

## Cruise on over: New boats charter energy efficient territory

No fan of noisy diesel engines, Balmain boating enthusiast Francis Daly said once he'd decided to buy a boat he knew he wanted something quiet and clean.

"I like sailing, so I wanted a boat which was a similar experience," Mr Daly said.

Enter Eco Boats, a new company focused on selling environmentally-friendly electric boats. Steve Mullie, who founded the company last year, said he realised there was a big gap in the Australian boating market.

"Most Australians are more interested in power boats," he said. "But we offer a stripped back experience which is more about the essence of boating - our boats are very quiet and relaxing."

Mr Mullie's range of boats, which include the Californian-made Duffy bought by Mr Daly, as well as an Australian-made Solar Boat, can be plugged into the mains and recharged. They range in cost from \$45,000 to \$100,000.

"Once they are running there are no emissions whatsoever," Mr Mullie said. He said the boats were also far more energy efficient than their petrol-powered peers, and could even be recharged by using solar energy.

"They are perfect for sensitive waterways, and also create little wash as they are not so fast," he said.



**Francis Daly takes the helm onboard his new electric boat with passenger and Eco Boats founder Steve Mullie.**

Photo: CRAIG WILSON

Mr Daly, who is Eco Boats first customer, said the boat was perfectly suited to wandering around the backwaters and that he hated the idea of petrol leaking in the waterways.

"I'm very pleased with it so far," he said.

To take a look what Eco Boats has on offer visit: [www.ecoboats.com.au](http://www.ecoboats.com.au)