

YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2018 pick of the crop

Across hardware and software, from apps to engines, more than 200 new marine products have been featured in the *Marine Business* magazine and e-newsletter over the past year. We asked a selection of our advertisers to name their top products of 2018.



INSET: The new Ribco Venom 39 is due to arrive next year.

MAIN: The Ribco Venom 44 flagship model made it onto the cover of the *Marine Business* June-July 2018 issue.

Ribco raises the bar

ONE OF the highlights of 2018 was encountering the Ribco brand of luxury RIBs for the first time in Sydney via the newly-established Ribco Australia headed up by Oliver and Pilar Workman. The first sight of the flagship Venom 44 model easing into the Sydney Superyacht Marina at Rozelle was enough to suggest that here was something very different on the local market. Indeed, it looked so stunning, we decided to put it on the cover of the June-July issue with a spectacular shot of the Venom 44 going through its paces on Sydney Harbour.

Ribco Australia subsequently made its debut at the Sydney International Boat Show where it also turned heads by announcing that former Australian cricket captain Michael Clarke had chosen the R28s model for spending time out on the water, a high-profile endorsement which was another testament to the brand's stand-out style and performance.

Looking back over 2018, Oliver Workman agrees that the Venom 44 model has been a game-changer for the local market.

"It is so different to what has come before, it has really reset the bar for the RIB market in terms of aesthetics and performance."

Long regarded primarily as tenders, a means of getting from land to another

bigger boat, luxury RIBs such as the Ribco line-up are demonstrating that these days they are capable of being used for a whole lot more; as day boats with on-board facilities on a par with cruisers and as offshore performance vessels capable of travelling long distances.

"People are really starting to see the versatility RIBs offer as a luxury high performing day boat alternative," said Workman. "We've seen it previously in Europe, not so much in Australia, but now people are accepting this style of boat. The timing has been perfect."

After a big launch year in 2018, next year looks like being just as exciting with the arrival of a brand-new model, the Venom 39, a variant of the 44 but with a different layout including a large horseshoe-shape lounge, more deck space and powered by twin Mercury outboards. There'll also be a Sanctuary Cove debut for the brand in May targeting the Gold Coast market for which it is tailor-made.

In the meantime, if you're out on Sydney Harbour over summer, keep a look-out for the eye-catching Venom 44 which, now in 2D survey, will be used as the primary vessel for the luxury experience packages offered via the newly-launched Ribco Charter services.

