

Sydney rocks the boat



The leading lights in marine showcased their most spectacular new offerings at the 2018 Sydney International Boat Show

by Jeni Bone

Come every August, much of the boating world converges in Sydney for what's colloquially known as SIBS – the Sydney International Boat Show. Though many of those international guests spend their year touring the boat circuit in some of the world's most glamorous destinations (see our feature, starting page 70), it's no hardship heading down to Sydney, in terms of the offerings of the city, and the show itself.

The 51st Sydney International Boat Show, staged at Darling Harbour and also occupying three levels of the International Convention Centre, attracted 250 exhibitors, 1000 boats and close to 60,000 visitors over the five-day celebration of the life aquatic.

A plethora of covetable craft were expertly jigsawed into Cockle Bay, which bristled with carbon-fibre sailing yachts, mono and multihull offerings, a smattering of superyachts, European and US sports boats, expedition craft and 'harbour hotrods' in the form of new-generation supertenders fresh from the Med.

Greek 'RIB' (Rigid Inflatable Boat) brand Ribco made its local debut with former Australian cricket captain Michael Clarke at the helm of his own Ribco 28ST, which he praised for its handling, speed and styling.



(from top) Ferretti Yachts' new \$10 million 850;
Michael Clarke showing off his Ribco 28ST

Ribco entered the market with its flagship model, a jet-black 13.15m Venom 44 with beefy triple 350hp Mercury Verado outboards – touted as a true 60-knot speedster and priced at \$689,000 – alongside its Seafarer 36 and 28ST models. Company co-founder Stelios Ladopoulos was in town for the launch and deemed Australia a market with great potential for this breed of posser-with-purpose, tender-cum-dayboat.



Ray White Marine, representing the Ferretti Group, launched four new models onto the Australian market, including the behemoth Ferretti Yachts 850, Itama 45s, Ferretti 450 and, from another Greek supertender brand, the Technohull T7.

On the water surrounding the imposing *Starship* events boat – serving as Ray White Marine's hospitality suite – were the rest of their line-up: a Technohull 999s with twin 400hp engines and the iconic silver-hulled Riva 44-foot (13.4 metre) Rivarama.

At 26 metres and valued at \$10 million, the Ferretti 850 was undoubtedly the standout boat of this year's show. With its sleek profile, muscular grey metallic hull and barely visible raised pilothouse with flybridge, the 850 boasts impressive leisure space and accoutrements such as teppanyaki grill, bar and LED-illuminated dining table.

Another brilliant lifestyle feature of the 850 is the transom door that can be lowered into the water along with the swim platform, creating a large submersible platform for launching the Williams jet tender, Seabob and SUPs – or just wallowing ankle-deep on deck chairs, out of reach of malign marine life.

Exuding Italian flair and flash, the multi-awarded Monte Carlo Yachts 65 and 76 distributed by Sundance Marine were impossible to ignore among the pulchritude of power prowess; the 76, a 23-metre flybridge, with its maroon hull and dainty,

round windows, priced from \$4 million, and the smaller 65 in more subtle navy but equally alluring, priced from \$2 million.

Founded mid-GFC by the Beneteau Group and headed up by the visionary Carla Demaria, who previously spent 20 years with the Azimut Group, Monte Carlo prides itself on technical virtuosity, innovation and titivation that only the Italians can execute to perfection.

From Italian brands to the newest Australian-designed motor yacht marque, the unveiling of the Longreef 60SX Flybridge was a show highlight. The brainchild of Boating Syndication founders Andy and Belinda Young, the 60SX manifested from a decade of research and client feedback.

The 60SX ("which stands for sexy," as the marketing manager touts) is a three-cabin plus crew room (or kids' cave) cruiser featuring full-height electronic windows on the main deck, which open up the lounge and galley for a bright, breezy experience. Above, the flybridge seats 10 with ease with room for plenty more on sunpads on the snazzy foredeck.

Whitehaven Motor Yachts teamed up with sister brand Integrity Motor Yachts' traditional 'trawler style' cruisers and Ribco tenders for a massive Hamptons-themed display. Whitehaven, the completely bespoke builder, launched its 6000 Flybridge model named *La Robelle* by its proud owners. The 60-foot (18.3-metre) flybridge is noteworthy for her large-volume tender garage, which can be optioned as a Beach Club with full bathroom, depending on your preference.

(from top) The Riviera 72; Sundance Marine's Monte Carlo Yacht 76; the Longreef 60SX

