

## ***Freedom to Live the Dream***



In 1999 'Ben' Cropp AM was awarded the Order of Australia in recognition of his marine and coastal conservation work and his promotion of the Australian marine environment. A documentary filmmaker, photographer and marine conservationist, Ben has combined living and working on the water, to “live the dream”.

From his voyages on *Freedom II*, *Freedom III* and *Freedom IV* he has produced some 150 marine and wildlife adventure documentaries which have been televised throughout the world. He has discovered over 100 ship wrecks, the most famous being the discovery of the Pandora in 1977.

*Freedom II* with Ben and his sons explored Australia’s most northern coastline from Cape York, The Gulf of Carpentaria, Arnhem Land and the Kimberly coast, including the King George River. See “*Sailing the Rugged Coast*”.

*Freedom II* was also used to explore shipwreck dive locations and the Pacific.

*Freedom III* regularly sailed the Northern Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea reefs and Thursday Island. She is now in whale-watch charter in Hervey Bay.

Ben Cropp took ownership of *Freedom IV* in 2010. This 19 metre power catamaran is a luxurious floating home that allows Ben to continue exploring and provides an excellent platform for his work. “He’s still wiry and looks fit as a fiddle. His continuing fitness and good health is probably due to his lifestyle- boating, it does tend to keep one looking and acting younger”

(*Face to Face with Ben Cropp*- [www.bow2stern.com.au](http://www.bow2stern.com.au) )

Ben has attained this enviable lifestyle, in part, by privately and commercially chartering his boats.

In Australia and around the world, charter boats offer the opportunity for adventure. Various types of charter boating is available. These include diving, photography and film expeditions, whale and shark watching, fishing offshore, functions, cruising and exploring the Great Barrier Reef and coastal islands. Boats are also commercially chartered by Corporations, Universities a Government departments for scientific research and exploration.

Charter boat owners have the advantage of living a rewarding, healthy lifestyle and running their own business, whilst offsetting the cost of boat ownership through paying guests. Owners provide guests with an itinerary, catering, crew and social interaction, whilst pursuing their own dreams and passions.

The client has the experience of boating and adventure without the financial commitment of having to outlay for their own boat or its maintenance.

A sound business plan, a good boat in the appropriate survey, good communication skills and a passion for the water. These are the basic ingredients that ensure business success and profitability, whilst affording an enviable lifestyle that money can't buy.

Freedom IV is now for sale through Tin Can Bay Boat Sales. She is a professionally built NewWave 19 m Power Catamaran built to Australian survey standards. Freedom IV is under commercial registration, has extensive offshore capabilities and presents in very good condition. She is capable of speeds up to 21 knots.



*“Running your own successful charter boat business in Australia has never been more achievable, thanks to a booming tourism sector”.* [www.multihullcentral.com](http://www.multihullcentral.com)

Further Details See: [www.tincanbayboatsales.com.au](http://www.tincanbayboatsales.com.au)

*Images courtesy Wikipedia and bow2stern.com.au*

A Collection of Ben Cropp’s documentaries are obtainable through *YouTube*.  
See: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7FCD171209B9A978>

***Article contributed by Tin Can Bay Boat Sales***