

Savage Reveals New 2016 Models - BoatAdvice



by Steve Lague

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Savage, Australia's oldest aluminium boat manufacturer, has just revealed its biggest hull redesign since it became part of the Telwater Group. In a move that could be seen as risky, it will also replace its longest running nameplate the Jabiru. The entry-level model range will be replaced by the Raptor series that will initially offer a choice of six models – three standard and three fishing-specific Raptor Pro models.

Savage has also taken the opportunity to rename and realign the rest of its model line-up, dropping the Big Kahuna and Big Daddy nameplates and replacing them with old favourites, Osprey and Kestrel respectively.

It has also added a new Scorpion model and updated the Bay Cruiser range and

Savage National Account Manager, Jason Draeger, said all the changes had been made in response to customer and dealer feedback. He said while Savage still enjoyed a reputation of being a hard-as-nails tinnie it was starting to fall behind some of its competitors, particularly Quintrex and Stacer which are built in the same factory.

“We now have the three brands better aligned with each offering specific features and advantages,” Mr Draeger said.

To coincide with the release of the new Raptor model range Savage has also completed its move from steel to aluminium trailers. It will now offer aluminium trailers for boats ranging between 3.5m and 7.4m. All trailers will now also be built in house at the Coomera production facility.

The new aluminium trailers will be up to 40kg lighter than the steel trailers they are replacing, but will be more durable, tougher and won't rust.

The weight reduction will also mean many of the smaller models will have a trailerable weight of less than 750kg which means the trailers do not need to be fitted with brakes and can be towed by all but the smallest cars on the market.

RAPTOR

The new entry-level Raptor will utilise an all-new hull design that will improve the ride, create more interior space and make it a more versatile boat. Mr Draeger said today's boat buying public wanted something that could be used for a variety of activities as well as inshore and offshore.

“The Raptors can be used for fishing, as a tender or for taking the family on fun adventures,” he said. The new V-nose hull design will also make it more suited to offshore use than its predecessor. The standard Raptor will initially be offered in three model sizes, 355, 395 and 425. It will offer standard features like two bench seats (they will be riveted into the hull in the 355 and welded in the two bigger models), anchor gusset, front deck and a glovebox and drink holders. The entry-level model, fitted with a 15hp Evinrude four-stroke engine and sitting on an aluminium trailer will be priced from \$7,285.

The Raptor Pro, like the Jabiru Pro they replace, are aimed at the inshore fisherman with a forward and rear casting platform, carpeted floor, painted hull, pedestal seats and rod holders all standard. It will also be offered in three model sizes, 405, 425 and 445. All three will come standard with tiller steer Evinrude outboards but the two bigger models can also be fitted with a side console and steering wheel.

Mr Draeger said the Raptor Pro would come with everything needed for a day out fishing.

“They also can be optioned up to suit your exact need and budget with extras such as liver bait tank, rod storage pockets, casting platform storage bins and customisable vinyl wrap,” he said.

BAY CRUISER

Savage has also updated every Bay Cruiser model except the smallest 415 that remains unchanged. All other models now have a bigger anchor well and have been modified so a plate that will hold an electric drum winch can be fitted as an option.

The three biggest models, the 485, 515 and 545 also get a new lean through dash that provides easier access to the anchor, a new extended dash that provides more room to fit electronics and bigger side decks.

SCORPION

The Scorpion, which is designed for inshore and offshore fishing, range will also get a bigger roto

anchor well that is capable of handling an electric anchor winch.

But the big news in this model range is the addition of a new bigger [525](#) model. Designed to handle up to 115hp on the back this is a true offshore fishing platform with a forward casting deck and all the features needed for a successful day on the water. The 525 will be available in standard and Scorpion Pro guise and can be ordered in a centre console or side console configuration.