



# THE ROAD TO *paradise*

Peter Djurovich custom designs and modifies his motorhome to create the perfect Paradise

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Being an avid camper for more than 25 years, I thought I knew it all. Helen and I picked up our shiny new Paradise Supreme 26ft motorhome and I thought we just needed the keys and off we would go. We were given the detailed demonstration of the motorhome features and only half the information went in and the rest - well you know. The staff suggested we go for a 'shakedown'

tour and clock up some kilometres and a few nights of experience to iron out any potential issues. Then they suggested coming back to their factory for the final sign-off before we departed for the long trip to Melbourne.

From this, I learnt that when leaving a caravan park I should turn off the electric hot water and switch to gas, as one morning while free camping, I found my 300Mh Lithium Ion battery had been drained by the electric hot water system, as it was powered through the inverter all the previous day and overnight. Also, the reason I could not start the gas hot water system was because I inadvertently forgot to remove the hot water system exhaust cover. Then I forgot to dump the water in the toilet before removing the toilet cassette, which is why we thought we had a leaking toilet. All basic rookie mistakes, but I highly recommend asking questions and listening to the sales staff - it will save you both a lot of phone calls later on.

There are many different motorhome design layouts and

options to choose from these days. So why did we make the decision to choose the Paradise Supreme 26ft as our top luxury motorhome preference?

First we started with a list of our ideal design features and accessories that could be installed or adapted to fit our (as yet undetermined) design layout. We found many motorhome manufacturers were reluctant to make relatively simple design changes, or they only offered limited options and non-changeable equipment or accessories. Not so with Paradise Motorhomes, which is based in Surfers Paradise. We sat down with the team at their Biggera Waters manufacturing facility and explained our ideas and the changes we wanted to make on one of its existing designs. The engineers drew up the changes to scale on their CAD system, to ensure dimensions were as expected, and to confirm the options could be successfully built.

We have very much enjoyed camping over the past 30 years. During this time we have owned tents, a pop-top, a camper trailer, and most recently a caravan, so we had a pretty good idea of our RV lifestyle requirements. Besides not compromising on the need for a fridge near the door, a full queen size island bed (no cut corners), and full length wardrobes, the number one additional feature we wanted, but could not find, was to have an outdoor kitchen that was quick and easy to set up.

It has only been in the last few years that caravans have had slide-out sinks and benchtops supplied as an option, most without connected drainage and many with only a cold water supply. We found that with the range of motorhomes we looked at, it was uncommon to find an outdoor sink and benchtop. Paradise changed its standard bin design to provide us with two outside storage bins. The space for these has come from the bottom of the wardrobes inside.

We also wanted a fully plumbed sink (including hot and cold water, plus sealed drainage) and Paradise provided the external plumbing connections as requested. I made some compact bracket mounts for each bin located on the awning side, which can stay installed or removed for cleaning.

The second part of the brackets are made to be adjustable in height, so when the benchtop is installed it is approximately 900mm off the ground - even when the motorhome is up on its hydraulic legs. It takes only a few minutes to push in the secondary brackets, then unload the sink and hoses, and make the quick hose connections. The drain is connected to a 12V pump to take the water around the chassis and into the top of the grey water tank. No smelly buckets and still complying with national park requirements regarding waste water storage/disposal. Oh, and the convenience of everyone in camp cleaning their own dishes with hot water! Then you just retrieve the

benchtop extension from under the bed, clip it to the sink benchtop and you have a 1500mm benchtop with fully plumbed sink.

The Paradise Supreme design that we chose has a third passenger seat (with optional seat belt) located behind the rotating front passenger seat. A built-in drop-down table is fitted between these seats so this set-up becomes a day-to-day indoor dining table or mobile office desk. The cupboard underneath is not the easiest to access, so we decided to have another external fold-out table installed outside, but

modified it so there is an access hole to allow storage of things like a kettle and toaster. We felt this was more practical and more accessible storage for under the table. The outdoor fold-down table also suffices for those quick and simple breakfast preparations using a toaster and/or kettle. For a group breakfast the outdoor table is where we place our espresso coffee machine (we are from Melbourne, after all) for a quicker café-style quality coffee supply.

Then there is the Enerdrive 300Ah lithium battery and 2600W voltage

## FAVOURITE DESIGN FEATURES

- 4.5m slide-out, providing a large indoor space and seating for five to six adults
- Full queen size island bed with no rounded or cut-off corners
- His and hers wardrobes, complete with a fully shelved cupboard and pantry
- Diesel-fuelled ducted heating system
- Truma gas hot water system that has the capacity for two people to shower one after the other - performs like an instantaneous system, yet uses little gas
- Large, deep shower with a roller blind door (rather than glass)
- 3kg Dometic front load washing machine
- Fold-out kitchen bench extension table, above the visitors leather bench seat
- Self levelling hydraulic jacks
- Electric roll-out awning



From top: Peter and Helen Djurovich with their brand new Paradise Supreme; the outdoor kitchen, complete with fully plumbed sink; the sink packs away neatly

From above: Helen catching up on her emails in the third passenger seat; the beloved espresso machine takes pride of place on the fold-down table





Above: Free camping next to a family member's house

inverter that powers everything via the three 150W solar panels. Besides the espresso machine, we can use a portable induction cooktop on fire danger days, electric kettle, air conditioning, 240V 32 inch TV and run a small toaster oven outdoors - however not all at once.

In our opinion, the only negatives with our motorhome are the non-dimmable ceiling and outdoor LED lights, which are very bright. And even though the Iveco cabin is insulated, the noise and tiny speakers make it very difficult for Bluetooth phone calls. Using the main motorhome sound system gives you a clear sound, but the microphone needs to be extended into the cabin.

Now all we need to do is transition from semi-retirement to full retirement, and then we will really be able to enjoy our mobile holiday home the way we want. 🚐

# CMCA 33rd National Rally

Gunnedah Showgrounds, South Street, Gunnedah NSW

6 - 13 October 2018



## REGISTRATION FORM

Surname	Preferred Name	Membership No.	Chapter
Are you bringing children or a dependant? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please attach a separate sheet of paper with their names			

### CONTACT DETAILS

Address:
Phone:
Email:

### WHAT VEHICLES ARE YOU BRINGING? (please circle)

Motorhome / campervan / caravan / fifth-wheeler / slide-on	Rego.
Secondary / passenger vehicle	Rego.
Length of main vehicle fully extended	metres
Length of secondary / passenger vehicle	metres
Total length of ALL vehicles (coupled)	metres

### OPTIONS

Have you attended a major rally before?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you bringing a pet? (max 2 pets per vehicle)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like to be parked in an area for extended generator hours (8am to 8pm)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you require restricted mobility siting? (A current 'Limited Mobility Authority' needs to be displayed on your windscreen)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Power lead length (if applying for power) 30 metres is recommended	metres
Would you like to receive a Rally Attendance Plaque? (no cost)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

### FEES

A. REGISTRATION FEES			
	No. of persons	Cost per person	Total
Early registration before 15/09/18		x \$85.00	\$
Late registration from 16/09/18		x \$110.00	\$
B. SITE FEES			
Site	No. of Nights	Cost per night	
Unpowered site		x \$12.00	\$
Powered site Only available if staying for full duration.	8	x \$19.50	\$
If powered sites are sold out, would you like to go on a waitlist for a powered site?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Total (A+B)			\$

### PLEASE INDICATE THE NIGHTS YOU REQUIRE A SITE

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13

**NOTE:** A \$30 administration fee is applicable for all cancellations after 15/09/18. Once onsite, fees are non-refundable (exceptional circumstances considered). No refunds will be given after 15/12/18.

**ONLINE REGISTRATIONS:** [www.cmca.net.au](http://www.cmca.net.au)

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:** PO Box 254 HRMC NSW 2310  
Fax: 02 4978 8799 Email: [rally@cmca.net.au](mailto:rally@cmca.net.au)

### RALLY RULES

By submitting this signed registration form, I acknowledge and agree to abide by CMCA Rally Rules (see [www.cmca.net.au](http://www.cmca.net.au))

Signature: .....

**PAYMENT** Credit Card Details (Visa or Mastercard) Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Card Holder's Name: ..... Signature: .....

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