

Electric boat: A green alternative on the waterways

BIRKENHEAD Point Marina will soon be home to a luxury eco-friendly electric boat.

Claiming to be the first of its kind in Australia, the craft will be delivered to Balmain by Eco Boats Australia.

The best thing about the green machine is that it's emission free and costs less than a dollar to recharge after cruising around for a whole day.

Founder of Eco Boats Australia Steven Mullie started his business in sales and hire of electric boats to offer a green alternative in boating.

"The beautiful thing is that electric boats are so quiet," Mr Mullie said.

"It's a lifestyle boat, perfect for relaxed day or sunset cruising on the bay, river or harbour with family, friends or business associates.

"Just like a golf cart, with an electric boat all you have to do is flip a switch and grab the wheel – they run off batteries that recharge from normal household power or top up on the run from optional solar panels."

Mr Mullie said the threat of global warming and rising fuel prices had generated a lot of interest in electric boats, not only in Australia but also in his native country of Holland.

"Electric boating is getting a lot of attention from councils who have decided to clean up their act, reducing noise and pollution on their waterways," he said.



Duffy, the eco-friendly electric boat, will dock at Birkenhead Point Marina.

Mr Mullie said for water sports enthusiasts wanting to reduce their ecological footprints, electric boats were the way to go.

"With cruising speeds of around four knots (7km/h), a trip on an electric boat is all about relaxing and unwinding," he said.

"Some people want speed, but we're offering a social event that brings friends and family together and doesn't cost the earth."

A standard battery configuration provides up to nine hours of cruising on a full charge based on average cruising speeds.

The boat comes equipped with an energy gauge, which indicates the energy/time remaining. This keeps the skipper informed and eliminates any concern of running out of power.

■ For more information on this new green way of boating go to www.ecoboats.com.au or call to book a test drive in an electric boat on 9929 8834.