

MOTORHOME LEGENDS

NSW's Shoalhaven Heads has played host to a diverse range of the country's best motorhomes at *The Wanderer's* inaugural 'Motorhome Legends' event

Our convoy traces the Shoalhaven River en-route to the holiday park.

STORY BY KIRSTIE BEDFORD PHOTOS BY ANNA PASTUKHOVA

This page: Our convoy were tested on and off-road.



The inaugural 'Motorhome Legends' event kicked off in August, showcasing some of the country's best motorhomes in the pretty NSW locale of Shoalhaven Heads.

Three motorhomes, an entry-level, mid to high-range, and luxury motorhome, were put through their paces in an event designed to take the hard work out for you when deciding on your next RV purchase.

Reviewed by industry stalwarts including Malcolm Street, who has assessed and driven literally hundreds of motorhomes and caravans over the past two decades, and our own Richard Barwick – the KEA, Wirraway and Paradise were crawled under and over, and driven on and off-road so we could give you our verdict of how they perform.

The manufacturers and content crew created quite a presence in the small regional village – often seen frequenting Hedy's Restaurant at the Shoalhaven Heads Hotel for a well earned glass of wine and quality pub tucker by the fireplace after hours spent out on various locations around town. But don't think it was all wining and dining; days were jam packed assessing

every inch of the motorhomes around the region. We covered everywhere from the Shoalhaven River to Two Figs winery perched at the top of one of Mount Coolangatta's foothills, to get the best perspective of these motorhomes for you, and it wasn't all plain sailing either – our drone used for panoramic and elevated scenic shots was blown off course several times, once landing in a nearby paddock leaving videographer Anna scrambling amongst bush to find it. You'll be relieved to hear she did, going on to produce the cover shot on this magazine.

Malcolm spent most of his time with his head in the engine, or under the motorhome, ensuring the technical aspects were in check, while Richard was looking at how they fit in the industry and how they would best suit members. I stepped up to the challenge of reviewing the aesthetics – looking at how the motorhome functions, and what it has to offer from a comfort perspective.

You'll get our full verdicts in individual reviews in coming issues, but we were most impressed by what we saw and what the event holds for the future.

As Richard Barwick states, "we see this as just the beginning of something big. It puts a diverse range of vehicles on offer, which are appealing to all price ranges and lifestyles and is a great way to recognise partnerships and supporters of CMCA, and they all offer freedom of choice."

Malcolm Street says looking at motorhomes at somewhat diverse ends of the financial spectrum was certainly interesting.

"Whilst the more expensive motorhomes were a good look at frontline RV technology in all its forms, the KEA Beach was a great demonstration of what is available for those keen to embrace the motorhome lifestyle, yet on a limited budget. Of particular interest was the retro fit rear bed kit that turned the rental motorhome into something much more practical for the retail market."

From an aesthetic point of view, I found the KEA to be the perfect entry-level for a family, it's durable and I was particularly impressed with the cab bed, or as I liked to call it the 'mezzanine', the perfect hideaway for the kids, while the Wirraway and Paradise provide more than a touch of luxury, with home comforts

many people wouldn't even have in their own homes, including soft closing cabinetry, liquor cabinets, and in the Paradise, heated massage chairs in the cab.

At the end of long days reviewing the motorhomes, and a quick bite to eat, either at Hedy's, or earlier in the day, the Table Talk Cafe (a friendly little cafe with plenty of variety – and importantly great coffee!), we headed back to the Shoalhaven Heads Holiday Park, bordered by Seven Mile Beach and the Shoalhaven River.

With the motorhomes parked on the lawn (where there's no shortage of space for RVs), we bunkered down in the cabins, which were like mini cottages with a lounge, two bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom. The perfect spot for kids (or grandkids), the park has a swimming pool, jumping pillow, and outdoor cinema, and you can even take your furry friends in the winter months with small dogs welcome from June-August.

All in all the event created the perfect opportunity to test out three varying price points in motorhomes and meet the manufacturers – details of which we'll bring to you over the next three issues, and we're excited to see this event expand to showcase even more motorhomes in 2018.

THE REVIEWERS



RICHARD BARWICK
Richard is CEO of CMCA, an avid RV camper and has been in the self-drive tourism industry for more than 25 years.



MALCOLM STREET
Field editor Malcolm Street began travelling in an RV in the early 1970s and became an RV journalist in 1999. Each year he reviews more than 40 motorhomes and caravans in Australia and New Zealand.



KIRSTIE BEDFORD
Kirstie started her career as a journalist nearly 25 years ago and has worked heavily in the tourism sector. She loves nothing more than a self-drive trip exploring new places and putting pen to paper to share her experiences.



THE LOCATION

Shoalhaven Heads is a small town in Shoalhaven in southern NSW. It's a short drive south-east of the quaint village of Berry, and two hours from Sydney. The town sits at the foot of Mount Coolangatta, and is situated on both Seven Mile Beach and the mouth of the Shoalhaven River.

From top: Aerial view of the Shoalhaven Heads Holiday Park; jetty at Shoalhaven Heads.

STAY
Shoalhaven Heads Holiday Park
shoalhavenheads.holidayhaven.com.au

THE MOTORHOMES



KEA

ENTRY-LEVEL MOTORHOME

Manufacturer: KEA
Make and Model: KEA Beach
RRP: \$78,990
Facilities: Kitchenette with fridge, stove and grill, toilet/shower combo
Bedding: Double bed, cab bed
Suits: Couple, family



WIRRAWAY

MID-HIGH RANGE MOTORHOME

Manufacturer: Wirraway
Make and Model: Wirraway 260 SL
RRP: \$239,000
Facilities: Kitchen with roll-out pantry, cooktop, oven and grill; ensuite with separate shower and washing machine
Bedding: Double bed
Suits: Singles, couple



PARADISE

LUXURY MOTORHOME

Manufacturer: Paradise Luxury Motorhomes
Make and model: Independence Deluxe 28FT
RRP: \$525,808
Facilities: Kitchen with pantry, soft closing cabinetry, cooktop, oven and grill; three metre wide ensuite with separate shower and washing machine/dryer
Bedding: Double bed and sofa bed
Suits: Couple, family

CONTACT

KEA, www.keacampers.com
 Wirraway, www.wirraway.com.au
 Paradise, www.paradisemotorhomes.com.au



Mal Leyland recommends airbags - having them fitted to his own motorhome to raise the rear end to prevent tail scraping



AIR SUSPENSION

ADD AIR & LEVEL UP WHEN TOWING OR CARRYING LOAD

ELIMINATE SPRING SAG EXCELLENT RIDE QUALITY SIMPLE TO FIT EASY TO USE SAFER LOAD CARRYING STABILISE BODY ROLL

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
airbagman.com.au



WE'VE GOT IT ALL

at your Caravan Store with MORE !!

SUBURBAN HOT WATER SYSTEMS

Demand the Best! Demand the leading brand in mobile hot water systems in Australia since 1972!

The Suburban line of WaterMark Certified Hot Water Systems are the best on the road today! Their high recovery gas and gas-electric models come in sizes and with features to match the requirements of almost any RV.

Leading caravan manufacturers such as Jayco, New Age and JB Caravans all choose Suburban! Suburban Hot Water Systems feature anode rods which absorb all the corrosive action of hot water just like prominent brands of domestic hot water systems.

Suburban now offer a complete two years warranty with their range of market leading Hot Water Systems.



FURRION BLACK & WHITE 5" OUTDOOR MARINE SPEAKER WITH LED

Designed for harsh outdoor environments with IP55 waterproof technology. Furriion's two-way dome tweeter and thermoplastic polymer cone boast a light, strong design that deliver crystal clear sound.



SARACEN OFF ROAD HITCH LOCK

A high-security hitch lock developed in Australia specifically for the popular Vehicles Components HITCHMASTER D035 articulated hitch.

NEW



CAMCO SUPER WHEEL CHOCK

Solidly constructed of durable hard plastic with UV inhibitors, these yellow chocks are ideal for caravans & motor homes.



THETFORD AQUA KEM BLUE LAVENDER 1L

Aqua Kem Blue Lavender offers the trusted quality Aqua Kem Blue with a fresh lavender scent. Like the Aqua Kem Blue (no. 1 toilet additive for mobile toilets world wide), the Aqua Kem Blue Lavender is a highly effective toilet fluid for the waste-holding tank, that offers the best performance for your Cassette- and portable toilet.



ADCO TYRE GUARD WHITE - 30" - 32"

Protect your tyres from the elements such as the sun's damaging UV rays and other environmental hazards.



For your nearest stockist
 or further information visit

coastrv.com.au