

BILLABONG CARAVANS

A REFRESHING SEACHANGE

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY JOHN SULLIVAN

Billabong's custom caravan range can suit all budgets starting from their Standard Economy Series to their Mid Series, from their Luxury Series to their Off-Road Series. Customers can tailor their own van to suit their individual requirements by choosing an extensive range of options. The van in review is the Seachange Coolabah, a 22'6" rear-door van. Billabong have put a lot of thought into this design and have come up with a blend of luxury and very practical van.

The Seachange sits on a G&S chassis. G&S have over 40 years experience and they use a combination of modern technology and traditional hand-built craftsmanship to produce a quality,

innovative, and well-built chassis designed for Australia's toughest conditions and with better clearance.

The super gal chassis is 6" with a 2" raiser in with leaf suspension, sitting on alloy rims with 265/07 RIG tyres. The tare is 2825 kg GTM 3223. ATM 3500 with a payload of 675 kg and the ball weight comes in at 277 kg. The rear bumper has three arms and supports two spare wheels. The hitch is a standard unit and behind this are two 9 kg gas bottles and mesh on the A-frame. Under the chassis are two 95 litre water tanks with protectors, to minimize any risk of damage. The two batteries are in the under-slung carrier, which keeps the

weight down low and for added safety there is a CAMEC brake safe system. There is a tap on the A-frame, with town water connectors. The water filter is lockable for additional security. Once you step inside the Seachange, through its rear door you are struck by the impressive size of the kitchen – it is massive. It really is a chef's delight currently boasting the largest bench space in the caravan industry. Serious cooking is made easy allowing all your appliances to be left out on the bench at the same time... no more putting away one appliance to use another!

The splashbacks go right up to the cupboards making cleaning a breeze. The

stainless steel sink is large and comes with a mixer tap. The kitchen offers an immense amount of storage space. There are overhead cupboards on three walls, an abundance of drawers and plenty of under bench cupboards for extra room to stow away kitchen items. There are two pantries for food items. One is at the entrance which is a practical slide out. The other is a massive pantry next to the fridge... this has two fixed shelves, similar to any pantry in a home.

Two pot drawers take care of all your pot storage requirements... an ingenious touch. The fridge colour, which is a Dometic 184 three way, matches the black cupboards, the overhead rangehood and the drop down DLUX microwave. The stove has three gas and one electric hotplates, a grill, and an oven. The Seachange even comes with its own under-bench front-loading washing machine.

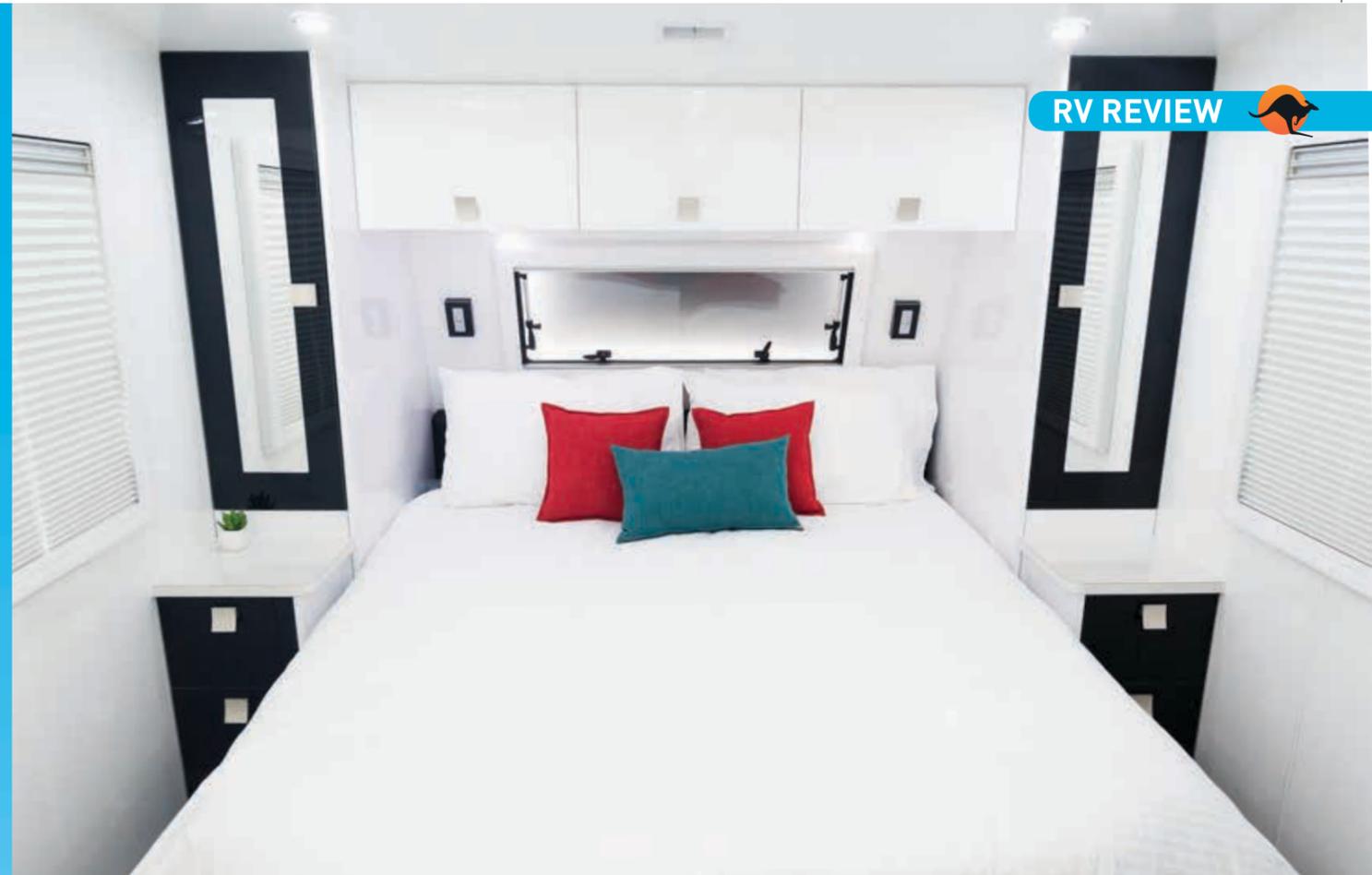
Seating is by way of a leather club lounge, which is extremely comfortable and easily seats five adults. The table is also a generous size being 850mm x 500mm. The whole interior oozes quality and luxury. From the black and white colour scheme, the high-gloss cabinetry to the really spectacular LED strip lighting which illuminates the underneath of the of the benches, creating an atmospheric ambience.

The bedroom, just like the kitchen, is of huge proportions. There is easily enough room for two people to simultaneously move around. The bed is queen size with an inner spring mattress, which lifts up to reveal plenty of storage. Again, like the rest of the van, there is ample storage. This is provided by two hanging lockers and three drawers either side of the bed. To compliment this, there are three overhead lockers and as an added bonus a linen press is also provided. A really

innovative addition. Ventilation is taken care by three large windows and an overhead Four Seasons hatch, plus there is an IBIS reverse cycle air conditioner.

A lot of thought and design has been put into the Seachange's en-suite. Very thoughtfully there is a separate shower unit and a separate toilet... an innovative touch keeping privacy in mind. The corner shower unit is generous in size and with its transparent sides it gives a feeling of openness and airiness. An above vent and

RV REVIEW





RV REVIEW



fan take care of the steam. Across from the shower unit is the enclosed toilet. The toilet is a CP BF C400 unit and directly opposite is a vanity unit with mixer tap. Above the toilet there is more storage. Again ventilation is taken care via a fan and overhead vent plus an opening window. The bedroom and ensuite have sliding doors to give full privacy between the bedroom and the kitchen.

The Seachange has a refined external appearance with its bright blue Coolabah series decal and its front and side powder coated checker plate. Outside storage is provided by a front mini boot and a good-sized tunnel boot with access both sides. There is also an extra storage box at the rear on the driver's side. A full-length awning provides excellent shelter from the elements and beneath this a picnic table, external speakers, and large LED strip lights and a handle light are provided. An external TV point and 12 volt outlet are also supplied.

Entertainment is taken care of by two 24" TV units with built in DVD players... one for the lounge and one for the bedroom with a digital WINEGUARD antenna. A sophisticated radio/CD comes with internal and external weatherproof speakers. To power these, there are two batteries which have a DRIFTER system battery charger plus a 150 watt solar panel.

Billabong caravans have created a versatile yet luxurious van with the added bonus of affordability.

To check out all of the Billabong range go to: www.billabongcaravans.com

