

## CARAVANS AND CAMPERS

**NEW CARAVAN** | Free Spirit

# Off roader lightens up

### FREE SPIRIT OFF ROAD CARAVAN

- ▶ Aluminium chassis, walls and cabinetry.
- ▶ Kerb weight of 1500kg for 5m (16-foot) vans.
- ▶ Independent coil suspension.
- ▶ Two solar panels and two deep cycle batteries as standard.
- ▶ Prices start at \$78,500 for 5m single axle van.
- ▶ Contact: [www.freespiritcaravans.com.au](http://www.freespiritcaravans.com.au)

By **IAIN CURRY**

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**W**ITH an ever increasing number of Australians taking to the road for epic journeys over and around the country, our domestic caravan industry has expanded and improved markedly in recent years.

Caravan builders have had to offer innovative features to stand out from competitors – and Caloundra West company Free Spirit Caravans has done so with extensive use of aluminium in its new Off Road van.

In what the company is calling a revolutionary new design, the Free Spirit Off Road features an aluminium box frame chassis, with no weld of the A-frame to the chassis, to ensure no weaknesses.

In addition, the caravan walls feature an aluminium frame with



**LIGHT BUT NOT WEAK:** In a revolutionary new design, the Free Spirit Off Road features lightweight aluminium.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

in fibreglass panelling, while the internal cabinetry is also built from lightweight aluminium.

While working in aluminium isn't the preferred choice for most caravan builders (mainly due to cost), there is no questioning the weight advantage and the fact aluminium won't rust like steel.

The nearly five metres Free Spirit Off Road caravan has a kerb weight of just 1500kg, meaning you won't need as big or powerful a tow vehicle – a great benefit in these high fuel price times.

Free Spirit sales director Ralf Brosch acknowledged these vans only catered for a niche market,

due to their relatively high price – with a single axle five-metre van coming with a starting price of \$78,500.

The new Free Spirit Off Road Caravan is on display at the Queensland Caravan and Camping Show at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane until June 14.