



CYCLONE RELIEF

Back in February 2023, after Cyclone Gabrielle hit the Hawkes Bay, Senator Boats' Grant and Rachael Simmonds saw the attached photo of Sally and David Prins' Senator boat deposited 3km from their home by raging floodwaters. It ended up surrounded by logs.



Grant immediately messaged the couple to let them know that Senator Boats would repair their boat, free of charge, and asked them to bring it to the factory whenever it suited them. Senator Boats is based in Hawkes Bay.

"Cyclone Gabrielle devastated parts of our beautiful region and Sally and David Prins suffered immensely, as you can see from their story below. At the time of reaching out to offer help, Grant and I had no idea the extent of the damage to David and Sally Prins' entire property," said Rachael. "These are a few photos that David and Sally have shared with us of their home, and of their boat. They have given permission for *Boating NZ* use these photos."

This is what happened to the Prins family, in their own words, during and in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

"Our boat was at our home on Dartmoor Road. During the flood, the water rose quickly and we had to swim onto our roof, where we were rescued by helicopter. When we returned to the farm a few days later, we were shocked by the devastation. We lost our home and three other houses on the farm, along with farm buildings, fencing and stock. Our boat was missing, and we had no idea where it ended up.

"A few weeks after the flood somebody posted a picture on Facebook; it [the boat] had landed three kilometres away on the other side of the river on Omaranui Road. The boat was stuck in silt in the middle of a paddock.

"Friends eventually managed to retrieve it, and we were very grateful when Senator Boats offered to repair it free of charge. Thank you to everyone involved – we are very humbled by the kindness of all those people who helped us during this difficult time. Many thanks." – **Sally and David Prins.**

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