

Words and pics Ron and Viv Moon

Got a ute with a tray going begging? This plucky camper trailer may be the perfect fit.

Low-slung Camping

The Adventure TrayTop Camper is a fairly big slide-on and our test unit was fitted to a Ford F250 ute which carried it easily, with room to spare.

A more common rig such as a Patrol or HiLux would need a fair sized tray, as the unit measures 7ft 3in (2.3m) long, 7ft (2.1m) wide and 3ft 3in (1.1m) high.

The top section of the camper is divided down the centre with the kitchen on one side and a large storage area on the driver's side.

The kitchen area is readily accessible at any time, canvas up or not. Simply open the two smart locking recessed handles, lift the side wall of the camper and this exposes the stove and fridge on their own hydraulic platform which can be quickly swung out of the way and into its position, giving immediate access to a long bench area.

The gas stove aboard the TrayTop is a Lido Junior stainless steel twin-burner with grill, and any good quality fridge fits beside it. The stove is permanently connected to a 4.5kg gas cylinder, which means less fooling around at meal time.

A 100ah fully sealed battery with an automatic 240V battery charger is also tucked into one end of the kitchen area.

A 57L water tank provides liquid storage for the TrayTop, with a 12V water pump to provide running water, one of the hallmarks of civilisation. Ample 12V lighting overhead certainly helps with



cooking and any other task after dusk, and overhead cupboards provide secure storage for all the little things.

On the offside of the camper is another huge storage compartment with plenty of room for all the usual accoutrements, as well as the four camper jacks.

One of the best things about these TrayTops is their extreme flexibility. Not only can you head off into the deep bush or desert without worrying about towing, but you can drop the load when you get there and still tackle tough country unencumbered.

Top: You could be relaxing less than ten minutes after pulling up at your favourite campsite with minimal setup time for the freestanding camper and awning. Unhitch the ute so you can explore your surroundings. **Above:** The TrayTop camper is well ventilated with fine mesh windows in the bedroom area.

Simply jack up the camper with the four supplied jacks off the back of the ute, drive away, and enjoy the silence. The camper is, of course, still fully functional, it just isn't attached anymore.



Above: The Adventure TrayTop is a neat slide-on unit. **Left:** The kitchen, with Waeco fridge, stove and preparation bench, is instantly accessible.

Below left: A single door opens onto the nearside and the kitchen. **Below:** The unique bed box slides out and is lowered to 80cm off the ground.



While most slide-on campers situate the bed at the very top of the camper, the Adventure TrayTop offers a unique solution by bringing the king sized bed down to a much more ergonomic level – only 80cm above the ground. Located in the lower section of the unit, the bed and tent box slides out and is lowered into position easily and without fuss.

The tent erects from here in a standard fashion and the whole setup takes about 10 minutes. This makes the Adventure TrayTop probably the lowest bed in the market. And, because everything is low to

the ground, it makes it slightly easier for one person to pack or unpack everything.

A large awning can be erected independently and is free standing, while walls can be added to the awning making a separate enclosure. It is almost like having a separate kitchen attached to the bedroom.

The unit is very well ventilated with fine mesh windows, and while the roof is made from 12oz canvas, walls are made from 8oz material.

A single door opens on the nearside, next to the kitchen, while five windows

provide light and ventilation to the bedroom area.

This unit weighs in around 600kg empty. So, once loaded up and with water in the tank, you'd expect a weight of around 750kg or more.

SUMMING UP

We found the Adventure TrayTop to be extremely dust proof and built to a very high standard using first class material.

The whole idea of a low bed appeals more and more, but the unit takes a little longer to erect than most. However, the benefits are more than worthwhile. Price as tested is \$23,300.

For more information contact Adventure Camping and Offroad Campers, Edwardstown SA, (08) 8276 5666, 1800 353 561 or visit www.adventureoffroadtrailers.com.au ■