual seating/leaning module, and more in the console. Plus, the





## Its layout conveys an extremely high-degree of fishability and stability

*The centre console offers adequate protection and fishos will love the transom, wide cockpit and easy anchoring.*

transom layout is excellent, featuring protected battery and plumbing compartments with two other enclosed cabinets, a fully plumbed livebait tank with the pop-up gateway, and a strong cutting board on top with more rodholders.

The actual centre console is quite narrow, but very strong, and maximises the checkerplate



deck space that surrounds it. Overhead is a fully welded T-top with a soft awning and plenty more rodholders combining function with protection.

Our demo unit was fitted with a Simrad NSS 12in multifunction GPS/plotter/sounder and VHF radio, engine controls and twin analog/digital instruments for the smooth, but gutsy 135hp Honda four-stroke outboard. There's a flush-mount compass, switch panel, Lenco trim tab controls (that we never needed), anchor winch controls, key start and a sturdy sports steering wheel for the Ultraflex hydraulics.

### BULLETPROOF

While it actually feels a bit wider, the 610 hull follows proven design characteristics with its 2260mm beam, and is constructed with a bulletproof 5mm marine alloy bottom and 4mm side panels. The hull weight is considerable, at 1300kg, the hull incorporating the famous Surtees Anti-Roll ballast system with the Anti-Roll Lock Gate option, which adds 340lt of water to the keel for significantly increased stability when needed. The big 200lt fuel tank provides excellent range for those offshore safaris.

Under the floor, Surtees features its Safety Buoyancy airtight floatation compartments with its Tough Deck construction framework and deep-vee Razortech hull. To sum up, it all combines to provide a very well-constructed, safe and soft-riding deep-vee hull with optional ballast for added ride ability and stability at rest. These smart Kiwis label their cleverness the 'SiQ', or Surtees IQ, and back their constructions with an impressive 10-year hull warranty.

To be honest, I was very surprised that the 135hp Honda DOHC in-line four-cylinder punched this weighty deep-vee out of the hole with such ease and never lacked for instantaneous power as we pulled off some curly manoeuvres on a challenging



day. The big silver unit impressed with an even power curve throughout the entire rev range and featured the smooth acoustics inherent in all Hondas. Buyers can opt for up to a maximum 150hp should they wish.


### REAL-WORLD ABILITY

It was damned-near impossible to get proper performance results in the sloppy conditions as we flew over the top of the crests, but as a practical indication of its real-world abilities, at one point I found a relatively speedy 29 knots (53.7km/h) at 4800rpm using a thrifty 27lt/h, giving the package a terrific range of around 193nm with 10 per cent reserve – and that was working hard in the rough. We even ran sideways across the peaking swell at this speed with the hull displaying truly astounding tracking ability.

Centre consoles make just so much sense for any keen fisho – or diver, for that matter. The amount of functional deck space, with 360 degrees of casting capability, plus the weight perfectly balancing the hull in the mid-section, creates the opportunity to maximise performance on all levels. Add the strength, ride, stability and refined features of this tried and proven 5mm plate aluminium hull and, for my money, Surtees has once again produced

## Surtees has once again produced a classic and supremely competent package

a classic and supremely competent package for offshore, inshore and everywhere in between.

Pricing is pretty sharp, too, with the base model pegged at around \$65K, while a spec'ed-up version with the big Honda as on the test craft is listed for just under \$85K. MY is actually offering the demo model as pictured for a once-only price of \$69,990. 

SURTEES 610 PRO FISHER	
LOA:	6.1m
Beam:	2.26m
Weight (dry, hull only):	1300kg
Fuel capacity:	200lt
Power (as tested):	135hp Honda BF135
Price from:	\$64,990
Price as tested:	\$84,755
More information: MY Marine, tel: (03) 5987 0900. Web: surteesboats.com.	