

Eco-friendly boats go with the current

NOOSA'S campaign to clean up its river took a turn for the better this week with the arrival of its first eco-friendly electric boat.

Eco Boats Australia owner Steven Mullie, who personally delivered the craft, said it was one of the first of its kind in the country.

"It's now possible to have fun on the water without wrecking the planet," he said.

"This luxury electric boat is emission-free, low-maintenance, will cruise for a whole day and costs less than a dollar to recharge."

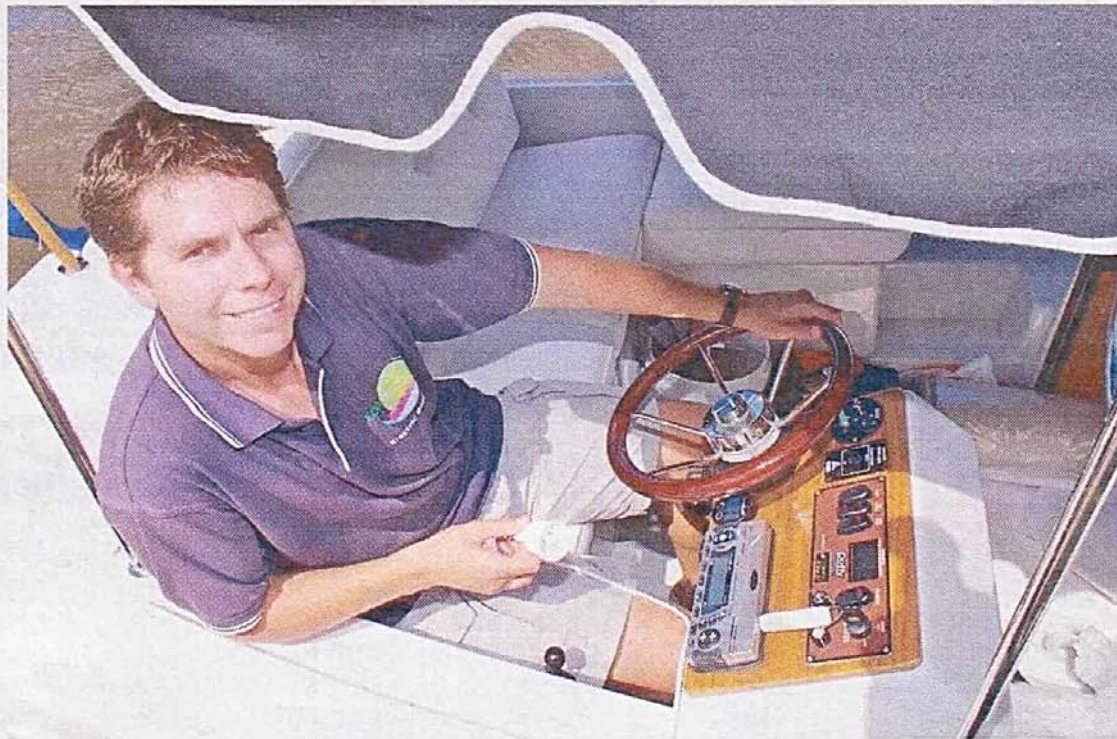
Mr Mullie believes electric boats will become increasingly popular as locals look for ways to protect the region's environment.

"The beautiful thing is that electric boats are so quiet," he 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.

"These new boats employ the latest technology, but electric boats themselves have been around since the late 1800s.

"They remained popular into the 1920s, when the arrival of the internal combustion engine saw people fuelling their boats with the faster technology. That's all changing now."



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BRIGHT SPARK: Steven Mullie at the helm of the electric boat.

Mr Mullie said the threat of global warming and rising fuel prices had generated a lot of interest in electric boats in his native Holland.

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

He said electric boats were a hit with many seniors because they are so easy to operate and maintain.

"Just like a golf cart, with an electric boat all you have to do is flip a switch and grab the wheel," he said.

"They run off batteries which recharge from normal household power."