



NO-NONSENSE POP-TOP

Goldstream RV's new little off roader is comfortable, capable and an ideal touring van for adventurous travellers.

2013 has heralded a new range of caravans and campers from Goldstream RV and this little off-road pop-top is a ripper. Going through the nuts and bolts with Shaun Noble, it's hard not to be impressed.

Anthony: "We are here with Shaun Noble from Goldstream RV where Shaun handles all the sales and marketing. Thanks for coming Shaun. What can you tell us about this nifty little off road van?"

Shaun: "Thanks Anthony. Today we are in our little 14 foot shower/toilet van. For 2013 we've made quite a few changes, one being the reversal of the floor plan so the bed is now at the front of the van near the door which has freed up the other end to have overhead cupboards running right through the van. We have increased our storage immensely.

We've also made a huge monetary investment in our new C&C machine and

we have now gone to the European design furniture which will be available across the range for 2013, but this is our first baby off the floor."

Anthony: "It is very neat looking I must admit. I don't mind the colours that you have chosen plus the streaky wood theme."

Shaun: "This is a new look for Goldstream. We have traditionally stuck with the timber picture frame furniture look, however moving forward we have given our custom-

ers the new 'wow' factor which is the 'bright and white' look and with stock rolling off the line it gives customers the opportunity to see the new look, which is now available.

This 'wow' is helped by using the composite sides which are aluminium inside and out with the composite compound in the middle. It does give us a great new look and feel."

Anthony: "It's a good thing. Just looking around and starting with the bed what are

your thoughts?"

Shaun: "It's a double bed with inner spring mattress, it lifts up on gas struts so there is ample storage underneath which is easily accessible. This one is fitted with the Climaster reverse cycle air conditioning unit which is an under floor mount with a ducted system. It is a new system from Europe for 2013, it's very compact and light. It frees up a lot of space inside the van or up on the roof and with this van having the off road

features on it, we like to keep the weight off the roof for those conditions plus it makes it easier for the people to lift the roof, being a pop-top."

Anthony: "Moving into the kitchen on the driver's side wall."

Shaun: "The kitchen is very practical. There is a Dometic 90 litre fridge. It's a 3-way fridge and what we call our standard fridge, there is also an option to go to the 104 litre fridge. We also have the three



OFF THE ROAD

A small interior space lacks nothing in quality and appliances.

► burner stove with a combination sink and a 12 volt water pump."

Anthony: "It's a deep sink too which is very practical."

Shaun: "It's a very deep sink and a nice combo overall. We have hot and cold water running at the sink and we also have the hot and cold water of course for the shower and toilet combination which has the Thetford toilet fitted. It is a one piece fibreglass mould so there are no joins in the actual mould and with the movement in the off road side of things there's minimal chance for any leaks or problems in the shower area."

A new release which is our big 'kitchen wow' factor for 2013 is that we have introduced what we call the duplex oven from Thetford. So we have got the three burner stove, we have got the 240 volt microwave and now as an option we've got the duplex oven which is new. So the customer has the opportunity and the choice to mix and match. You can have the whole lot or you can take them out and have more storage with drawers or cupboards with shelving."

Anthony: "And there is plenty of storage space around, they are quite deep spaces

which is excellent."

Shaun: "Behind you, you have got the wardrobe which we have shortened up to get what we call the microwave tower in, but the new setup seems to be the big winner with feedback so far."

Anthony: "That's good. Alright so you are here on this OTR Muster and you have brought this off roader along, it's very different from all the other vans that we have got here. Why and where do you see yourself in this off road market?"

Shaun: "At Goldstream we are into our 20th year as far as being in the RV market and we've found that our niche little market seems to be 75% of our people going off-road and wanting to go into more rugged areas with plenty of comfort. So with this little unit here, which has been a really big winner in the previous Series One and Series Two models, we find that the shortness of the body, keeping the weight down, the compactness and the pop-top for the height issue and ease of storing offers a great combination for customers."

Anthony: "All practical reasons for selling this unit. What sort of suspension system are you running on this?"



Plenty of cupboards and storage.

Shaun: "The suspension under this is a Cruisemaster. It has a 2.1 tonne rating. It utilises coil springs with a trailing arm and shockers so it controls the ride when they go out on these rough roads. A coil is a lot softer than your traditional leaf spring system, even with shockers."

We are running a 2 tonne axle under the van. Our ATMs as standard are around 1750kg. The heavier axle means we do have the opportunity to raise the ATM if people need more pay load. We are not resting on our laurels with this van, from the suspension up, it has been built and designed in Australia, tested in Australia and is really, really good stuff."

Anthony: "Are there any other points which you think that we should understand?"

Shaun: "Just on top of what we spoke about today this pop-top also has a battery management system with LED lighting plus an 80w solar panel on top. What we are trying to achieve is to keep the consumer as self-sufficient as possible for a reasonable amount of time. So with our gas stove, our gas fridge, our gas hot water system, our 164 litres of water underneath with provi-



A double bed is located across the front of the van.

sions for 40 litres on the rear with jerry can holders and the solar system, we're trying to cover all the bases so they can be as self-sufficient as possible while touring."

Anthony: "So one final comment, where do you see Goldstream RV moving forward as a company?"

Shaun: "Goldstream moving forward, a good question. Over the journey we have taken, we started off back in 1993 building the windup camper trailers, we have progressed to doing the pop-top campers and now full sized caravans. We see a lot of our customers that we dealt with 15-20 years ago returning with their camper trailer which they have spent a lot of time with their families in. With the changing of their touring requirements and the shower and toilet becoming a necessity, these customers are moving on to their next journey, the kids have left home and it is just the two of them. I believe our expanded range caters for more and more tourers with products that are going to last."

Anthony: "Beautiful. Alright, on that note I think we are good so thank you very much."

Shaun: "Thank you."

Conclusion:

There's a lot to be said about this little pop-top with the off road package. There are a few extras worth noting as it helps to understand the pricing which is pretty keen. The list starts with an awning, checker plate tool box, twin Jerry can holders, wide stone guard, Hyland hitch, alloy wheels, picnic table, reversing camera, radio/CD, 19" LED TV on swing arm, Wineguard TV antenna, tri fold table, and Dometic S7 double glazed windows. So this van is pretty jam packed full of goodies.

About the only thing I wasn't keen on was that the rear leg of the awning has to be moved to open up the storage box, however as it's the only way to have a large awning on a small van, I can see why you would put up with it.

Overall this pop-top off roader, which retails for \$54,000 drive-away as reviewed, is a cracker and one I think will set a few records for Goldstream RV not just in sales but extreme destinations.

Anthony Kilner



Having an ensuite is amazing in such a small van.



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Goldstream RV
 Model: Explorer ST
 Body Length: 4.32m (14ft 2in)
 Width: 2.27m (7ft 4in)
 Tare Weight: 1620kg
 Price: As Shown, \$54,000 drive-away ex-Melbourne
 THANKS TO:
 We'd like to thank Shaun for hauling the Explorer ST pop-top up to our Muster at Kevington and helping out on the photo shoot. Goldstream RV is located at Factory 1-6, 75 Bald Hill Road in Pakenham Victoria or contact them on the details below.
 Contact: Goldstream RV
 Phone: 03 5941 5571
 Email: info@goldstreamrv.com.au
 Website: www.goldstreamrv.com.au

