

Sleek, stylish Northbank 650WA blends power

Built and fitted out to the client's specific brief this powerful, refined Northbank 650WA walkaround impressed not only on first sighting, but seriously once on the water.

There was a lot to take in, so we began the inspection looking at the transom, with its two boarding platforms, each with s.s. handrails and that to port with fold-down 3-stepped ladders. In the engine well, the fuel filler was set atop a small step that led one through a transom door and into the cockpit.

A draining bait board, with hinged teflon cutting surface and 3 rod holders, sat centrally on the transom. To starboard was a deep, drained live bait well.

White and non-slip, the cockpit sole had a strip of dark grey marine carpet covering the hatch over the fuel tank. Measuring 1.86m wide, 1.73m long and with an average depth



Swift, stylish, agile and very powerful Northbank 650WA works beautifully with smooth, free-revving 225hp Mercury Verado BigFoot – a high quality performance rig with superb handling and packed with features...

of 0.85m, the cockpit had 4 Fusion waterproof speakers, inset grab rails and twin rod holders on each side deck, plus 1.78m long lockers on each side.

The helm station sported two large, bolstered, swivelling Springfield adjustable seats. With the bolsters raised, access to the cuddy was made easy. In each pedestal was a 5-tray tackle box aft, plus recesses for EPIRB and fire extinguisher

forward. Large storage lockers were set to each side. Behind the seats was 2.05m headroom, with 2.00m at the helm.

Black with white piping, the bimini had a fold-down clear above the screen with fixed clears to either side. When folded back and down, the strong s.s. structure lay just below the height of the screen, which itself was fitted with a s.s. grab rail. The bimini also carried a six-rod 'launcher and a deck light set centrally.

Well laid out, the helm featured a Mercury SmartCraft 'Vessel View' display unit set forward of a large Northstar M121 GPS plotter. Here also was the remote control for a waterproof Fusion MS-WR 100 CD player (located in the cuddy with a separate i-pod dock).

As well as the switch for the Muir DW08 electric winch (fitted inside the anchor well) were switch panels for lights, pumps and instruments plus the 'fly-by-wire' throttle control. Nearby was a GME GX6000 VHF transceiver.

To port, two steps led down to the fully lined cuddy, with its twin berths, upholstered in black and grey, all of 2.80m long, padded, upholstered shelves and access to a huge storage space under the passenger's seat. Remarkably there was a maximum of 1.70m headroom and max. width of 1.69m.

To either side of the helm station, a moulded step led up to the walkaround foredeck with non-slip surface. Substantial bow rails trailed right back to the helm.

We had met at the North Haven ramp but, having observed clouds of spray flying over the sea walls, decided that, while the white capped Gulf waters promised an interesting exploration of the Northbank's superb hull, there was that mighty Mercury sitting silent on the transom. It would have been a shame not to experience the full range of the engine's performance, so we headed instead for the ramp at Marina Adelaide.

In little time the 650WA had



Wheel knob works well – neat dash uses only two screens rather than many gauges, fly-by-wire throttle/tilt is set beautifully to hand ...

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Mounted on a dual-axle Dunbier trailer fitted with Carlisle HydraStar electric hydraulic braking system for on-road safety and stability...

and performance with seagoing practicality

slid off its trailer and sat idling alongside the pontoon.

Minutes later, on the reach off the Adelaide Speedboat Club, we had the waters to ourselves and set about checking for any floating debris. Finding little, we were able to put the 225hp Verado through its paces.

Punched out-of-the-hole, the big Mercury pushed our Northbank onto the plane in around four seconds before spinning to 4,500 rpm (26.3 knots), 5000 rpm (31 knots) and peaking at 5,600 rpm (40 knots), all of this into a fast running ebb tide.

There were three adults aboard and the fuel tank was full. With

just ten hours on the engine hour gauge, the BigFoot was both willing and turbine smooth, delivering a solid power band right to the max. At a cruising speed of 22 knots (40 kph) @ 3,500 rpm, the nimble 650WA sipped an indicated 25 lph, suggesting a range of over 180 nautical miles (330km).

Then we started throwing the Northbank into a series of fast runs, ending with tight turns to enable us to head back through the wake. Typical of Northbank hulls, the 650WA heeled nicely and tracked truly, the hull cutting through very disturbed waters smoothly. At medium speeds, the 650WA



650WA a willing performer, dry ride, generous freeboard and lots of internal space, very strong Nupol 'glass and gleaming black gelcoat...

turned nearly in its own length.

This elegant bluewater rig is destined to spend a lot of time fishing in Gulf St. Vincent as well as making annual road trips around to Coffin Bay.

For further information on the **Northbank 650WA** or other models in the renowned Northbank range, contact **Christies Beach Marine** in Lonsdale on **8387 6411** or to to: www.northbank.com.au

NORTHBANK **650 WA (WalkAbout)**

SPECIFICATIONS:

Length overall:	6.80m (22' 4")
Beam:	2.44m (8')
Deadrise:	21°
Towing weight:	2,200kg
Height on trailer:	2.65m (8' 6")
Maximum power:	250hp (185kW)
Fuel capacity:	306 litres
Max. on board:	6 adults

PRICE AS TESTED:

\$97,900

Prices start from \$69,000



Big seats – with bolsters up there is ease of access to large cuddy...



Uncluttered cockpit with plenty of storage – note transom door...

Northbank **Strength – Style – Quality**



Modern production facility:



Family boating with flair:

For over a decade the name **Northbank** has been associated with a range of recreational craft which now enjoys an enviable reputation for distinctive style, high quality production, great structural strength and exhilarating, dry riding performance. With the recent completion of our new state of the art facility in Lonsdale, **Northbank** boats will continue its tradition of excellence and innovation.



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