

Ozcape Slide-on Camper



What is the ideal configuration for an angler who wants to camp in comfort? There are certainly some elaborate tents around but finding space for all the necessary camp accessories can be a problem, not to mention the time it takes to put up and pull down the whole show.

Then, there are camper trailers, and there are stacks on the market these days - from basic models to the Taj Mahal of camper trailers. They have been a very welcome invention, particularly to off-road travellers, but what happens when you want to carry a boat as well? The load is usually limited to a couple of yaks or a lightweight dinghy.

Towing a substantial boat is possible with a campervan or small motor home but it can be quite inconvenient when you are stuck with having to use the

vehicle to launch and retrieve. Leaving the van parked all day in an area of doubtful security also poses a problem that can be followed by the hassle of trying to find a fresh camping spot each evening!

A solution to the dilemma of camping comfortably while towing a larger boat presented itself to me during a trip to Awoonga Dam with Warren Steptoe late last year. From the door of our hired cabin, we watched enthralled as a newly arrived couple unloaded and set up an elaborate utility tray mounted camper, then headed off fishing towing their boat - in less than 20 minutes. Now that was the way to go!

The tray mounted or slide-on camper allows a degree of flexibility for travelling anglers that is unmatched by other accommodation options. Just choose your camping spot, drop the camper, hook up the boat and you're headed for the water. Then, when you come back, detach the boat and head off shopping - with no parking worries.

The concept was so interesting that I have since made a point of checking out the extent of the slide-on camper market. There are quite a number of excellent



The Ozcamp slide on camper offers the complete package for travelling anglers; a comfortable camper that also allows a boat to be towed.



Loading the camper back on the ute is easy thanks to a couple of locating pins mounted on the base of the unit enabling the camper to always come to rest at the same spot on the tray and limiting adjustments to the turnbuckles and catches that secure the unit to the vehicle body.

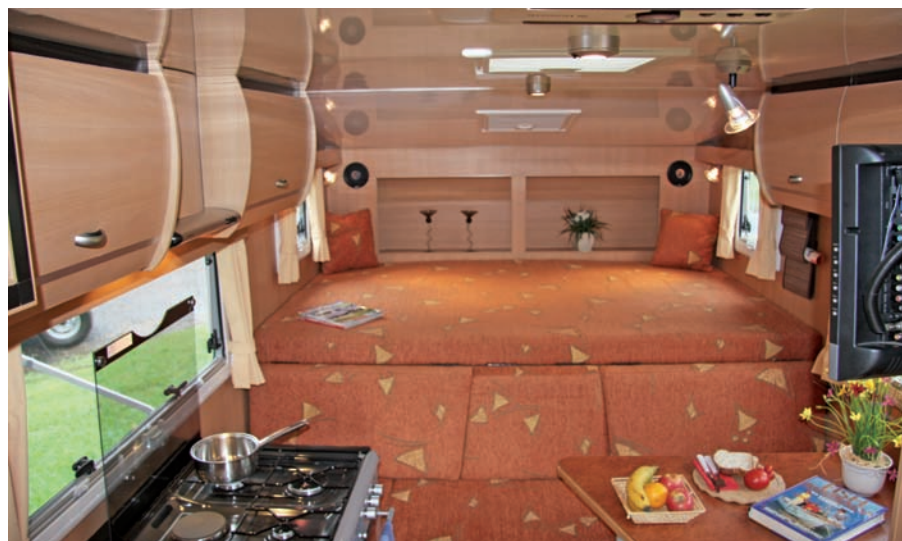
units available in a wide range of configurations including pop top and rigid. As in the camper trailer market, prices range considerably, thereby offering an option that will suit most budgets.

Whatever way you choose to go, I believe that the slide-on

European Recreational Vehicle industry is reflected in proprietor Joe Reid's approach to the styling and construction of Ozcape Campers. The company specializes in building slide-on campers that suit a two or 4WD one tonne capacity utility with a flat

internal fittings are constructed on the camper base before the exterior walls are attached. Only quality materials are used and all furniture sheeting is top grade marine plywood.

These campers are engineered to withstand a bit of rough stuff while keeping



The camper interior is compact yet spacious and includes a double bed, a couch which can be converted into a third bed, a kitchenette, table, electric flush toilet, shower cubicle and even an LCD tv.

camper offers fishers the ideal option whether you are headed camping for the weekend or plan to spend your long service leave on the road. Now you can most definitely take your boat with you!

I'm going to be looking at some of the locally manufactured slide-on campers in QFM beginning with this beauty built on the Gold Coast.

OZCAPE CAMPERS

Starting with a unit that is at the top of the slide-on camper range might seem like I'm going at this the wrong way around, but, on the other hand, I think it is important to establish just what options are available for potential buyers. Given the finish quality and attention to detail found in the Ozcape range, it certainly rates as a benchmark product for higher end models.

A background in the

rear tray. Three main models are offered, all based around a robust but lightweight rigid shell that is styled to enhance its aerodynamic ability.

To maximize the strength of the unit as a whole and simplify the building process, the

overall weight down. Average unit weight, depending on options, generally runs between 700-850kg, an acceptable load for the average ute.

Joe and his staff are enthusiastic about their

Continued page 89



Specific requests are well catered for, like this tube mounted rod holder.



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