



'Guardian 1'

New rescue RHIB for Two Rocks Sea Rescue

By MIKE BROWN



Built by Kirby Marine of Perth from a design by New Zealand-based Naiad Design, 'Guardian 1' is a dedicated rescue boat that will operate from Two Rocks in Western Australia (WA).

'Guardian 1' is a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) based on an 8.5-metre hull that has been used for seven other WA sea rescue boats, but she is the first with a lock-up cabin. Rescue boats normally live on trailers, and previous craft of this size have had soft canopies, largely to reduce weight. However, Two Rocks Sea Rescue does not have secure parking ashore and has to keep its boat on an air-lift in the marina. Security demanded the boat be lockable and fitted with alarms.

Despite the extra weight of the wheelhouse, the boat's twin 186kW Yamaha four-stroke outboard engines deliver a maximum speed of 47 knots and a cruising speed of 25 knots. Moreover, the added weight enhances the boat's rough water ability. In a straight comparison with

a similar 8.5-metre boat with a soft top, 'Guardian 1' showed a small edge heading into the sea.

The new wheelhouse structure allows for plenty of space under the foredeck, with room for a bathroom along with generous storage for the specialised gear that has to be carried, including oxygen, defibrillator and spinal stretchers. The cabin and bulged foredeck leave room for side decks and a workable platform forward.

The wheelhouse boasts impressive window area, with forward-raked windcreens for reduced reflections and heat gain. The wheelhouse roof has five radio aerials, GPS antenna, radar scanner, spotlight and a FLIR forward-looking infrared scanner with a remotely operated zoom lens. All the information produced by these electronics is selectively displayed on the two Furuno Navnet screens in the wheelhouse.

Both key crew members have KAB suspension seats. To give plenty of working room in the cockpit the tow point has been placed in the splash well instead of on a central tow post. To reduce the chances of the outboards fouling any diver deployed, a boarding ladder is fitted on each side amidships, folding neatly up against the wheelhouse.

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'Guardian 1'

SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel:	Rescue boat RIB
Home port:	Two Rocks, WA
Owner:	Two Rocks Volunteer Rescue, Western Australia
Designer:	Naiad Design, New Zealand
CAD software:	Maxsurf
Builder:	Kirby Marine, Western Australia
Construction material:	Aluminium
Length overall:	8.5 metres
Length waterline:	7.6 metres
Beam:	3.0 metres
Draught:	0.5 metres
Displacement:	2.9 tonnes (full load)
Main engines:	2 x Yamaha four-stroke outboards, each 186kW
Maximum speed:	46 knots (lightship)
Cruising speed:	25 knots (full load)
Range:	200 nm
Electronics supplied by:	Taylor Marine
Radar:	Furuno
Depth sounder:	Furuno
Radios:	Icom VHF, UHF, 27MEG
Compasses:	Plastimo
GPS:	Furuno
Paints/coatings:	Jotun
Windows:	Bond Marine
Seating:	KAB
Fuel capacity:	560 litres
Crew:	2
Passengers:	4