

FAMILY **BUSINESS**

"It's got to be a soft floor for me," says Carlisle Rogers.



The stainless kitchen is rock solid.



Storage box access from inside the tent.

People always ask me what camper trailer I would buy, since I'm the guy behind Camper Trailer Australia. They assume I have some special wisdom.

Wisdom comes from experience; experience comes from mistakes, and I've made enough of those to earn me a swag of honorary degrees, it seems.

Looking at the line up in this contest, I'm hard pressed to nail down a personal favourite, but given the recent addition to my household, a little boy who can't stand still, I know I need space. Space to store toys, nappies, a portable cot and all the other paraphernalia that goes along with a 10-month old. And space for him to ramble around away from the muck when it rains.

I'm also a sucker for home comforts. Sure, me and the boys can go out for a week straight without so much as a sponge bath, but with the wife and kid, well, you know the story.

"GIVE ME ONE OF THESE AND I'LL SEND YOU A POSTCARD FROM SOMEWHERE UP NORTH"

So it's got to be a soft floor for me, and the winner of the event, The Complete Campsite Uluru Extreme Limited Edition, is so good for what I need, right now, it's the camper for me.

Not only is there a bloody nice kitchen that slides out the tailgate (nice enough that I won't be trying to convince them to replace it with a Drifta), but it comes with a big fridge, great storage around the box, a huge storage section in the walk-in section of the camper and just a great overall build quality.

I like the walk-in idea, which allows north-south entry into the bed on a side fold. And there are six, nifty slide-out drawers under the bed too. I like that they come all the way out so you can hand one to the kids, and get them to pack their own gear.

There's a huge awning as well, with a window over the kitchen. That means I can go camping

in rainy Vic and still see what I'm cooking. It sounds like a little thing, but that's what really gets me about this camper, the little things seem to have all been tested, redesigned and retested until they got them right.

And if it costs a little more, at least it is done right. There's a great little voltmeter fitted to the 12V system on this camper, which tells you a few things like how many hours you have left at the current amp draw. I know it costs 10 times what everyone else uses, but I like that they use the best and pass on the cost.

That's what I mean when I say you can get great value at any price.

Last, but definitely not least on the wife's list, is the Webasto diesel hot-water and ducted-heating system. It isn't unique in the camper trailer world, but it is when it comes to soft floor campers.

The Uluru ticks all the important boxes, all the responsible choices, but it looks the part too. Give me one of these, a rigged-out 76 Series and enough money to hit the road for a few years and I'll send you a postcard from somewhere up north. ■



CAMPERTRAILER
AUSTRALIA
OFFROAD
CAMPER
OF THE YEAR
2009

