

# CAMPER COMPARISON

SLIDE-ON CAMPERS ARE AN ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO CARAVANS OR CAMPER TRAILERS.

STORY SAM MARSH | PHOTOS OZCAPE CAMPERS & STEVE BERRY

**W**HEN RACQ MEMBER Steve Berry and his partner Alan Taylor drive their slide-on

camper into a caravan park, fellow campers emerge from their RVs with a cold beer in hand to witness the set-up.

"Don't stuff it up, we've got an audience," Alan says as they park their OzCape Optima slide-on camper and press the button to lift the camper off their Ford Ranger and onto the ground.

For those who are new to the slide-on camper concept, it's a very niche style of RV where the camper is mounted onto the flat tray of a ute.

The benefits include no towing, fewer on-road costs, it's easy to park and store at home, it's fully self-contained and, best of all, the camper can be separated from the vehicle at any time for day trips.

Steve and Alan made the decision to buy a slide-on camper four years ago when they grew tired of towing their 26-

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foot (8m) fifth wheeler caravan which had all the bells and whistles.

"One night I just looked around and said to Alan, 'we have so much space and storage here and we just sit in the one seat'," Steve said.

Having already seen different styles of slide-on campers while touring America in 1988, Alan and Steve were keen to find some quality production models available in Australia.

The big question was could they transition from a 26-foot fifth wheeler to

a 4.5m enclosure without sacrificing the luxuries?

"It was no trouble at all because the slide-on camper still had a shower, bathroom, cooking facilities, TV, air-conditioning and a great bed," Steve said.

"We were willing to sacrifice space but not the comfort."

Over the past four years the pair have travelled the east coast of Queensland and are planning to conquer a lap of Australia.

"Travelling in the slide-on camper is so much easier than our fifth wheeler, it has just taken all of the stress out of our trips," he said.

"Driving it is very easy, it's no different to reversing the ute whether the camper is on or off.

"The only addition is that you are slightly wider and longer.

"We can now pull into any major supermarket and park in an ordinary car

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Slide-on campers are an option worth considering instead of caravans and camper trailers.



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### TOP FIVE BENEFITS OF A SLIDE-ON CAMPER

park bay, whereas with the fifth wheeler we had to plan ahead to ensure we had space for parking.

"The main attraction for us was the versatility of being able to separate the camper from the vehicle."

OzCape Campers Director Joe Ried has built slide-on campers on the Gold Coast for more than 15 years and said they were the most versatile style of RV on the market.

"Many of our customers have owned caravans before and have decided to 'downgrade' to a slide-on camper because the kids have grown up and moved on," Mr Ried said.

"Slide-on campers are a great option for couples who are looking to travel on and off road easily without compromising on the comforts.

"It's the perfect type of RV for those who dread towing, reversing, parking or setting up a caravan." ■



#### NO TOWING

As the camper is mounted onto the back of a ute there is no towing involved. This means you can tow if you want to. This is very appealing to travellers who have a boat.

#### FEWER ON-ROAD COSTS

You can avoid the extra expense of parking fees, fuel consumption, registration and vehicle ferry fees. A slide-on camper is considered a vehicle load so there are no extra costs.

#### EASY TO PARK AND STORE AT HOME

Slide-on campers have great manoeuvrability which makes them easy to drive and park. Most will fit in a normal-sized parking bay.

#### CAMPER CAN BE EASILY REMOVED

The camper can be easily removed electronically or manually at any time, so when you reach your destination you can unload it and use your vehicle to explore.

#### FULLY SELF-CONTAINED

Slide-on campers come in a range of different sizes to suit a variety of vehicles. Most of them offer "motorhome" level accessories and facilities.

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