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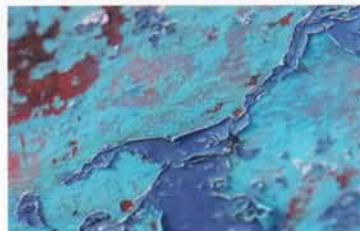
Thunder struck



Extreme weather postponed day one of the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show, the first time in its 21 year history. Come Friday, the skies cleared and the SCIBS festive atmosphere was in full swing as crowds poured through the gates. Visit www.marinebusiness.com.au for all the show news, new releases, photos and video. Next month's *Marine Business* will feature the full show wrap up and preview the upcoming Sydney International Boat Show.

Product feature: Paints and coatings

Marine Business talks to four marine paint specialists about what's new, what to expect and how this sector is managing the economic downturn. With some exciting new products in the pipeline and a strong DIY market, this is one sector of the marine market that can boast constant results. >>10



The Duffy 16 on Sydney Harbour



Electric start

Taking advantage of the growing trend towards green products in the marine industry Sydney-based Eco Boats Australia offers enviro-friendly boats for sale and hire.

Eco Boats Australia is a new Sydney-based business offering luxury electric boats which are emission-free, low-maintenance, will cruise for a whole day, and cost less than a dollar to recharge.

Eco Boats Australia owner Steven Mullie said he opened 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," said Mullie.

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

According to Mullie, these new boats employ the latest technology, and said electric boats themselves have been around since the late 1800s. Mullie said they remained popular into the 1920s, when the arrival of the internal combustion engine saw people fuelling their boats with the faster technology.

Eco Boats 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 both men and women 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. They run off batteries which recharge from normal household power or top up on the run from optional solar panels.

For water sports enthusiasts wanting to reduce their ecological footprint, Eco Boats reckon electric boats are the way to go.

"With cruising speeds of four-knots, a trip on an electric boat is all about relaxing and unwinding," said Mullie.

"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 represents both imported and locally built electric boat brands such as the Duffy Electric Boat Co from California, but also drive systems, such as Torqeedo electric outboard motors.

Where combustion engines have hundreds of moving parts, which can all break down, an electric motor has just one moving part - Eco Boats said they are extremely reliable and almost maintenance free. Eco Boats supplies to both individuals and businesses such as hire boat operations, boat share companies and tourism operations.

Since starting the business in 2008 Eco Boats has made its demonstration models available for self drive trips on Sydney's Middle Harbour, with lots of interest from the public resulting in good rental returns.

"Electric boats are the perfect addition to an



The eco-friendly, quiet, and efficient electric motor.

existing hire boat fleet or for waterfront resorts and holiday parks. The boats are ideal for family outings, almost maintenance free, safe, and cheap to run. It's also a great way to boost your operations green credentials as these boats do not pollute the environment and can operate on ecologically sensitive waterways" said Mullie.

www.ecoboats.com.au or (02) 9929 8834. **MB**