

\$7.95  
COVER PRICE  
15/04  
6 007951

# AUSTRALIA CAMPER TRAILER

Issue 52 May 2012 \$7.95 inc GST

## OUTBACK TOURING

TO FIND THE REAL AUSTRALIA

Wentworth Ranges, Oodnadatta, Charleville, Newman, and more!



5  
CAMPER  
TRAILERS  
VIEWED

### TRACK TRAILER'S BRAND NEW MATE

Mercedes - Customline  
and Wide - Track Trailer - Echo 4X4

**SURVIVING** PREPARING FOR **DEFENDER**  
**WARRUGATIONS** **THE OUTBACK** **BUYERS GUIDE**

Print Post Approval  
PP25500007003



04

magazines  
accp



# ERS

The Paveys' take a preliminary look at Track Trailer's new Base Mate offroad camper trailer.

it in Track's military- originally designed communications in environments. al to the tradie her punters. It offers g capacity on an

offroad chassis, so it's a workhorse during the week that transforms into a mountain goat with the addition of the camper top for weekend play activities.

The tub measures 2250x1600mm (7.4x5.3ft) with additional external capacity along the wheel arch extensions.

... that transforms into a mountain  
... er top for weekend play activities"





suitable for storing space cases and jerry cans. All panel work is constructed from galvanised steel finished in stipple powder coat to ensure long service life. The whole package rides on Track's legendary MC2 Asymmetric Link independent suspension.

The base of the tray is lined with plastic cutting-board material, aiding in the movement of storage boxes beneath the camper body, although it's best to opt for the tie-down fittings to ensure items

don't self-destruct in transit. Otherwise, a full length storage tray, which slides from the tub on heavy-duty slides, improving access, is available.

We had a pre-production version of the Base Mate for this test, using the entry-level gear-carrying trailer optioned with the James Baroud pop-top solid roof camper, sail awning, modular storage drawbar frame, pivoting storage rack, tonneau cover and four ARB space cases.

Without the kitchen, battery or water tank options fitted, we strapped a couple of Willow water cubes to the unique external mounts for water and used the tailgate as a kitchen, with the easy addition of a fuel stove and basin.

The camper is mounted on a pair of Rhino Racks. The pop-top is self-erecting, with four Al-Ko supporting gas struts pushing the roof up 1000mm after the four safety catches have been removed. Internal dimensions measure 2250x1600mm with large doors and windows on each side providing excellent ventilation and weather protection.

Head room could be improved for tall folk, particularly with the integrated luggage rack intruding down one end of the canopy. In comparison, the canvas roof option by way of an ARB rooftop tent provides 1300mm of headroom.



Setting up is as easy as un-clipping a few latches.





Notable design attributes of the Baroud camper include a ventilation fan powered by an integrated solar panel, two dustproof air inlets and non-perishable, 100% waterproof and breathable fabric treated for UV. Inside, a luggage net is fitted to the roof for storing clothes and there are a few pockets on the walls for keys and knick knacks.

The modular storage drawbar frame holds four jerry cans, two gas bottles, a spare wheel and stone guards. The pivoting storage rack can carry 50kg, be that a pile of firewood or a couple of bikes.

Practicality poses an interesting question with the Baroud camper because without an additional room there is nowhere to get changed, unless you don't mind doing that lying down in the pod or being at one with nature outside. As with the ARB rooftop tent option, neither offers access to the trailer from the pod.

**“The MC2 suspension soaks up everything in its path, with plenty of clearance over obstacles”**

We tested the Base Mate over some tough Victorian High Country tracks between the Buckland Valley and Talbotville, spending two nights under the stars, including a full morning of torrential rain, numerous river crossings and plenty of steep ascents and descents over erosion mounds, gullies and tight bush tracks.

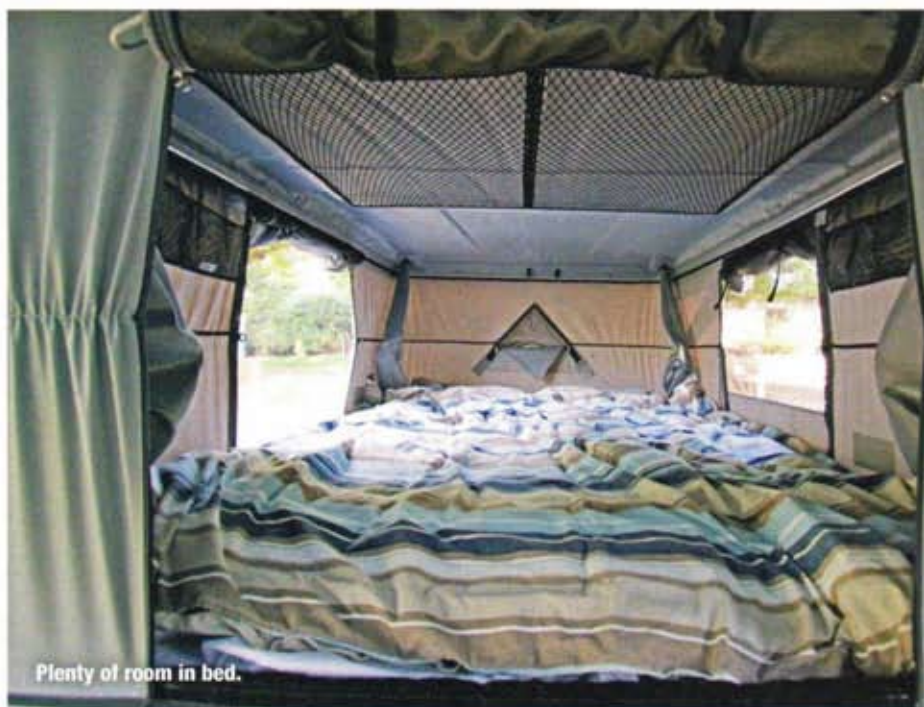
As expected, the trailer excels in these conditions — the MC2 suspension soaks up everything in its path, with plenty of clearance over obstacles. The tonneau cover kept water and dust at bay and although the river crossings were only sill deep, there was no evidence of ingress. A lockable fixed trailer top is available.

As packaged, our test trailer tallied to 690kg Tare and an affordable \$23,217. A kitchen, water and basic power supply add \$1760, \$1060 and \$779, respectively. Alternatively, you can upgrade to the Weekend Mate for \$24,063, and add the same options, to save \$1000. The kitchen, water tank and power options are packaged as standard in the Tour and Weekend Mate specification levels.

The Baroud pop-up canopy is



Pivoting storage rack above the spare wheel.



Plenty of room in bed.

probably best suited to active couples who don't need a large living area and spend most of their time outdoors.

The Tour Mate, which will be available towards the end of the year as a soft floor camper, is likely to generate the most interest in the Mate range, with its liveable interior space and the fact it's Track Trailer's entry-level offroad tourer. **GT**

## SPECIFICATIONS

### TRACK TRAILER MATE

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Tare             | 690kg  |
| ATM              | 1500kg   |
| Suspension       | Independent MC2 Asymmetric Link w. Koni shocks |
| Brakes           | Al-Ko 10in electric drum                       |
| Coupling         | D035   |
| Price (as shown) | \$23,217                                       |