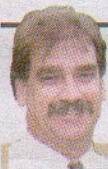


# Big lift for boat care



**Steve  
McCully**

**O**NE of the nicest things about waterfront living is that you can park your boat right at the back door.

But one of the worst things is that leaving the vessel in the water means increased maintenance costs and downtime.

In the warm waters of the Gold Coast it takes only a couple of days for marine growth to establish itself on hulls. Sterndrive legs, in particular, pay a heavy price for being left immersed.

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 fulfill 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 onto the AirBerth it doesn't matter.

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 15ft to 46ft and up to 10 tonnes. And that includes cats, shaft drives, sterndrives and twin outboards.

Importantly the blower unit which 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 construction warranty and two-year warranty on the electrical components.

Once the boat is clear of the water, a hose can be connected to a standard hose fitting on the AirBerth and fresh water sprayed on the hull undersides through a series of nozzles from a spray rail on either side.

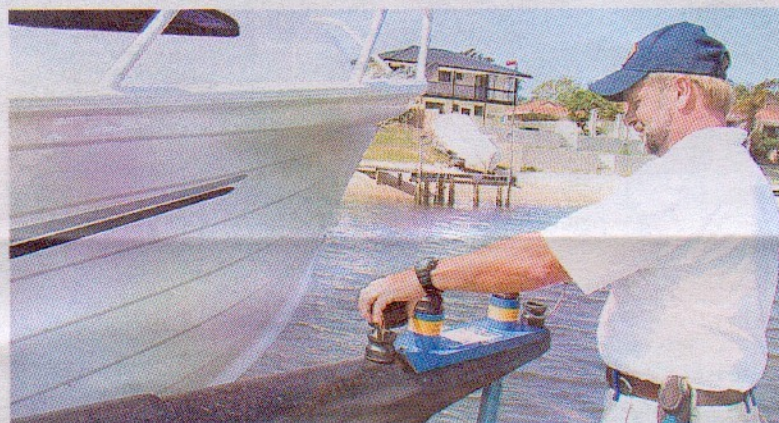
AirBerth is offering free installation for units purchased before December 31.



AirBerth marketing director Jurgen Konig shows how simple the unit is to operate



Releasing the water intakes



Off with the caps, out comes the air



Down she goes