



Australia's Most Affordable Rig

ROLCO NIRVANA

THE WATERSKI CREW ESCAPED A BITTER MELBOURNE DAY IN MAY TO HEAD TO SUNNY TORRUMBARRY (JUST PAST ECHUCA), TO TAKE AUSTRALIA'S MOST AFFORDABLE SKI BOAT – THE ROLCO NIRVANA – FOR A SPIN ON THE MURRAY. ROLCO SKIER BEN WILSON AND WAKEBOARDER CALLAN BUTCHER JOINED US ON THE ADVENTURE TO HELP OUT WITH THE PHOTO SHOOT AND GIVE ROLCO OWNER LLOYD BREWER THEIR FEEDBACK ON THE 2007 MODEL.

As we pulled up to the Torrumbarry boat ramp early in the morning, we all jumped out of the car with grins stretching across our faces. Before us lay a view that every skier pines for – water so glassy that you can't make out the point where the riverbank ends and the water begins. Despite the chilly air-temperature (and even colder water) there were fights to see who would get the first chance to shred through the glass. Ben Wilson won

and enjoyed a long set, until the wind started to pick up and put some ripples across the river. By this point, rain clouds had started to set in, but luckily they held out for the next couple of hours for everyone to have a ski and wakeboard. Alas the water was never quite the same for the rest of the morning. The heavens opened on our way back to Melbourne and we were thankful for the early set.



SPECIFICATIONS

- Length: 6m
- Width: 2.1m
- Engine: Rolco re-manufactured 350 Chev
- Seating capacity: 7 persons
- Fuel capacity: 70L
- Price as tested \$26,740



The Nirvana was a brand new model for Rolco last year and has been upgraded for this year's boat shows. Rolco caused quite a stir last year when they introduced their range of ski-boats at a significantly reduced price. They enjoyed huge success as ski-boat enthusiasts (who weren't even in the market for a new boat) found themselves signing cheques when they saw the price. A year later, the 6m Nirvana continues to gain popularity. Rolco have made a few slight changes for 2007, changing the shape of the windscreen to look more stylish and offer more protection, upgrading the trim and adding a cup holder right next to the driver on the dash (due to customer demand). Starting from \$25,990, the Rolco Nirvana is bringing new families into the sport who are suddenly finding waterskiing affordable.

The Wake

The quality of the wake was immediately obvious, with the entire crew giving it a thumbs up. The official ski-tester, Ben Wilson, was particularly positive about the wake. "It was just awesome," he said. "It was soft and smooth for cutting and there were no chunky edges at all." When it came time to set up the boat for a wakeboard, we were impressed with Rolco's convenient two-piece high-pole. It was just as strong as a normal longer pole, but had the convenience of being stored in a small bag (eliminating the need to find space in the boat to fit the usual 2m pole). Cal Butcher, the resident wakeboarder, enjoyed the opportunity for a ride, but believes the boat would benefit from a couple of fat sacks to increase its wakeboard potential for more advanced riders.

Mechanics

The Nirvana's re-manufactured 350 Chev with soft clutch handled everything we gave it. It pulled the skier out of the water with ease and held its speed consistently. The driver would certainly feel the tug of a powerful skier (like Ben) cutting, but the boat remained easy to control, provided you kept a firm grip on the steering wheel to maintain course.

We would definitely suggest choosing the optional centre ski pole for slalom, as skiing from the back ski hook pulled the boat around a lot harder. The Nirvana comes standard with mufflers, bilge pump, nitrile rubber skeg bush, battery isolator and water-separating fuel filter. If reverse is something you can't do without, then you could opt for a forward-neutral-reverse gearbox, which will set you back about \$3000. An adjustable driver seat is another option we would recommend if you've got some smaller drivers. Editor Kim Gillan (at 165cm) spent a lot of the day in the driver's seat and had to sit a buoyancy vest behind her in order to reach the foot throttle.

The Look

The Nirvana seats seven, with a comfortable bucket driver's seat, dual observers seat and rear lounge covered in velour. The cavities down the side of the hull give extra floor room for placing skis and other gear out of the way, leaving plenty of space for a couple of fat sacks for wakeboard enthusiasts. There is also a storage compartment behind the observers seat for all your bulky gear, like kneeboards and skis. The all-white hull was simple and timeless and looked attractive on the water and the choice of grey and black graphics complimented the boat's lines nicely. Rolco offers plenty of choices in hull colour and graphics to allow you to give the boat your own flavour.

Overall

The Nirvana is one of the most cost-effective ski boats on the market. It's a neat little ride and guarantees to be a reliable source of fun for your family and friends. The starting price of \$25,990, doesn't give you a lot of features, but Rolco's plethora of options allow you to customise your rig to suit your needs. Whether it's a tower, bimini, stereo, tandem trailer, centre pole or mirror you're after, Rolco will fix your boat with anything you could need. If your old boat is starting to play up and causing too many headaches, then check out the Rolco Nirvana. Rolco's reputation will leave you feeling safe and happy in one of their boats next summer and you can't beat the feeling of driving a new boat with zero hours on the clock.