

# Austral Clubman 8



'Doctor Feelgood', the Clubman test boat, finished 17th in this year's Marlay Point race.

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Who needs another trailerable yacht when the entire industry is struggling to stay afloat?

While many big name boat builders have moth-balled their moulds until the market picks up, Austral Yachts of Adelaide has taken the plunge with a new design pitched at the value conscious buyers of the 90's who are demanding fresh ideas, premium quality and race proven performance.

After two and a half years of research and development the result is the Austral Clubman 8, a stunning new benchmark in an overcrowded market where many designs have outlived their use-by date.

Producing scale models of preferred hull shapes, Austral Yacht's founder/owner, Adrian Keough, with input from his three sons, consulted designer, Scott Jutson, for the computer-backed lines.

Jutson also designed the swept-back, fractional rig which had to be powerful but also manageable for family cruising.

But you need a close-up look at the Austral Clubman to see where the hundreds of hours of brainstorming have paid off.

Starting with the moulded toe-hold on the step-through transom every detail of trailerable yacht design has been re-evaluated and, where possible, improved on.

For example, the rudder stock and tiller arm is a single moulded unit, clean and functional, housing a vertical drop foil with a quick release backing plug if the blade strikes bottom.

All halyards are tunnelled through the cabin top to recessed winches and cleats, while the curved traveller spans the width of the cockpit separating the skipper from the rest of the crew.

The outboard motor (8 to 15 hp) is housed in the starboard cockpit locker with a lever throttle control mounted below the helmsman's seat.

There are another two lockers, one almost nine cubic feet, for stowage of life-jackets, spare anchors and fuel tank.

Down below the Clubman appears to have a conventional layout with settee berths either side of the centre-case but some clever design has allowed for a double berth under the cockpit and, what's more, there is sitting headroom!

The sink and sliding stove are located next to the main hatch for ventilation, and that leaves room for a navigator's nook amidships.

Behind the main bulkhead you'll find an enclosed space for toilet and handbasin with a comfortable V berth bringing the accommodation up to six.

A one-piece moulding is the foundation for all interior fittings which not only gives enormous strength to the hull, but provides a smooth finish to all exposed surfaces.

For our test sail Keough rigged two Clubmans which turned a few heads at the Cruising Yacht Club ramp at North Haven.

Crewed by Keough's sons, Michael, Jeffrey and Scott, all accomplished yachtsmen and boatbuilders, the fresh sea breeze (15 to 18 knots) had both boats leaping to windward with their fully battened mains and number two jibs.

With the feel of a finely tuned racing dinghy the Clubman accelerated smartly out of the tacks, and surged downwind under spinnaker outrunning the waves.

While destined to become a racing thoroughbred, the Clubman's handy layout will make family cruising a comfortable and safe experience.

Since hitting the water in January, the Clubmans have notched up an impressive race record taking first and second line honors in the Goolwa to Milang Classic, first in the Premiers Cup, line honors and yardstick in the Commonwealth Bank Yachting Spectacular, and the Matthew Flinders trophy for Division 2 keel boats in winds up to 35 knots at Port Lincoln.

This year's Marlay Point race saw test boat, 'Dr. Feelgood', finish 17th over the line ahead of all Ross 780's, Masram 720's, Noelex 25's, plus Seaway 25's, RL 24's, and Magnums.

For further information contact: Austral Yachts, 20-22 Cottage Lane, Hackham, SA. PH: (08) 384 5487.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**LOA: 8.25m**  
**Beam: 2.45m**  
**Displacement: 1,200kg**  
**Ballast: 380kg**  
**Sail area: 32sq.m**

## The trailerable yacht re-defined



*The Clubman is destined to become a racing thorough-bred.*



*As a family cruiser, the Clubman 8 is comfortable and safe.*

*Two and a half years of research went into designing the new Austral Clubman 8.*

