

## ADVERTISING FEATURE

# There is so much diversity on our doorstep

### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN TAREE

IT MIGHT be unexpected to learn so much maritime activity thrives on the Mid North Coast. Boats used in commercial fishing, charter services, patrol operations, sea rescue missions, medical support, surveillance endeavours, and recreational purposes are all built here.

Steber International, a prominent boat manufacturer, has called Taree home for the past five decades. Founded in 1946 in Sydney, the company made the strategic decision to relocate to Taree. This move was driven by the desire to tap into a reliable and highly skilled workforce and to demonstrate a commitment to supporting regional industry.

The business is constantly evolving, and Managing Director Alan Steber has been driving diversification and modernisation of manufacturing practices to maximise growth opportunities.

This includes upgrading manufacturing and accounting software and ramping up R&D into electric and hydrogen-powered boats.

Their new \$200,000 assembly line is another innovation. Built under the Regional Job Creation Fund program, the project will generate five full-time jobs over time.

"Key projects that will use the new assembly line include the Sea Devil range of boats for Northern Beaches Marine and the Zodiac RHIB swift response craft", Mr Steber said.



The Steber 38 marine rescue vessels can be deployed to execute fast response search-and-rescues. Picture supplied



Steber 5200 entered the Manning River for the first time on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Picture by Rob Douglas



43-foot hybrid vessel successfully launched on Manning River on May 4, 2023. Picture supplied

Buoyed by the success of its electric hybrid program, Steber has also moved into researching hydrogen-powered boats. The initial project based on a 22ft electric/diesel hybrid was a collabora-

tive effort involving Steber, Ampcontrol and the University of Newcastle.

Modelling has been undertaken testing foil design, and a full-size 40ft hybrid vessel is under construction.

The third phase of the current business development upgrade involves the introduction of Tidy Enterprise manufacturing software linked to a Xero accounting package. This project helps streamline manufacturing, particularly labour and material allocation on specific major builds and smaller jobs and refits.

The family-owned company now operates from a modern, four-acre factory complex in Taree, with export success built around customisation.

Over 50 vessels have been exported to date, with customers coming from Dubai, Singapore, Seychelles, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Oman and Mauritius.

"We continue to look for opportunities to establish new distributorships across emerging Asian markets and the South Pacific islands in particular," says Mr Steber.

Overseas doors will continue to open for this energetic and vibrant company. The future looks bright for Steber International.

Find out more at [steber.com.au](http://steber.com.au).