

# 'RV Ryall'

## A 10m Naiad rescue RIB from Kirby for Augusta

By MIKE BROWN



The 8.5m Naiad RIBs by Kirby Marine have become almost the staple vessel for Western Australia's sea rescue groups.

The latest Kirby delivery to the Augusta group, though, is something bigger and even more capable, a 10m Naiad.

No one would deny the need for enhanced capabilities on 'RV Ryall's' stamping ground, which is essentially cape to cape – Naturaliste to Leeuwin – linking with the Margaret River group. This stretch of coast gets first use of Southern Ocean swells, and experiences frequently appalling conditions inshore where many of the rescues take place. This is the area notorious for amateur fishermen being swept from rocks, and these are incidents where fast response times in any weather are vital.

At 10m overall with a 3.2m beam, 'Ryall's' layout is cuddly cabin with a soft top over the driving position. Part of the reason for this canopy is a need to hold total weight down; a lot of on-road towing is in the boat's future. Launches for rescues can take place at Flinders Bay, Hamelin Bay and in the Blackwood River, and the boat has to travel to Bunbury for service work.

The cuddly has now become standard on Kirby Naiad builds for sea rescue groups and the Western Australia Water Police. Earlier vessels had central wheelhouses with secondary cockpits ahead of them, intended to make boarding other vessels, anchoring and passing towlines easier. Experience showed that when working in extreme conditions inside the breaker line, green water sometimes filled the cockpit with very poor results for steering control.

'Ryall's' access forward remains good. Aft of the collision bulkhead is a large hatch with a platform beneath, as well as a step partway up the bulkhead. Access is also available over the buoyancy tubes

alongside the driving space. Soft tops generally inhibit safe movement, but 'Ryall', almost uniquely, has fore and aft grab rails mounted on top of the canopy.

The cuddly itself, besides providing reserve buoyancy, has a vast volume of storage space. Although a nominally habitable space, it would not be used for accommodating survivors. Motions are greater there, and there would be difficulty in assisting injured or exhausted survivors into it. The after cockpit's deck with its shock absorbing membrane is far more suitable.

Also with comfort in poor conditions in mind, Kirby installed four Ullman seats for the crew; these straddle-type seats are recognised as the world's best. Other contributors to crew safety are Kirby's relentless elimination of projections and hard angles in the internal structure, and their provision of handholds in all the right places.

Twin V-8 Yamaha four-stroke outboards, rated at 261kw each, give cruising speeds in the mid to high 30s with a maximum in the high 40s. When cruising speed approaches 30 knots, the twin steps in the bottom reach maximum efficiency. Aerating the water behind them and reducing wetted surface area, they reduce drag and allow speed to be maintained with smaller throttle openings.

The Western Australian sea rescue groups have adopted Furuno electronics as the standard fit-out in their newer boats. 'Ryall' has radar, GPS, sounder and forward-looking infrared feeding the main screen in front of the navigator and the coxswain's small repeater. Again it is a matter of policy to reduce the amount of information the coxswain needs to receive and process, and he would typically display only one function at a time on his screen.

The large cockpit allows the carriage of a great deal of gear, and gives space for operations such as towing, for which a

tow post and dedicated towline stowage is provided.

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### 'RV Ryall'

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel:	Rescue Boat
In survey to:	Survey Exempt
Home port:	Augusta, Western Australia
Owner/operator:	Augusta Volunteer Rescue Marine, Western Australia
Designer:	Naiad Design, New Zealand
Builder:	Kirby Marine Fabrication, Western Australia
Construction material:	Aluminium
Length overall:	10 metres
Length waterline:	8.3 metres
Beam:	3.2 metres
Draught:	0.65 metres
Depth:	2.9 metres
Displacement:	3.2 tonnes
Propulsion:	2 x V-8 Yamaha 4-stroke outboards, each 261kW
Maximum speed:	50 knots
Cruising speed:	30 knots
Range:	300nm
Electronics supplied by:	Taylor Marine
Radar:	Furuno
Depth sounder:	Furuno
Radio:	Icom 505
Compass:	Plastimo
GPS:	Furuno
Paints/coatings:	International Paints
Windows:	Beta Marine
Seating:	Ullman Dynamics
Flooring:	Altex
Fuel capacity:	700 litres
Crew:	4
Passengers:	5
Operational area:	South coast of Western Australia