

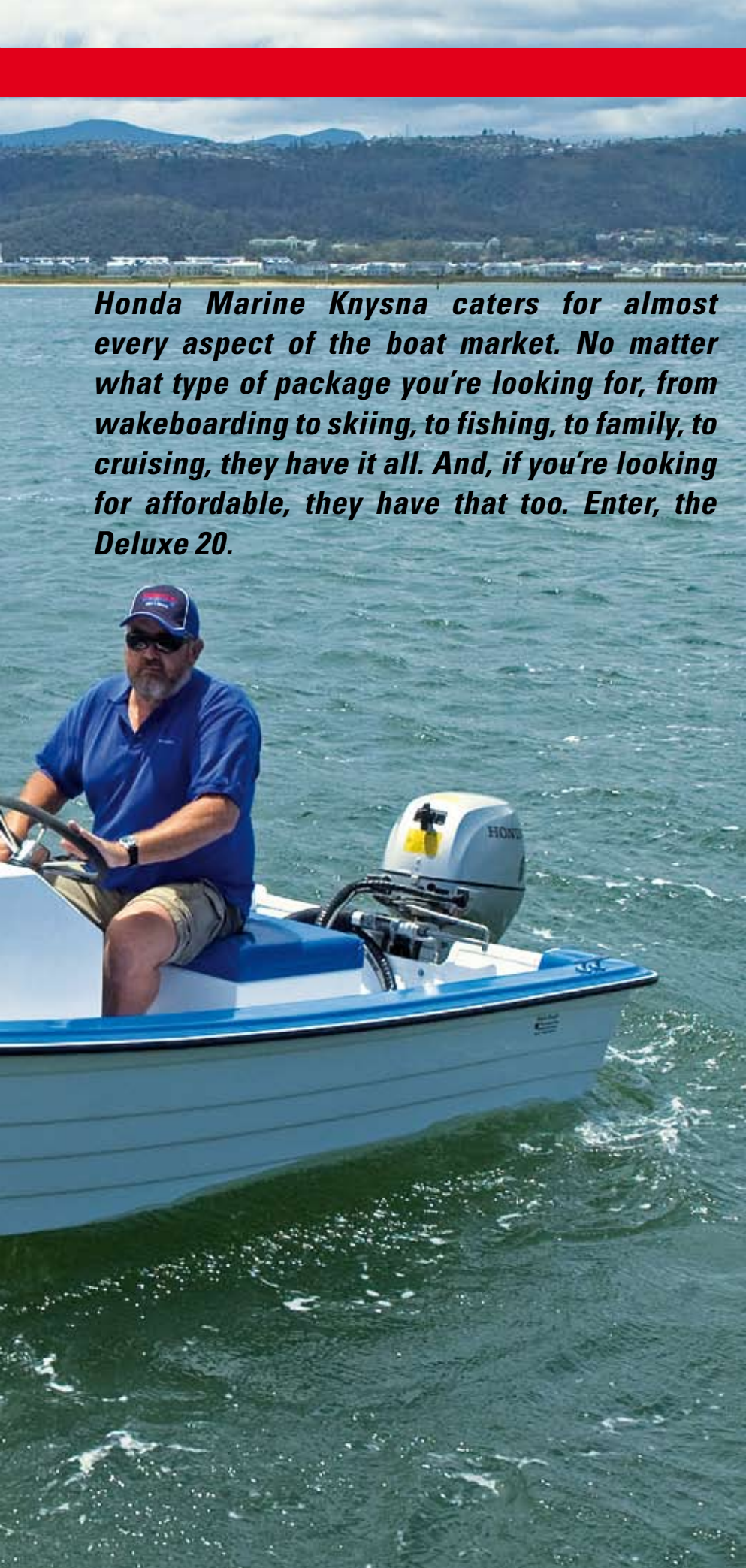
DELUXE 20

Words and pictures by Dean Castle

*Affordable and fun –
what more can you ask?*



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Honda Marine Knysna caters for almost every aspect of the boat market. No matter what type of package you're looking for, from wakeboarding to skiing, to fishing, to family, to cruising, they have it all. And, if you're looking for affordable, they have that too. Enter, the Deluxe 20.

On a recent trip to Knysna, I had the pleasure of skippering a craft that's light and nimble, and just about all that I needed to fulfill my quota of fun on the water.

She's a multi-purpose craft as she can be used for almost anything – from a family runabout, to fishing, to towing tubes.

The day produced water which was probably the worst conditions you'd want to go out in, in this type of craft. The wind had been picking up since the morning and there was anything to a two-foot chop running across the water's surface.

Trailing and Launching


The Deluxe 20 is an incredibly light package. Even at its kerb weight, you'd hardly feel it behind a small car such as a 1.6 litre Corsa bakkie. Since it's not going to make your combination long, means relatively inexperienced drivers won't have to watch the kerb every time they go around a corner.

When it comes to launching and retrieving, the Deluxe scores lots of points. You're able to walk right forward to the bow of the craft and simple attach or detach the hook on the eyelet, instead of hanging over the bow, under the rail, with the nose pushing into your chest.

The trailer fully supports the structure of the boat, and lining up on the retrieval is as easy as one, two, three.

Deck layout

The Deluxe 20 is a centre console-type craft, which is well suited as it keeps everything in balance as well as maximizing onboard space.

A cushioned bench seat at the helm provides space for one (possibly two if you don't mind getting cosy). From here, you've got a clear view forward, as well as good visibility to nearer the front and side of the craft. This comes in handy when trying to navigate close to other boats, jetties, etc. The seat base can be lifted to reveal storage space for the portable petrol tank. 



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In front of the helm is a second seat. There is unfortunately a small space between the two, which means the helm console can't be used as a backrest that comfortably. Nonetheless, it does the job, while also possessing storage

space for towels, fishing tacking, sun cream and cold drinks.

A third seat is available right up front in the bow. Since it's a bit smaller, this third seat would be more appropriate for the kids rather than a heavier set fisherman.

There's an anchor locker up front should you see yourself wanting to anchor up at any time.

Performance

The Deluxe 20 is fitted with a 20 HP Honda 4-Stroke outboard engine. Small it may be, but it really can put the power down when you need it. With 350 cm³ of displacement, the manufacturers claim it's the most powerful and lightest 20 HP around. Coupled to a four-blade aluminium prop, this mighty little Honda pushes out 20 HP off the propshaft at 5 500 rpm.

With ease, it was able to get the Deluxe 20 off to a flying start and on the plane in just 3.8 seconds, this with two passengers on board!

Since the outboard is a 20 HP, and not a hulking great 5.7 V8, you could expect to run around for the whole day on just a few litres worth of petrol.

Conclusion


The Deluxe 20 is a great little craft that's superb for the whole family. And just because it isn't expensive, doesn't mean you'll be missing out on any of the action.

She does just what she needs to – providing endless hours of fun on the water, no matter the recreation facility you choose.

For more information contact Honda Knysna on (044) 382 4090, or email hondamarine@knysna.sa.com



At a glance



Beam	1.95 m
Length	13 foot
Max passengers	4