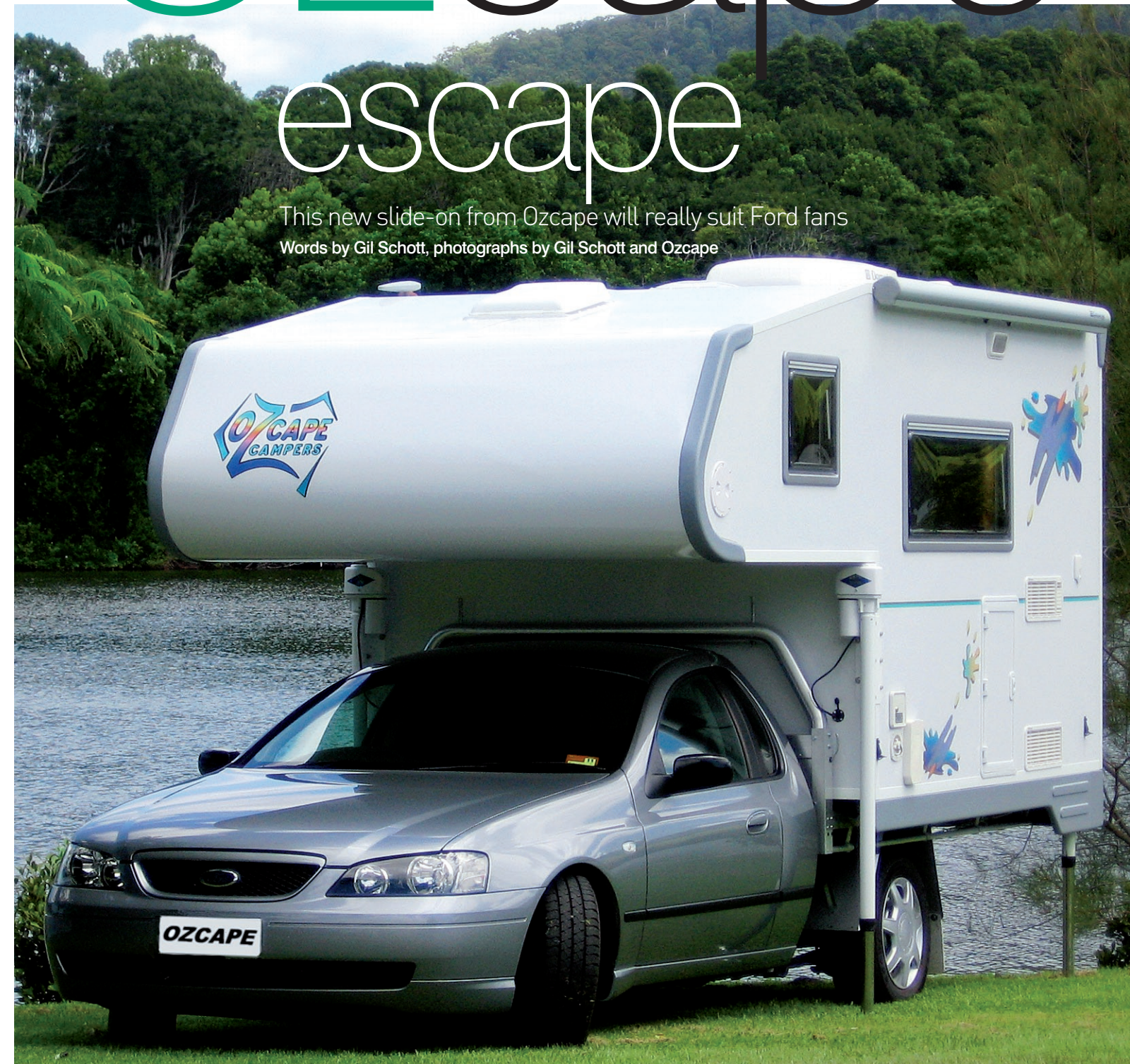


The Ozcape escape

This new slide-on from Ozcape will really suit Ford fans

Words by Gil Schott, photographs by Gil Schott and Ozcape

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Slide-ons (we have to come up with a better generic term than that) are among the most versatile of RVs (and one for that, too).

The advantages are obvious. As a mini-motorhome you have the advantage of carrying your accommodation on your back, while also being able to detach the unit and use the vehicle to run around shopping and so on. And like the motorhome you have the advantage of not having to tow a van, which suits a lot of folks. However you can also tow a trailer (boat or bike) to allow you to enjoy your chosen activity.

The Ozcape Slide-Ons are built on the Gold Coast – part of the South East Queensland boom area that is beginning to rival Melbourne as a centre of RV manufacturing in Australia.

On The Outside

Smart is the best way to describe the Ozcape. It's a very neat and tidy unit

with smooth aluminium external panels and neat splash decals giving it a fresh and pleasant look. Internal framing is box section aluminium. Large double-glazed windows with built-in blinds and insect screens let the outdoors in without the heat (and the bugs). Soft grey mouldings edge the brow, bottom sides and the bottom rear, with a 'spoiler' style moulding above the rear security door.

A Fiamma awning is fitted to the passenger side. This positioning is standard with most slide-ons, though I'd love to see a rear awning fitted over the door. Outdoor liveability is essential in slide-ons, given their generally small-ish interiors, so the ability to spend time outside undercover is important. Even with side and rear awnings you'd still have the issue of a 'wedge' of open sky between the two. I reckon an 'Isabella'-style zip-on awning/tent running on sail track would be brilliant on these.

The legs are electrically operated and make it simple to mount and dis-



mount the unit. One neat trick involves reversing the ute under the camper for mounting. A couple of thin nylon rods hang down off the camper as guides and you simply reverse between them for correct positioning.

The 9kg gas bottle is fitted in an external compartment on the passenger side, along with power and water inlets. Fishos will love the integrated fishing rod compartment. The model I saw was designed to suit a Ford Falcon ute, and the Ozcape sat nicely aboard the tray.

On The Inside

My first impression of the interior is that it's pretty roomy. The use of space in the design is really rather good, given the limited room to work with. As you climb aboard you'll see the kitchen area to your left, and the dinette to the right, and up forward is the brow-mounted bedroom.

A large cupboard/robe is positioned

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immediately to the left as you enter (the bottom of which housed the battery and charging system). Forward of this is the kitchen, with the working space running forward to a cross bench before the brow. The fridge is a 90L three-way unit that fits snugly under the bench. A flush fitting sink cover adds work area to this bench. The four-burner stove/griller also has a glass top to complete the bench area. A utilities drawer is under the sink, and cupboards are also mounted beneath the drawer and the cooker. Overhead lockers on both flanks add to the storage capability.

Opposite the robe in the right hand rear corner is a neat, though small, bathroom/toilet. The electric flush cassette toilet is bench-mounted opposite a slimline vanity basin. Yes, it's compact, but remember it's in a pretty small slide-on. If you've

been fishin' all day and return to the camper covered in salt spray and bustin', you'll appreciate it.

Forward of the bathroom, the dinette is cosy, yet comfy enough for two. The table can be removed outside if you wish. I do like the lounge that runs across the width of the camper below the brow. I can imagine if I came in late from fishin' my bride would have claimed this lounge – stretched out with a book.

The bedroom is quite tidy, though with rather low headroom, but you'd get used to that. It's pretty comfy and I liked the inclusion of stereo speakers and little book nooks in the forward end.

Downlights and main cabin lights keep things cosy at night, while the good-sized windows and overhead hatches (one over

the bed, another in the main cabin) will allow light in and air to circulate.

I did like the finish in the Ozcape. Good latches on the cupboards, a tidy finish and an overall air of quality were my impressions. There's really plenty of room to 'live in' and it has all you'd need for an extended holiday.

Wrap Up

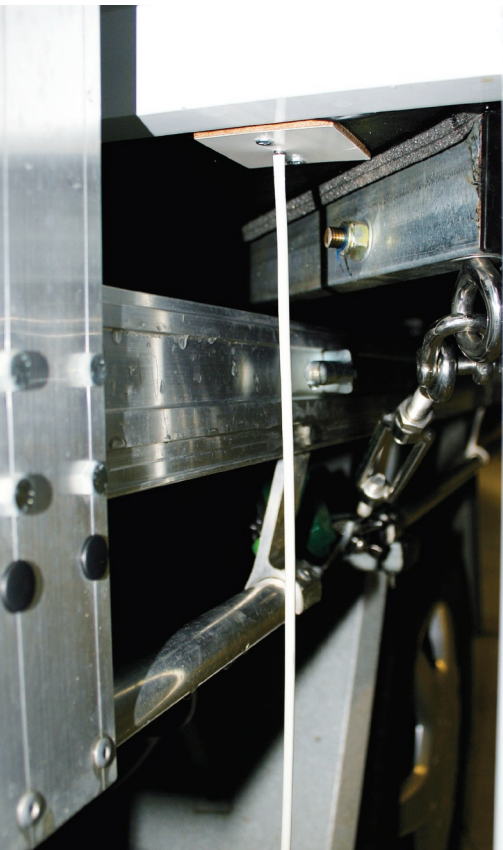
We won't get into the pros and cons of slide-ons here, save that I'll repeat my notion that a decent slip-on awning covering sides and rear would really make these units a clever camper.

I think the Ozcape unit is pretty good. It looks great and it sits nicely on the Falcon ute. And a slide-on like this is a sensational way of getting into 'motorhoming' at a budget level. It's a very economical option for the RV traveller – the RV and, in this case a Falcon ute, is a very competitively priced option for a couple to get into touring, while still retaining the vehicle for normal use. *C&M*



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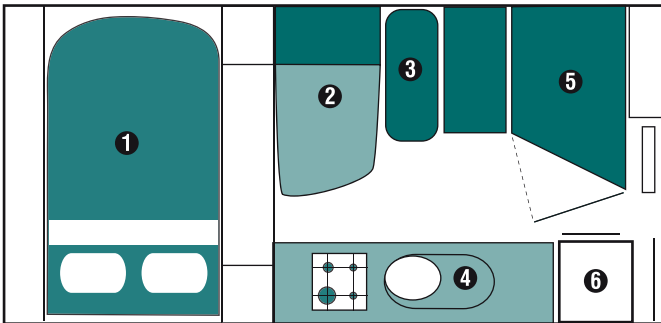


RATINGS

ON THE OUTSIDE:	7.5/10
ON THE INSIDE:	7/10
IN THE KITCHEN:	7/10
AT THE DINETTE:	7/10
IN THE BEDROOM:	7/10
KEEPING CLEAN:	6.5/10

KEY

- 1 Bedroom
- 2 Dinette Lounge
- 3 Dinette Table
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Bathroom
- 6 Storage



SPECIFICATIONS

MANUFACTURER:	Ozcape Campers
MODEL:	Ozcape (Ford Falcon)
HEIGHT:	on Falcon ute tray (3.1m) 10ft
WIDTH:	2.25m (7ft 4in)
UNIT WEIGHT (FULLY OPTIONED):	795kg
BASE PRICE STANDARD:	from \$ POA
BASE PRICE (WITH BATHROOM):	from \$ POA



THANKS

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