

Project Elliott hits Tauranga

At Hutcheson Boatbuilders in Tauranga, Kees Leenman and Don Mattson are both working on a project that will culminate in two new Elliott 13.50 Tourers hitting the water.

Since he decided to build his own boat, the project has been full time for Kees and has spanned three years. The boat is progressing well and he hopes for completion within the year.

Kees says he always had a dream to build an Elliott, but the present project is a far cry from the original 12-metre concept that was initially discussed between the two. After buying Hutcheson Boatbuilders in 1993 and building the first 16 metre Elliott pilothouse for a Noumean based client, Don began to look at the prospect of building himself a larger cruising Elliott. Together they went to designer, Greg Elliott of Elliott Marine with their design concept. They wanted a fast, comfortable cruising boat, capable of fast ocean passages. The main criteria

were to keep it light, performance orientated, simple and easily handled short-handed. All of this designed to fit a 14-metre berth. They know that Greg has come up with a very good package and, as the designer, he is very pleased with the way the first boat is developing. It is a new hull design and fills the gap in the Elliott range. All three are confident these boats will achieve all design requirements.

The layout is simple but versatile. The pilothouse concept and the positioning of the bulkheads mean that the interior can be customized to suit a variety of needs and requirements of the individual client.

In Kees's boat, a small step through from the cockpit leads to the galley area to port, with



navigation area to starboard. The latter has double seating for use as a dinette. Another step down leads to the main saloon. Forward of this is separate head and shower cubicles and the spacious master cabin. Two double cabins at the stern complete the accommodation.

There is plenty of storage room under the cockpit floor for dinghies, outboard motors, life rafts and other essential equipment. The interior has more than ample storage spaces for a range of supplies for coastal cruising and ocean passages.

For Kees, building his own boat instead of buying one and doing it up, means that he knows there will be no hidden surprises and reassures his confidence in the structure of the boat. Staying motivated to work on the boat each day can be difficult at times, but focusing on the work achieved each week helps him to remain committed.

Hutcheson Boatbuilders are building a full production mould for the deck of the Elliott 13.5. The plug for the mould is completed and ready to produce a deck mould within the next month. The second Elliott has the first skin on the hull mould and the foam, which was all pre-cut, is ready to be vacuumed down. They keels for the two boats are completed along with the carbon fibre stocked rudders.

Hutchesons are confident that these yachts will fill the gap in the Elliot Tourer range and that they will be well received by those in the market for this size of vessel.

Hutcheson Boatbuilders

Hutcheson Boatbuilders is a well-known boatyard in Tauranga with owner, Don Mattson, well regarded for the depth of knowledge and experience that the business has to offer their clients. For ease of access for vessels, the yard is positioned between both marinas in Tauranga and offers an extensive range of services. They also operate a sixty-ton slipway and busy hardstand.

Hutcheson's normal services not only include insurance repairs on fibreglass and wooden boats, annual maintenance, interior and exterior refits, osmosis repairs, repaints and shipwright work. The shipwright work is a specialized area utilizing the traditional skills necessary for restoring woodwork and corking - a service that many boatyards cannot offer.

The osmosis repairs include hull planning, drying,

fibreglassing and fairing to achieve full gloss finish. Commercial fishing boats are provided with a full maintenance service that covers antifouling, repair work, including engineering repairs and fish hold maintenance.

Hutcheson's recent work has seen the completion of a new forty-foot Pelin launch, the repowering of a Genesis 32 from a single to twin-engine installation and a full exterior paint on a forty-six foot Tennent powercat. They are currently repairing accident damage to a Beneteau 405 while completing a full exterior refit to the thirty-nine foot Birdsill designed yacht, Midnight Express.

