

MEDIA INFORMATION

Australian RVs stand the test of time and all kinds of conditions



This summer there's a fair bet that you will see 10 and 20-year-old caravans in remarkably good condition being towed to our beaches, lakes and rivers, and lots of places in between.

They are testimony to a tradition of building long-lasting, quality recreational vehicles that have stood the test of time and which have travelled over all kinds of terrain.

The Recreational Vehicle Manufacturers Association of Australia (RVMAA) is rightly proud of the construction integrity behind so many "old timers" and is hell bent on ensuring that the tradition is not tarnished by new-age Australian made RVs.

"Australia's sheer size means it has so many variables in climate and road conditions so experienced manufacturers know what is required to build RVs that can hold up under all kinds of conditions," explained RVMAA president Tony Bellamy.

When 4WDs emerged as a popular family vehicle they also had the capability to travel into remote parts of the country. That led to many RV manufacturers building models with the capacity to go most places a 4WD can go.

Now the RVMAA is determined to protect the image of Australian-built RVs as being among the best in the world, and specifically the best for Australian conditions.

The organisation has launched a Code of Practice, and is so committed to making it work it has decided if a manufacturer member fails to comply with regulatory ADR (Australian Design Rules) and the AS (Australian Standards) requirements then they face expulsion.

"It's taken years to build the reputation of the Australian RV as comfortable, highly functional, user-friendly and above all reliable in virtually all sorts of conditions. We have to protect that," Mr Bellamy said.

"Manufacturers need to have in place resolution systems to resolve any issues, whether the problem has been brought to their attention by a dealer or new owner," Mr Bellamy said.

The code came about after extensive consultations with all RVMAA members.

An imperative RVMAA requirement is to ensure every RV produced by Members are safe and 100 per cent compliant with all regulatory requirements, which are the ADRs (*Australian Design Rules*) and the ASs (*Australian Standards*).

"A very firm stand is being taken to protect the reputation of the Association and the local RV-manufacturing industry. Members simply have to *consistently* comply with all safety requirements, or their membership will be suspended until they prove they have improved their procedures for quality-assurance; failure to do so will result in permanent expulsion from the RVMAA.," Mr Bellamy said.

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