





Designed by gifted engineer and multi-hull specialist, Ian Farrier, the Tramp has been developed from Farrier's successful Trailer-Tri series of plywood trimarans, but is completely re-designed and engineered for fibreglass production at Haines Hunter's sophisticated Wacol boat building facility in Queensland.

Full details about the exciting new trimaran have not been released, as the factory is still working overtime to complete the most radical departure from powerboat design and construction the Haines Hunter

Group has ever undertaken.

More than \$250,000 is believed to have been spent developing the complex fibreglass mouldings and extensive tooling required for this unique craft. Haines Hunter believe the Tramp will have special appeal to the countless thousands of young families who grew up sailing Hobie 14's, 16's and 18's, Windrush, Surf Cats and the like, but were forced to curtail their sailing activities as the family came along. For many young families, the conventional trailer-sailer is not seen as a reasonable alternative, mainly due to the restricted performance potential, and the general lack of excitement and challenge these performance-orientated sailors enjoyed in their Hobie days.

The Tramp is a high performance, family day-sailing trimaran with an overall length of 5.94 metres, a folded beam of 2.45 metres (8'1") and an unfolded beam an incredible 4.5 metres — that's 14'9" in imperial terms! The Tramp offers more usable "deck space" than any craft on the water under about 10 metres — and that's where the tramps come in. Connecting the main hull with the two outside floats is a nylon "trampoline" — an area that is destined to be the most popular spot for children. As the Tramp sizzles across the water, it's not too hard to see the youngsters sitting on the tramp with their feet trailing in cool water whilst Mum and Dad relax in the wide, comfortable cockpit.

The Tramp will easily cope with large families or groups, and seat them comfortably around the central cockpit, even providing a degree of shelter under the cuddy cabin, should the weather become unpleasant. At least six adults could laze around the cockpit, all within easy reach of the built-in ice-box arrangement

on the after deck of the main hull.

A built-in outboard well is provided to allow secure, permanent mounting of an auxiliary outboard engine, within easy reach of the helmsman.

For the more experienced sailor, a racing version of the Tramp will be offered with full over-lapping genoa and spinnaker gear, equipment that is destined to make the Tramp one of the fastest production sailboats available in Australia, if not the world. It is this aspect that attracted John Haines, Managing Director of the Haines Hunter Group to lan Farrier's design in the first place.

"We were looking for a product that would enable our Group to move back into sailing," he told Australian Boating in an exclusive interview, "but we did not want to build yet another trailer yacht that would have to compete with every backyard boat builder — we wanted a product that would have no equal in Australia, with a standard of performance that would encourage families to go sailing who wouldn't normally because of the slow performance of the average mono-hull yacht. Haines Hunter have a hard-won reputation for building high quality, performance products — and the Tramp lives right up to these standards — and in some ways, exceeds them."

John Haines continued, "There is no doubt boating as we've known it over the last 20 years or so is going to change in the 1980's. Fuel is obviously going to become even more expensive, and more families are going to re-think how they can get most enjoyment out of their boating dollar. For many years, boating families have hesitated about sail boats — particularly in Queensland, where we have such long distances to go from one place to another. Many families don't want to spend all day travelling at 3 or 4 knots, trying to compete with a 5-6 knot tidal surge, and for this reason, powerboats have always been high on the popularity list with boating families in Queensland"

"Farrier's original folding trailer-tri concept works — it's been proven in the field. We have taken his concept, and with his total involvement, blended his ideas and ingenuity with the production expertise and manufacturing resources of the Haines Hunter Group to develop a craft that is really very special.

"We now have a sailing craft that can offer a family an exhilarating level of performance, enabling them to travel quickly from point A to point B, with an extremely high level of safety (because of the stability and full foam buoyancy installed in each hull) along with all the other advantages of the trimaran. It has vast deck area for the children to spread themselves out, and importantly, an almost level ride. Despite the amazing beam, the Tramp can be "folded" and prepared to put on the single-axle trailer in a matter of minutes, coming or going from the launchramp."

According to Haines Hunter, colour choice of the Tramp will be restricted initially, and the only options will be the previously mentioned racing rig for the competition-orientated skipper, and a tailored fold-away sun awning which allows the Tramp to be sailed with the awning in position, shading the cockpit. With the addition of a zip-around side curtain, the cockpit of the Tramp can be converted into a snug cabin, suitable for overnight accommodation for two people on the wide moulded seats, leaving heaps of space for a couple of youngsters to spread themselves out on the cockpit floor.

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