

Testimonial for Cycle Trailers and The Cycling Pope (Steven)

Now I've had a loooooong time to think about **how good** Steven's Cycling Trailers are, in fact I've had three months and 3000km to think about it...

From Feb to May this year (2009) I rode by bicycle with trailer around the South Island of New Zealand doing educational presentations about global awareness and volunteering. To assist me on this path **Steven graciously and generously sponsored me with one of his bicycle trailers.**

I used the standard trailer and was a guinea pig for using freely available wheelchair wheels. I then bought a 110 litre tub from K-Mart (\$30) to complete by bicycle trailer home for the next three months. What I didn't expect was how **perfect** and **attached** to my little home (trailer and bike) I would become...

The first test was up Porter's Pass, onto Arthur's Pass and down the **VIADUCT**... While the **trailer performed perfectly** the controller struggled a little more! With about 18-20kg in the tub the trailer did extremely well down the steep via-duct. Once on the West Coast I continued to Wanaka, over to Queenstown and along the Otago Rail Trail to Dunedin. The last leg of the trip was up and back to Wellington from Christchurch.

The **major benefits** of the trailer and why trailer over panniers...

- ❖ Steven's trailers are the only I have found both here in New Zealand and Australia that are **locally produced, cheap** and aim to get more people using bikes (where the focus is on **helping the environment**, not profit)
- ❖ The **stability** of two wheels was great → no handling issues or turning problems
- ❖ The **quick release hitch** is superb
 - In 3 seconds I'd be free from the trailer and hitting up the trails around me
- ❖ A trailer gave me more **freedom** and **time**
 - Living out of a tub I didn't have to **organise** four or more pannier bags and sort through my stuff to find that elusive snack it was all there in front of me
 - I love multi-day tramping. The trailer allowed me the freedom to **carry** my 90 litre **backpack** and simply get it out and off to the hills I would go
 - **Storing** the trailer and or tub was dead easy, safe and simple, the local police station or friendly backpackers were more than happy to tuck it in a corner
- ❖ I believe Steven's trailer is **safer** on the roads than panniers & one wheel trailers
 - A trailer is more **visible** especially with a nice bright flag
 - It's wider so vehicles **HAVE TO** give you more room
 - If a vehicle comes close it will hit the trailer before it hits you
- ❖ When I ran into a couple of trying circumstances I was able to flag someone down, have them transport the trailer ahead and then meet up with it later
- ❖ You **feel great** getting about with a trailer on the back and get noticed...
 - The schools and communities I passed through were always **intrigued** and it was a great talking point. It's easy to show someone how to use the car less...

*Simply... the trailer is **practical and useful PLUS** you get the added **aesthetics' of health, wellbeing and environmental benefit***

A few things to keep in mind...

- I had trouble on the Otago Rail Trail as the trailer sat outside the smooth single trail made by bikes, so this slowed my progress and ate the tyres a little
- Having extra wheels you are prone to more punctures (only 2 for me in 3000km)
- The wheelchair wheels were free but the tread ran out after 1500km and they need constant adjusting (my new tyres are stronger and adjustment is second nature and very simple now)
- The rumble strips on the road between Kaipoi and Kaikoura are a major hassle...
 - These are small lumps that make noise when driven on to keep drivers awake. Its too narrow to be on the inside of them on the shoulder and too dangerous to be on the outside of them in the middle of the road

Lastly, I can't recommend the trailers or Steven highly enough. Steven is totally committed to the environmental and spiritual aesthetics of cycling and his trailers are by far the **lightest, cheapest, most adaptable** and **practical** I have seen and used. Please feel free to email me with questions as I am more than happy to vouch in more detail for these trailers.

Many Thanks

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Photo from the front page of the Hokitika Guardian

