

Crossing



Over

Combining caravan
comfort with camper trailer
go-anywhere capability

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CROSSOVER

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» THE CROSSOVER'S DIMENSIONS MAKE THE MOST OF THE COMPACT 4900MM TRAVELLING LENGTH WITHOUT COMPROMISING AERODYNAMICS

If you've ever contemplated cashing out of the basic camper trailer scene in search of greater creature comforts, the Vista RV Crossover could just be your ticket to adventure. Combining the compact footprint of an off road camper trailer with the comforts of a caravan, the Crossover makes a compelling argument as a comfortable tourer without sacrificing off road potential.

Canvas walls are replaced by composite panels, fibreglass or sheet metal components; the interior gains caravan-like living areas and storage, and the setup is limited to a pop-top roof. Perfect!

The Vista RV Crossover was designed by the late Alan Mawson, who contributed to the design of the Tvan and MC2 suspension for Track Trailer. After leaving Track, Alan worked for Roadstar, before collaborating with Louie Cretella of Prompt Sheet Metals, on the Crossover project. Given that line of pedigree, you would expect something spe-

cial and the Crossover delivers in spades!

Looking like a Storm Trooper from the front, the Crossover features dual level black stone guards flanked by white fibreglass panels. A nose cone with sculpted lid provides an aerodynamic leading edge for the rounded body to slip through the air. Down below, the spare wheel is located on the drawbar behind a lockable generator cabinet, which rotates to allow access. A sheathed black stone bra clips into place providing lower stone protection.

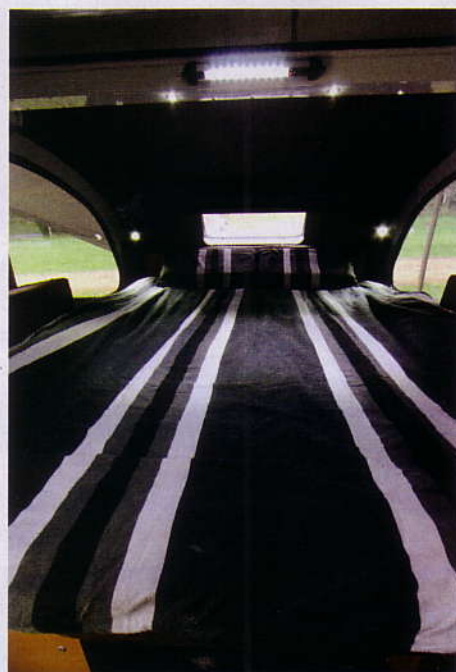
The Crossover's dimensions make the most of the compact 4900mm travelling length, without compromising aerodynamics. Width is the same as a large 4WD contributing to manoeuvrability in tight situations, and weight is a svelte 1100kg with a 400kg payload - a good result for a robust off road camper with hard walls and roof.

Contributing to the compact length, the rear of the queen-size bed converts to a roomy dinette/lounge, saving at least a

meter of travelling length. The table folds down quickly via a single-handed lever and a cushion drops down to form a full queen-size bed.

While the requirement to fold up the bed each day may detract some buyers, in practice it proves to be a simple job that literally only takes a minute. A fitted bottom sheet can remain on the cushion when folded, and simply flipped forward for sleeping duties.

An external kitchen is accessed from the passenger side of the van, sliding from the front locker. It features a dual burner gas stove, electric water pump, cutlery drawer and storage space. While the bench space is quite roomy, access to crockery and saucepans is through a small, uncovered opening in the slide-out. A drawer would be a much better option, providing easy access without bending over, and preventing items moving in transit and getting jammed behind the kitchen.



All external storage hatches feature compression locks on automotive seals, to keep water and dust at bay, with keyed-alike locks. Compression locks are also used on the interior cupboards, which stops your lingerie and other goods flying around in bumpy terrain.

One of the many standout components on the Crossover is the hybrid, independent suspension. It features crossed asymmetric lateral links similar to a Tvan. King springs, Koni shock absorbers, and Cooper ST tyres on 16-inch rims round out the package, to ensure the trailer tracks well and smooths out the bumps, on or off road.

At the rear of the camper, a battery locker houses the 100Ah deep-cycle gel battery that can be upgraded to 160Ah. An optional solar panel pivots upwards from the rear of the camper providing power for extended camps. Keeping the business end of things outside, an optional en suite attaches to the rear of the camper to house a Porta Potti. A

» CROSSOVER AT A GLANCE

Model: Crossover

Cost: \$49,900

Hard/Soft Floor: Hard

Dimensions 4900Lx1900Wx2080H

Tare Weight 1100kg

GVM/ ATM 1500kg

Tow ball Download 120kg

Material: Body side panels - fibreglass covered composite ply; rear section powder coated sheet steel.

Coupling: D035 drop on coupling with park brake

Axle/Hubs: Parallel shafts / Drum

Suspension: Hybrid-unequal length longitudinal control arms with Koni shock absorbers.

Chassis: Jig assembled hot dip galvanized tubular

Wheels: 16x8 white six stud

Tyres 265-70 R16 Cooper ST

Brakes: Electric, modified off road type

Tent Construction: NIL

Interior Accessories: wardrobe, cabinets, storage netting, LED lighting, queen size bed, four seater dinette/ lounge, CD/Radio stereo with dual speakers and Mp3 input, fridge, kitchen bench, sink and tap (electric pump), veggie storage, under seat storage, 240v outlet, electronics control centre, and four internal outlets.

Exterior Accessories: Slide-out Stainless Steel Kitchen with 2 Burner Gas Stove, sink and tap (electric pump), cold plumbed shower to en suite, lockable generator box, four storage lockers, two 12v outlets, Triangular sail awning, two rear recovery points, shielded 70 litre water tank, manual water pump, two 4.5kg gas bottles, four jerry can holders.

Electrical: 100Ah Gel deep cycle battery, charging circuit and Andersons plug to tow vehicle, 3-stage smart charger.

Optional Extras: Solar panel with regulator, 160Ah Gel battery upgrade, full annex and ensuite.



» OWNER'S OPINION

Robert and Pat recently traded their Tvan lifestyle to get into the Crossover. Here is what they had to say about their latest investment.

Q: How long have you owned your Crossover?

A: We took delivery of our Vista RV Crossover camper trailer in November 2008.

Q: What model did you purchase and what accessories have you had fitted?

A: We optioned our Crossover with a solar panel, 160Ah gel battery upgrade, full annexe, ensuite, Honda 10i generator, Coleman Hot Water on Demand gas unit and a Porta Potti.

Q: What vehicle do you normally tow it with and what modifications have you done?

A: Toyota Land Cruiser 200 Sahara TD V8 optioned with an off road towing kit, power point in rear luggage compartment, and an Anderson plug.

Q: Where have you taken it?

A: Flinders Ranges, Lake Mungo, Broken Hill - White Cliffs, Eyre Peninsula, Gawler Ranges and the Victorian Big Desert region.

Q: What made you choose this trailer over the others available?

A: No canvas, easy set up, comfortable living space, high quality construction and finish, durability, and the same footprint and height as the towing vehicle.

Q: Have you had any problems with the trailer?

A: Only normal wear and tear such as stone chips and branch scratches.

Q: Are there any ways you think the trailer could be improved?

A: We suggested the internal power point be white and not brown - so you can see it in poor light!

Q: Is there anything you don't like about the trailer?

A: Nothing to date.

Q: Would you recommend this trailer to someone else? Why, why not?

A: I would recommend it to anyone looking for a high quality genuine off-roader that is built to tour.

cold shower is plumbed here as standard.

The only items the Crossover lacks are a hot shower and a fitted light for the ensuite. While some manufacturers offer hot water as a \$2,000+ option, at this stage it is not offered on the Crossover.

On road, the trailer is quickly forgotten, such is the supple suspension and aerodynamics. Off-road, the compact footprint and sophisticated suspension come into a world of their own. During the test, we found ourselves on a narrowing track, high in a mountain range that had not seen any traffic over winter. The Crossover's compact dimensions enabled it to negotiate around and over fallen timber and through deep, muddy ruts, reflecting its off-road pedigree.

At \$49,900, the Crossover kicks in at the top end of the market, reflecting the high level of innovation, exceptional engineering and quality of manufacture. Within these parameters, the Crossover represents excellent buying value, providing a return on investment at every outing.

Camping can be a great outlet for detoxing from life's stresses, and any camper that allows you to do that with maximum comfort and minimum effort, without compromising where you can take it, can only be destined for great success. ■



» CONTACTS

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