



ABOVE: Shurflo deck-wash is standard.

BELOW: The console with its door open. Our test boat used the console as spacious stowage, a marine toilet is an option.

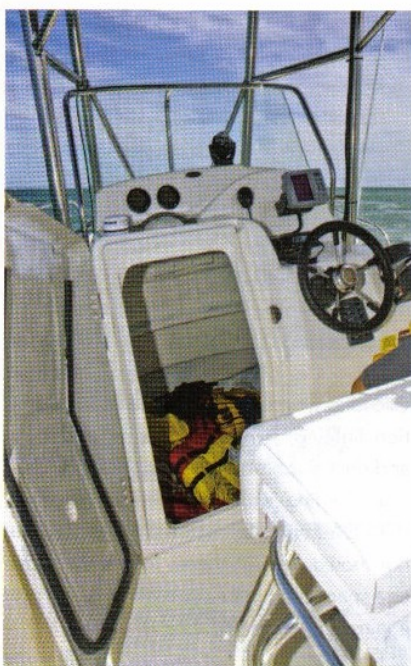
centre console devotees, occupying substantial space in an important area for fishing. You'll make up your own mind though, and socially, it has something to offer.

Belowdecks there are two big fish boxes, one in the cockpit and another in the bows. There are two iceboxes, or rather one mid-sized drink and food icebox built into the impressive centre-seat arrangement which has space set aside for a second fishing-sized icebox between its supports. A neat seatbelt to keep everything in place is a worthy detail.

The deck self-drains through open scuppers each side fed by deep channels off a moulded non-slip surface. Typical of boats with a moulded interior, the OzVenture 650's side decks don't overhang the cockpit sides, so toes-under-leg support on rough water isn't the best.

Beside the helm there's a big door accessing the console's interior. Our test boat's console had been left bare, however, it can be fitted out with a toilet and interior trim.

Thanks to the console's sheer size and a



OZVENTURE 650

RPM	Speed (knots)
500	2.35
2000	9.2
2500	11.9
3000	13.7
3500	24.5
4000	29.4
4950	38.4

SPECIFICATIONS

Hull length:	6.5m
Beam:	2.26m
Hull deadrise:	variable
Hull weight:	925kg
Fuel tank capacity:	150L
Price as tested:	approx. \$65,000
Maximum power:	175hp
Minimum power:	130hp
Web:	www.actf.net.au

large screen between the bimini top's supports, the lee-side of the console offered worthwhile shelter from wind-blown spray. With three people aboard there were also plenty of rails and supports to hang onto while travelling. The helm seat itself is a well-thought-out arrangement somewhere between a seat and a leaning bolster and works very well. These are important features often missing in centre consoles.

Due attention has been paid to anchoring arrangements, with a well in the foredeck big enough to hold offshore quantities of anchor warp behind a moulded bowsprit and fairlead leading to the massive bollard necessary to secure a 6.5m boat. The low stainless rail is nicely divided in the centre to facilitate anchoring duties. And there are separate smaller stowage compartments set into the interior moulding of the bows.

With a 175hp E-TEC powering it, our test boat got up and boogied. We had three adults aboard when we ran performance figures against our official GPS and while we did our best to hide against Bribie's southern shoreline from those gusty northerlies, the top speed of 38.4 knots may have been all there was on offer.

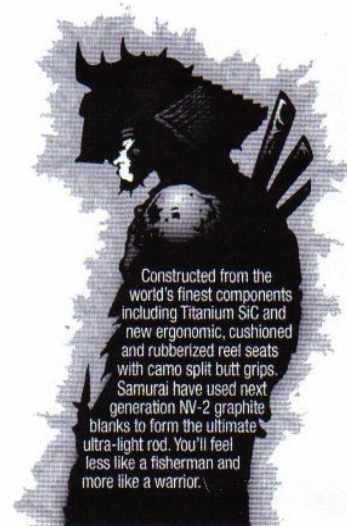
More impressive for a 6.5m boat with three people on board on a windy day was a fuel consumption reading of 27.2L per hour at 3500rpm and 24.5 knots; and 29L per hour at 4000rpm and 29.4 knots. Recommended power is 130-175hp so it seems anything between 150-175 would please most owners.

Its hipped sheer line makes the OzVenture 650 a good looking boat sure to appeal to anyone looking at a big centre console. **MF**

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Snapper 402, 7', Fast, 2 piece, rod line class 10-20lb



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