



With full height benches and a wind-out system for setting up, Cub Campers' Space Van is something else.

Stand TALL



Cub Campers turned 40 this year, making it one of the longest lasting builders in the country. Inspecting the new Space Van with sales manager Ross Nichols the other day, it was easy to tell why. This van is unique within the camper trailer fraternity for its high sides, which mean you get full size benches inside. Normally you have to get a full size caravan for that kind of comfort.

The Space Van is also the largest rear-fold camper on the market when it comes to floor space as well. The kitchen is user-friendly and offers a few innovations. The floor is strong and stable when

deployed, so you don't feel off balance walking around on it while camping. But the biggest advantage, what really makes Cub's campers stand apart, is the ezy-wind system, which means no more lifting the floor to open and close the camper. Just turn a crank and you're camping in seconds.

Forty years ago, Cub was building a name for itself developing horse trailers when retired pharmacist JK Fagan purchased the company. With his son, Roger, JK developed the company's first camper trailer, a fairly simple box trailer design.

Then came the Drifter, the platform upon which subsequent Cub models were built upon, including the Supamatic, Spacematic, and this model, the top of the range offroad Space Van. Developed to handle offroad requirements with an eye for

long range touring as well, the Space Van provides a great compromise to the age-old camper trailer/ caravan dichotomy. You get the manoeuvrability, light weight (715kg Tare with an exceptional 35kg ball weight) and affordability of a camper trailer, with the comfort, ease and space of a caravan. At a height of only 1930mm, the Space Van will track nicely behind most 4WDs, especially helpful in sandy or muddy conditions. And starting at just \$25,000, the Space Van offers great value for your camping dollar.

CATERING FOR ALL

Cub offers two different options when it comes to kitchens on the Space Van, either inside or outside stainless steel units. When one opts for the outside kitchen, the cupboard inside is built as storage, with two doors and two drawers. With an inside kitchen, the cupboard storage is somewhat sacrificed, but there is additional storage beneath the bed. Another option is to get an internal kitchen and external slide-out barbecue and pantry.

The cooking facilities are comprised of a four-burner cooktop with grill.

Opposite what would be the kitchen cupboard (our review model had the slide-out external kitchen) is another bench with cupboard storage and a 90L three-way Dometic fridge, providing more than double the cold storage of your average camping fridge.

The Space Van design



Opposite, from far left: Cub's ezy-wind system in action: just wind the crank and you're camping in no time.



can accommodate either a single queen-size bed or twin single mattresses. A fold-up table with two folding camping chairs is provided with every camper, and there is plenty of room in the floor area for these. Our review model was equipped with a queen-size mattress, which is flanked by twin reading lamps and two wind-out windows with velcro curtains, many more accoutrements normally reserved for caravans that could never follow a Cub up the Old Telegraph Road.

From top: Full size benches inside; the floor is strong and stable; the stainless steel kitchen has a four-burner cooktop; at a height of 1930mm, the Spacevan will track nicely behind most 4WDs.

THE RIGHT FIT

Over the years, I've become accustomed to trying to gauge the relative merits of camper trailers at a glance, and one of the points that seems to differentiate them, sometimes wildly, is the cut and general fit of the canvas on the frame. Some campers look like loosely dressed adolescents, and some look like \$5000 suits. Cub definitely leans in the latter direction. Despite erecting the camper on a bit of fairly uneven ground, the canvas, which has sturdy stitching, still sat true and tight.

Manufactured from Australian canvas in Cub's own Australian factory, the Space Van's tent is the perfect accompaniment to the company's unique ezy-wind system. The awning can even be left on and just folded up with the rest of the canvas as you wind the floor up. The optional tropical roof can also be left on all the time. All of this combines to make the range of Cub campers some of the fastest to set up and take down in the industry.

SUMMING UP

Cub's Space Van takes advantage of all the learning and innovation that has gone into both the caravan and camper trailer industries over the last 40 years or so. The company has been trading that long, which means it must be doing something right.

Providing an affordable camper that exceeds others when it comes to liveability without sacrificing offroad acumen and weight, the Space Van impressed us, and we're sure it will impress you.

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