

She's got legs



This summer we were lucky enough to get a tour of the Sealegs factory in Albany.

We'd towed the Waterline Magazine Sealegs 6m amphibious craft there for a well-earned refit. It's been five years since we took delivery of this amazing amphibian vessel and she'd done a ton of work around the coast of the Bay of Plenty and Coromandel.

That includes dozens of coastal passages between Tauranga and Whitianga; more than 60 nautical miles which the 6m Sealegs covers in a couple of hours or so; usually quicker and a lot more enjoyable than the twisty road trip.

The Sealegs has also been a stable

photography platform for our coverage for Waterline magazine and SunLive; carried building supplies across the harbour to the bach and been an excellent dive boat.

After five years, the team at Sealegs were keen to provide us with some refinements to the system – the boats are constantly evolving and there are some useful modifications that have become standard since our boat, number 33, was assembled. They've built around 450 boats and the customer base is worldwide.

Military, rescue and fast response is a huge developing market for Sealegs.

There were a handful of military-style black 7m beasts taking shape on the production line during our visit.

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Sealegs making big strides



“Do away with the trailer and its complications; take the fast and easy way to the water. You’ll find you do much more boating, because it’s just that simple.”

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Our boat had finally worn out its inboard muffler, much to the awareness of our neighbours in Te Puna as the Sealegs came ashore from its latest coastal passage. Fortunately, a swanky stainless steel version has since been developed so we upgraded to the new salt resistant version.

After a week of TLC from the good folk at Sealegs, the Waterline boat was looking as good as new. The hydraulic drive system was still in top class order, just a change of filter, and she’s good for at least another five years.

It is a real testament to the brilliant design of these craft that they are so reliable and low maintenance. They’re not paying me to say this, but these boats are seriously good value.

We’ve given ours a thorough workout in five years and put it through some very testing conditions. Ranging from bar crossings, surf landings, open coastal voyaging – to mudflat crawling and bush track driving. Even carrying building supplies to remote locations has all been taken in the Sealegs’ stride.

Coastal camping has proven a great adventure, the ability to be able to land through surf and stay in remote locations has opened up whole new possibilities.

Plus, it is a very capable sea boat that handles well and rides dry, for a centre console.

These days Sealegs have virtually become a household name and the incredulous stares are fewer. When we first drove out of the ocean and onto the land in the early days, the amphibian created quite a circus on the shore. Nowadays, most people have seen or heard about them and realising the incredible versatility of these craft; so there isn’t quite the same novelty performance from onlookers.

We’ve also met a couple of the other local Sealegs owners who have also found the amphibian to be the perfect craft for waterfront properties.

Now well proven, anyone with waterfront property, or close to the sea or lake, should check out the option of an amphibian.

Do away with the trailer and its complications; take the fast and easy way to the water. You’ll find you do much more boating, because it’s just that simple.

By Brian Rogers



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