

Testimonial from Georges Bay Marine Pty Ltd Tasmania

26th May 2006

What Greg says about Multipanel

"Using Multipanel contributed to the overall weight saving of the vessel and resulted in improving performance by three knots faster than expected speed. Multipanel was so easy to use, I will definitely be using again."

Don't forget to check out the Multipanel website www.multipanel.com.au

Boat orders have St Helens firm afloat

Report and picture: GUS McLEAN , Published Friday, 26 May 2006

The first of three 13.5m police boats for the Australian Federal Police was launched at St Helens yesterday and represents part of a \$2 million boatbuilding contract for the town.

After negotiating the trees and the powerlines in the streets of St Helens, the high-tech, fast-response, 13.5m police vessel was lowered into the water at Georges Bay. It will sail to the Solomon Islands next month.

Built by Georges Bay Marine Lyndcraft Boats, the vessel was commissioned by the Australian Federal Police and will be donated to the Royal Solomon Islands Police as part of the Federal Government's capacity building programme.

Georges Bay Marine owner and boatbuilder Greg Lynd said the 13.5m aluminium craft was the first of a three-boat, \$2 million order for the Federal Police and all of the vessels would be used in the Solomon Islands.

"This was such a big order that we had to build a new shed in the St Helens Industrial Estate to complete the order," Mr Lynd said.

"We also could not tie up the slipway for that length of time as we are still operating our normal boatbuilding and maintenance business for the fishing and leisure industries.

"We will be testing the boat in Georges Bay and on the East Coast for a few weeks before we take her to Melbourne where she will be shipped to Honiara."

The vessel, which has a light ship displacement of nine tonnes, will



MAKING A SPLASH: The Australian Federal Police boat bound for the Solomon Islands is lifted by crane at the St Helens wharf.

capacity of 2800 litres and will cruise at 30 knots for a distance of more than 550 nautical miles.

It is designed to run with a crew of four with room for 12 passengers and one tonne of equipment.

Mr Lynd said the boat would have the capacity to stay out on patrol for two weeks and also had its own desalination plant.

"She will never run out of water and there is not a light globe on her," Mr Lynd said.

"All of the lights are Hella LED lights. The soft interior was done by Streamline Upholstery at Ulverstone and the sirens and PA system were designed by Hazard Systems in Launceston so it really is a full Tasmanian effort.

"It shows that Tasmanian businesses can compete with

Mr Lynd said the contract to supply the boats was the biggest contract awarded to a "first-time tenderer" by the Federal Police.

He has built more than 50 boats since coming to St Helens eight years ago and has passenger and pleasure craft operating in Mallorca, Dubai and the US.

Mr Lynd, a self-taught welder and former truckie, says he built a boat for himself and then other people began putting their orders in.

"We bought Pike's old slipway eight years ago and started building boats," he said.

"We had to because we had no work. It was a case of put staff off or build a boat. We have to look at industries other than the tourism industry to keep the East Coast viable all year round.