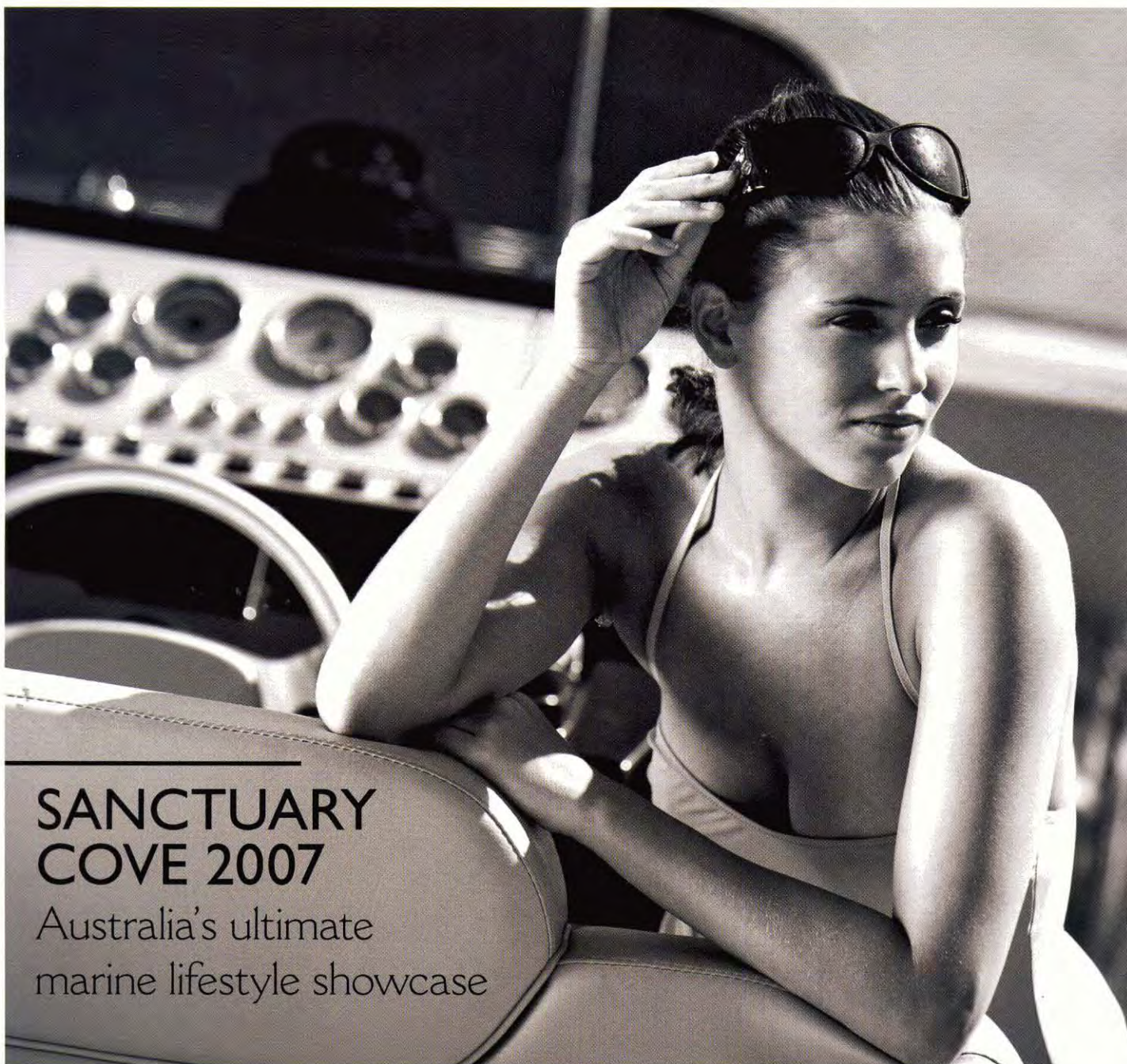




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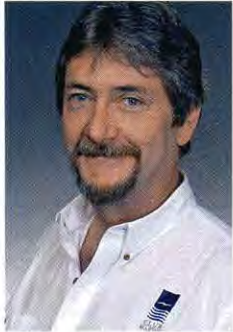
SANCTUARY COVE 2007

Australia's ultimate
marine lifestyle showcase

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From the Helm



So much to say, so little space to say it in... The last couple of months have been particularly hectic from a magazine point of view. I've lost track of the number of times I've been out to the airport, most trips associated with new boat releases and other marine-related activity. Some of this is reflected in the latest issue, while you'll have to wait until next issue to see what else we've been up to recently.

My most recent airport visit involved the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show, from which I've just

returned. And if the show was any indication of the state of play in the marine industry, things are indeed looking rosy. No matter what end of the boat market you're in, there are so many quality choices; so many clever boats filling just about every niche imaginable. For a country with a population barely over 20 million, we definitely punch above our weight as far as the range of boats that are available to us goes. Look elsewhere for our comprehensive coverage of the first major boat show of the season – it's a cracker!

Another excuse for clocking up the frequent flyer points came in the form of the 2007 Australian Marine Industries Federation Australian Marine Awards judging. I and several other judges were involved in the selection process spread over two sessions in Sydney and on the Gold Coast. Much effort has gone into revising the overall judging procedures for this year, with more vigorous and detailed scrutiny of entrants' boats and some tweaking of the categories. Judges and the industry had previously agreed to reviewing and upgrading the whole process and, at least from the judges' point of view, I can say that we believe the system is now more rigorous, thorough and fairer.

That said, any system that compares products with the aim of choosing a winner is difficult, if not impossible to perfect. Especially when it comes to picking an overall winner from a fleet of such highly diverse craft. Elsewhere in this issue you'll see a detailed rundown on the judging from the inside in an attempt to dispel some of the scuttlebutt and rumours that occasionally do the rounds of the industry regarding the awards. It will hopefully go some way to explaining

how the system works and why one boat can outscore another. And speaking of outscoring, congratulations must go to Riviera for its 2007 AMIF Boat of the Year-winning 4700 Sports Yacht – a boat which drew unanimous praise from judges for its innovation, overall build quality and overwhelming 'wow' factor. This boat has cornered the market in 'bling' and is truly a world-class craft that showcases excellence in the Australian boat building industry. And while I'm at it, congratulations to all the other category winners. There were some very close calls in some categories – and many worthy contenders overall – but on reflection I can say with confidence judges got it right on the night.

And while I'm throwing around the congratulations, I'd like to add Jim and Sue Graham to the list, having beaten close to 90,000 other *Club Marine* subscribers and policyholders to the keys of our great Haines Hunter 600 Classic. The winners of our Lifestyle Classic promotion were understandably elated at their prize, which was handed over during the Sanctuary Cove show (see story elsewhere this issue). I'd also like to draw your attention to the thought-provoking *Thou shalt not fish* piece in this latest issue. Written by internationally recognised marine biologist, Professor Walter Starck, it takes a critical look at the growing trend to establish more and more marine sanctuaries and fishing no-go zones, particularly on the east coast. As Walter says, much of the science used to justify the lock-outs is highly questionable and he uses the example of the grey nurse shark sanctuaries that were announced recently by the NSW government. A recent episode of Channel Nine's *Sunday* show investigated the science behind the sanctuaries and, without going into detail, all I can say is that it raised some serious concerns about the methods – and more concerning – the motives of the scientists and bureaucrats involved. Whatever your position on this emotionally-charged issue, Walter's words make compelling reading.

Speaking of which, there's plenty of great reading on all aspects of our fantastic marine lifestyle in this latest issue. Enjoy.

Cheers,
Chris Beattie,
Managing Editor,
Club Marine Magazine.

An issue full of issues

congratulations
must go to
Riviera for its
2007 AMIF
Boat of the
Year-winning
4700 Sports
Yacht



Opinion

Thou shalt not fish...



The phrase “Australia rides on the sheep’s back” sounds outdated these days, in a nation where 90 per cent of us rarely ever see a sheep, cow or farm. Everyone knows high-tech manufacturing and services are at the core of advanced economies today, and a pristine natural environment is surely more important than the profits of a few primary producers.

However, although this seems to be the general view of much of our mainly urban population, the reality is, in fact, quite different. Australian

manufacturing is in decline. Two decades ago it comprised 18 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Now it is just 13 per cent, while in China it’s 39 per cent – and with Asia’s cheap labour, this is a trend that’s unlikely to change.

In 2005, manufacturing accounted for \$32b of Australian exports, while imports of manufactured goods totalled \$126b. Primary product exports were \$87b, of which \$60b were unprocessed raw materials. Imports of primary products amounted to \$26b. Total exports were \$176b and total

By Dr Walter Starck

