

40th Jet Boat Order Confirmed for Coast Jet Boat Builder.

West Coast jet boat builder celebrates number 40 out the factory door and it's stories like these that boost our faith in the Coast as a home and place to raise our children, where jobs are available and the communities care. The Coast is full of diverse businesses and every so often you come across one that is simply outstanding, exciting, job creating and producing a world class product. Did you know that a jet boat builder in Hokitika even existed?

Let me tell you about Coastal Engineering and Marine Ltd. Owned by Butch Wilson and Dave Cartright this company makes world class jet boats and they are sold throughout New Zealand.



Butch is now a Coaster and the boat builder in the company, and I caught up with him to find out a few things. Why the Coast? Why jet boats? Why do people around New Zealand keep buying the “Westlander”? 40 jet

boats tells me the quality must be great. How do you fund development? Is it easy to get staff? Where to from here? So many questions!



Butch was born and bred in Tinwald, Ashburton, when at the age of 30 he left and headed to Christchurch for six years, eventually ending up in Hokitika.

He left school in Ashburton at the age of 15, not finding the education system to his liking. He got a job as an engineer, coach building for Designline for ten years, followed by transport engineering at Helmak. In between this did a stint at a foundry in Melbourne, casting and fabricating anything from statues to plaques. Three years at Boon and Lusk Engineering saw Butch enter into the aluminium transport fabrication of bulk bins, trailers etc. then, he headed to Christchurch and Hartz Marine to pursue a boat building dream.

In Butch's early years, his relationship with his father was very important in setting the path that Butch would end up taking. His dad, George, had a vast knowledge in engineering and mechanics, along with his patience and willingness to pass this onto his son. Butch chose to follow this path. Butch's childhood was filled with memories of camping and jet boating from a very young age. When times got tough, hunting, fishing and jet boating were Butch's saviour and became a pivotal part of his life.

In 2006, Butch made the leap of faith and left Christchurch to follow his dream of starting his own business with Dave Cartright on the West Coast.

He was drawn to the Coast for the lifestyle and they both believed they could offer Westland some skilled engineering and jet boat knowledge. Butch's passion for jet boating and engineering combined, became the next step in his life to produce and manufacture a recreational jet boat for a wide variety of people. From there WESTLANDER jet boats were born!!



The satisfaction of producing something from just flat sheets of alloy to a world class product is the most amazing feeling. To make a small business work, the keys he has found is diversification and producing a high quality product and service, while also treating staff well.

The “Westlander” 4600 Mk2 is a stunning looking beast and has some interesting features. The Delta is 10mm 5083, outer is 5mm 5083, the bearers are 4mm 5083, the transom is 4mm 5083. The sides and deck are 2.5mm 5052 with the hull weight 200kg approx. Buyers like “Number 40” can select a space age product so strong, for the bottom is 5mm RAEX 450 TMCP wear plate, and for those that know this is the top product in the country for this application. Hard to work with but the end result is worthwhile. The “Westlander” has a custom intake and grill.



There have been struggles along the way and for the past two years, the main one would be the rebuild in Christchurch draining the Coast of

qualified engineers making it difficult to offer competitive wages. In saying this, Coastal Engineering and Marine have just taken on a junior apprentice engineer.



Here Ethen Jones has taken off his safety glasses for our photo.

At this stage Coastal Engineering and Marine Ltd are happy manufacturing these boats for the New Zealand market, but who knows what the future holds and export remains a realistic objective. Butch has just started building his 40th "Westlander" jet boat, which is a 4600mm long recreational boat as a turnkey package valued at over \$100,000. His custom built jet boats range from 3.4m - 9.0m, including alloy or steel trailers.... but if it floats anything is a possibility and it only takes a call.



“Number 40” is another jet boat using the RAEX bottom which places a 5mm extra thick TMCP wear plate making it almost bullet proof and a jet boater’s dream!

Butch’s goal is to get as many “Westlanders” onto NZ waters as possible and if that means more time testing while hunting the rugged West Coast rivers so be it.



Butch is also an avid Jet Boating New Zealand member and you can get more of this story by picking up the phone and calling him on 027 6476102.