

Best of the best recognised

THE 10m Naiad by Kirby Marine was named WA Boat of the Year at the 2010 WA Marine Awards night at Burswood on Swan.

It also won the Aluminium over 6m category.

The judges had been eager to see what Kirby Marine had to offer after taking the 2009 WA Boat of the Year award, and the 10m Naiad did not disappoint.

A long-range sports weekender, it is ideal for day-tripping to islands, fishing and diving. The vessel is trailerable and easy to launch and retrieve.

The WA Marine Awards are organised by the Boating Industry Association of Western Australia and are designed to recognise and reward the state's boat-builders and importers.

This year the awards were sponsored by Club Marine and the Department of Commerce.

Judging took place on February 2 and 3 at Fremantle Sailing Club. The sun was shining but the wind whipped up some testing conditions, with swells of about 1.5m.

The judging team included Sheryl Swarbrick from Dreamboats, Darren Heath from easyboatingnow.com, local boating journalist Mike Brown, Bill Plug from Total AMS and Barbara O'Dowd from the Department of Transport.

Each boat is judged on a wide range of criteria and there was a spread of expertise in the panel. Sheryl Swarbrick is the expert on



Kirby Marine's Naiad 10, winner of the WA Boat of the Year award.

the ultimate fun machine, with full surround seating, larger wakes and optional electric ballast to send serious wakeboarders to new heights. The annual awards also recognise outstanding contributions by people in the industry.

The Young Boat Person of the Year award went to Commodore Marine apprentice shipwright Matthew Marks.

Other people awards were:

Marine Industry Member of the Year — Dreamboats fleet manager Joseph Claussen from Dreamboats, cited for his work in teaching boating safety and navigating the waterways.

Outstanding Contribution to the Industry — Tim Wright from R Marine Perth. Apart from his work at R Marine Perth, Tim is a long-term volunteer with the Fremantle Sea Rescue Group. He drives its main rescue boat, R100, and has been involved in hundreds of rescues and towings.

BIAWA President's Award for Contribution to the Industry — Mark Butchart from Challenger Tafe. Mark has supported every Rottnest Safety Convoy since 1997 and has helped many industry members to gain TL3 Certification or more recently Skip-pers Tickets. The BIAWA uses the Rottnest Safety Convoy as a key promotional tool for letting the public know that boating can be fun and safe. Mark and the TAFE vessel Maritime Image are an integral part of the safety demonstrations.

Aluminium Custom Built — Wake-maker PDF by Wakemaker Marine.

Fibreglass Custom Built — award shared by the Mako 9000 by Leisurecat Australia, and the Given-Power Cat GT-11 by Seafest Marine.

Imported Trailer Boat of the Year — Haines Signature 702L entered by All Boat Business.

Imported Ski Boat of the Year — Malibu Wakesetter VTX entered by Malibu Boats WA. This world-class Australian-built vessel is the industry leader for technology in ski/wake-board boats, and a versatile and safe family boat.

Imported Ski Boat of the Year Merit — Camero Vision Centre Mount entered by Offshore Marine. The Camero Vision Centre Mount is

Aluminium under 6m — Westerberg Bandit 5.4 by Westerberg Marine. Powered by a 90hp Honda and sold with a custom aluminium trailer, the Bandit is a multi-talented vessel suitable for fishing, diving, skiing and cruising.

Aluminium under 6m Merit — Reefshark 170CC by Chivers Marine, featuring the auto water-ballasting of the Reef Series' larger vessels, with very good stability as a result.

Fibreglass over 6m — Abrolhos 8000 Walkaround (Project Rat) by Commodore Marine. Built for long-distance fishing, with full walkaround access, sleeping capabilities, and loads of storage and fishing compartments.

ergonomics and interior design and fit-out; Darren Heath, a lifelong water sports enthusiast, is the high-performance and skiing specialist; Barb O'Dowd is the Transport Department's accident investigator so the natural choice as safety specialist; Bill Plug provides the vital skills of a naval architect; and Mike Brown has been testing and writing about boats for years in the WA media.

The judges rigorously went over each boat on land and on water, marking them on overall impression, presentation, ergonomics, performance and safety.

Chivers Marine was named WA Boat Builder of the Year.

Other award categories and their winners were: