



Johnno's Evolution

Made by campers, for campers.

A quick glance at a Johnno's camper trailer and you just know you are dealing with a company that has masses of offroad camping experience. The camper itself adheres to the KISS principle (keep it simple silly), while at the same time being covered with ingenious little touches to make life so much easier on, or off, the road.

All the gear you will need on the tracks is attached to the exterior of the camper, so you can access it without getting mud all through your toolbox: the Maxtrax, hi-lift jack and spare wheel are up the front, the shovel on one side and the axe on the other. The toolbox even has a separate compartment to isolate your

filthy chainsaw.

And the clever storage ideas don't stop there. Open up the tailgate kitchen and from the moment you fold up the stainless steel spice rack you know there is something special going on. From the removable frame that holds your garbage bag to the utensil holders that Velcro onto your annexe, there is a custom made place for everything. Even the cooking arrangements are unusual yet versatile — there is a slide-out Bromic wok burner and a Sovereign barbecue that can be used with the hotplate, or remove that and use the burners underneath.

Inside the camper is a queen innerspring bed accessed via a solid ladder, and enough room to pop the kids'

stretchers and a couple of bags. You can get a kids' room as an option. A slide held the optional custom made 82L Evakool fridge for the Johnno's guys, Craig and Rod, to carry their beers for the event, but can be used to hold anything you would like to access quickly from inside the tent.

The trailer body is made from a thick 1.6mm Zincanneal while the chassis made from 50x50x2.5mm Duragal, and at 100x50x3mm you'd be doing something serious before you broke the drawbar. Nine-leaf rebound springs will keep your stuff from rattling apart, and you will be able to carry a lot of it, with a 660kg payload (840kg tare, 1500kg ATM). Electric brakes and a Hyland hitch complete the running gear.

Johnno's has also managed to fit the most luxury offerings into any trailer in this class. A Coleman water heater supplies hot water to the kitchen and shower, which has a freestanding pole to support the shower head. The AGM battery holds a cool 150Ah and the 600W inverter means there is enough 240V power to run a family's worth of appliances.

There is masses of storage in the trailer tub, which you can access by lifting the gas strut assisted bed base. The toolbox up the front is also really large, though you could easily overload it, moving too much weight onto the ball, so it is best for storing things that are bulky and light. **CTA**

Johnno's Camper Trailers
1300 725 451
www.campertrailer.com.au

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Tare: | 840kg |
| Suspension:..... | Leaf springs |
| Brakes:..... | Electric |
| Coupling:..... | Hyland |
| Water tank:..... | 65L + 65L |
| Battery capacity: | 150Ah |
| Price | : \$24,990 |

OVERALL SCORE 8.54

| | Carlisle | Rob | Stu | Steve | Claire |
|---------------------|----------|-----|------|-------|--------|
| Offroad Ability | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 9.0 |
| Bushability | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.25 | 8.0 | 7.5 |
| Family Friendliness | 9.5 | 10 | 9.0 | 8.5 | 9.0 |
| Comforts | 7.5 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| Value | 9.5 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 9.0 | 9.5 |
| Overall | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.6 |

JUDGES CHOICE: STEVE

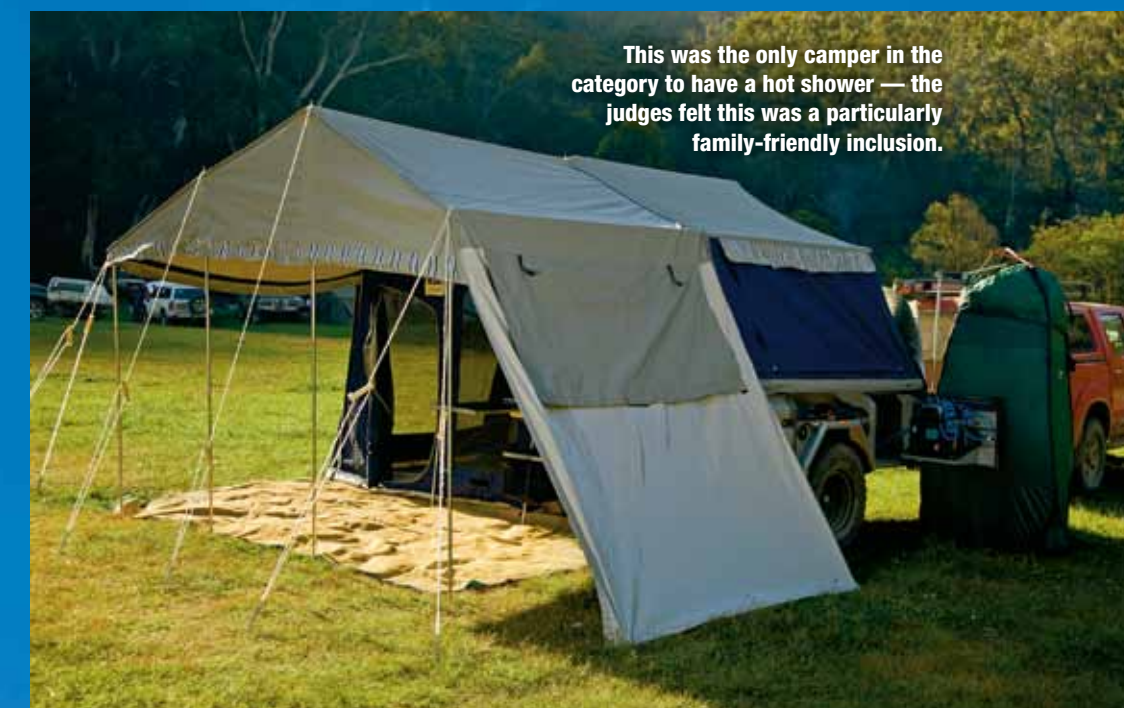
Being new to the camper trailer market I thought that getting six days to climb all over 15 of the best offroad camper trailers in Australia would make it easy to pick a clear favourite — but it's not so. Having a young family has definitely helped me to narrow down the choices. For me, though, a major factor has also been the size of the unit, both hooked up behind my 'Cruiser and all set up. As I've learnt on the last couple of family camping trips, small people need a lot of stuff, so large storage areas are a must. I also know at the end of the day I'll be the one putting the tent up and packing it down while the kids are annoying their mum, or 'helping' dad, so an easy set up is a must. In the end, the camper trailer which caught my eye was the Johnno's Evolution. I like the short length (4.2m), simple set up (only four pegs needed for an overnight stop), the internal space (enough room for a couple of rug rats on the floor), great kitchen (it has the Sovereign barbecue plate) and the fact that it is a simple yet rugged trailer with storage galore underneath. It might not have all the bells and whistles of some of the others but I'd feel confident that if I broke it I was probably doing something stupid... but that's a different story!



Ingenious organisational touches make the kitchen a dream to work in.



There's enough room in the tent for a kid or two, and an extra kids' room is optional.



This was the only camper in the category to have a hot shower — the judges felt this was a particularly family-friendly inclusion.

“The toolbox even has a separate compartment to isolate your filthy chainsaw”



A solid all-round performance.

Good scores in every category were what saw the Evolution over the line. It is solidly built, has a good range of standard inclusions, and the living space is generous enough for the average family, but where it really stood out was in its attention to detail.

When you are on the road all your tools and recovery gear are right where you need them and then at dinnertime the amazingly well thought out kitchen makes life easy.

There is a place for everything, and everything stays in its place.

Craig McGown, who owns the company, is a bit of a strange fellow, and he spends his days inventing things out of old scrap pieces of vinyl and mozzie-netting.

The latter ended up as a mesh cover for the kitchen pantry and a handy hanging mount for your iPad or portable television.

Every thing on this camper hasn't just been tested out by the Johnno's guys and our little trip. This trailer has been subjected to thousands of hire customers already.

With that kind of pedigree, Craig can focus on making the little things better, which ends up being a big thing, in the end.

The bottom line, though: this was the only camper trailer in the competition with a built in BBQ! **GTA**

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