



AirBerth offers convenience

Having your boat moored at the back of the house ready to go is one of the nicest aspects of waterfront living

BUT the downside is that boats left in the water cost more. Sterndrive legs in particular are prone to giving trouble if left for any length of time in the water, particularly if not anti-fouled.

The problem with anti-fouling is that it wears off, and worse for many owners, affects the performance of their vessel.

In the warm waters of the Gold Coast it only takes a couple of days for marine growth to establish itself on hulls.

That's where being able to get the boat out of the water pays off, but it has to be without losing any of the convenience of having the boat ready to go with a minimum of fuss and time lost.

AirBerth Boat Lift is one system that fulfils that need. Similar to other systems and as the name implies, AirBerth uses the buoyancy of air to lift the boat out of the water, but it takes less than five minutes to have the boat back in the water and ready to go.

It's an impressive system and there are a couple of major differences to its competitors.

AirBerth uses a weights system on the water intakes that makes lowering them a breeze, and lifting them is just a matter of pulling a handle and a rope-and-pulley system takes the load out of lifting them clear again.

Seeing AirBerth in action is a lesson in practicality. It is designed to lower the boat stern first, and the AirBerth maintains the angle when the boat comes off, so that it is at the right angle to accept the vessel on return.

As well it is designed to centre the boat, which means that if you make a crooked approach on to

the AirBerth it doesn't matter at all. It's solid construction means it can take some solid knocks and a series of compression pads will cushion the vessel.

Built of high-density, UV-resistant polyethylene, the AirBerth has a design life of 50 years.

AirBerth will take boats from 15-46ft and up to 10 tonnes. And that includes shaft drives, sterndrives and twin outboards and catamarans.

Importantly, the blower unit that provides the air is portable and simply unplugs, and can be locked away in a boatshed or back up in the house or even in a car boot.

The standard blower is a two-stage unit, but three-stage ones are available for larger boats.

AirBerth director Andy Chan said the units were constructed in Malaysia and assembled in Australia. They have a five-year material warranty and two-year warranty on the construction and 12 months on the electrical components.

