



Electric boats keep waterways green

We've been enjoying the summer months and many Australians have been out on the water - without realising the impact motorboating has on the environment.

Research shows that a few hours in a petrol powered boat has a bigger environmental impact than a return road trip from Sydney to Melbourne. Gas powered marine engines are among the highest contributors of hydrocarbons, oxides, and nitrogen emissions in the country*.

...it's possible to have fun on the water without wrecking the planet...

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.

Steven 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. Some rivers and canals already only allow electric-powered vessels."

In the USA, electric boats are a hit with owners of waterfront properties and are popular with many seniors because they are so easy to operate and main-



But it's possible to have fun on the water without wrecking the planet. Eco Boats Australia now offers luxury electric boats that are emission-free, low-maintenance, will cruise for a whole day, and cost less than a dollar to recharge.

Steven Mullie of Eco Boats Australia has 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," he said. "It's a lifestyle boat, per-



fect for relaxed day or sunset cruising on the bay, river or harbour with family, friends or business associates."

the way to go. "With cruising speeds of around 4 knots (7 km/h), a trip on an electric boat is all about relaxing and unwinding," Steven said. "Some people want speed, but we're offering a social event that brings friends and family together and doesn't cost the earth".

Eco Boats operates out of Northbridge Marina with two demonstrator vessels that are also available for self-drive trips. Pack a picnic and glide down Middle Harbour to a secluded bay in style and complete silence.

Eco Boats represents both imported and locally built electric boat brands and drive systems, such as electric outboard motors. Each model is constructed from the highest quality materials for long life and durability. Where combustion engines have hundreds of moving parts, which can all break down, an electric motor has just one moving part - they are extremely reliable and almost maintenance free.

Learn more about this new green way of boating at www.ecoboats.com.au or call to book a test drive in an electric boat: 02 9929 8834

Eco Boats Australia is a new player on the Australian marine market. While most aspects of the boating industry are under pressure due to the economic situation and environmental issues, electric boating is a growing sector. Eco Boats is founded by Steven Mullie and operates from Northbridge Marina, NSW (by appointment only).

***Source: Australian Government, Department of the Environment and Water Resources: "Comparative Assessment of the Environmental Performance of Small Engines - Marine Outboards and Personal Watercraft"**

According to this research one hour of operation of a boat that complies with US 2006 emission standards (i.e. has a relatively clean engine) produces the same pollution as about fifty cars operated at a similar speed. Older style outboard engines that do not comply with US EPA 2006 limits are likely to emit around ten times the amount of pollution compared to conforming engines.



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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 which recharge from normal household power or top up on the run from optional solar pan-

els. A 'Surrey Top' style enclosure offers protection from the elements, making it ideal for those looking for some comfort in a small boat.

For water sports enthusiasts wanting to reduce their ecological footprint, electric boats are