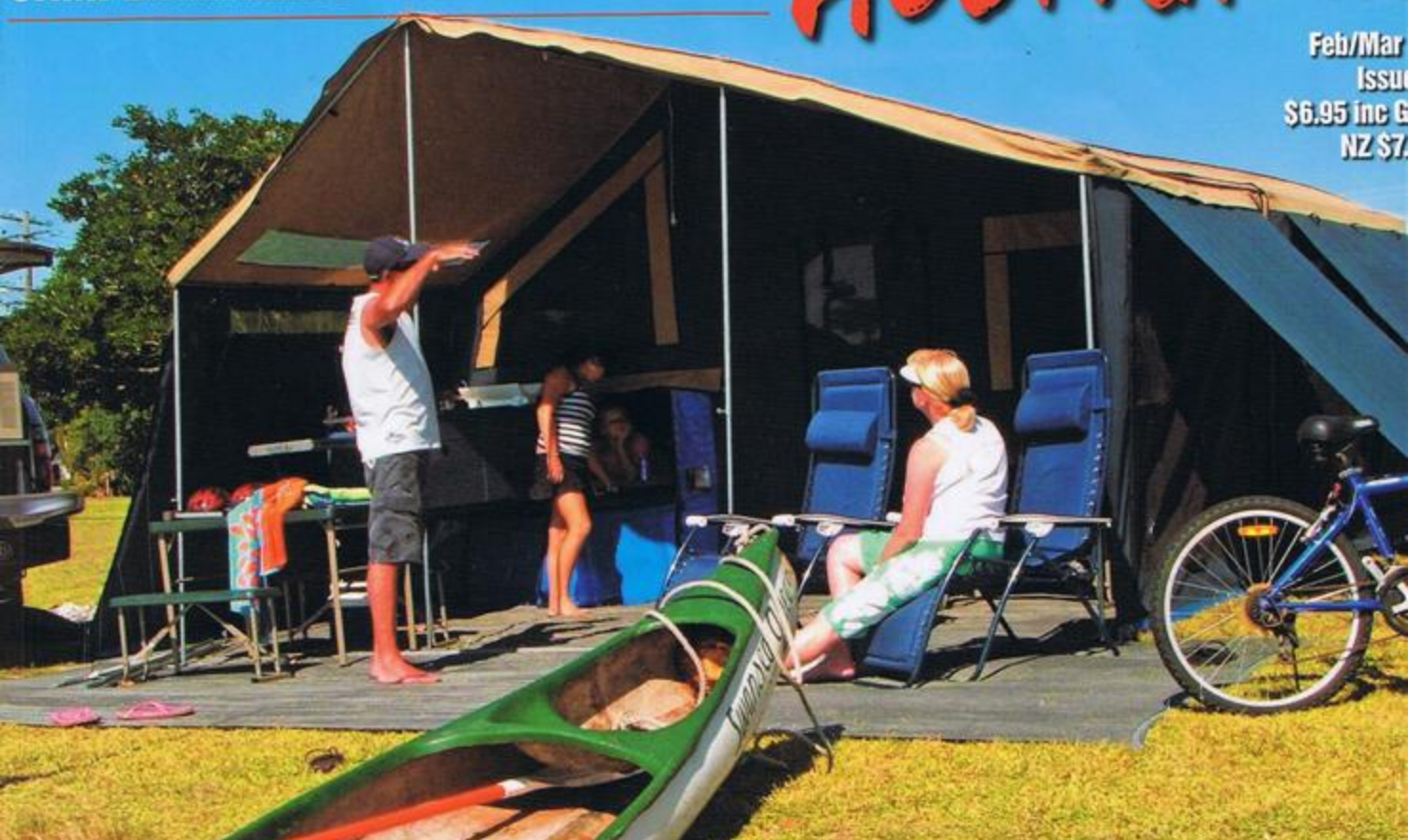


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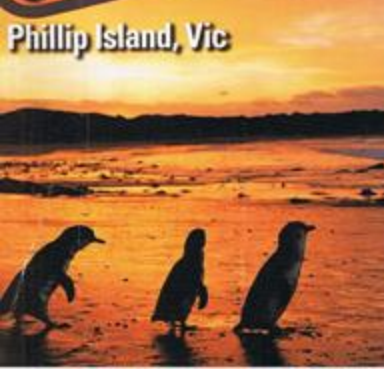


WE RENOVATE A CAMPER!

FAMILY FUN

with Complete Campsite's Nomads

REVIEWED: ■ Bulloak ■ Exodus ■ Deluxe ■ Cub ■ Weekend



Phillip Island, Vic



Raging Bulloak

- INSIDE:**
- Five great outback festivals
 - Cape York photo essay
 - Cape Range NP, WA
 - Camping with kids
 - Readers' rides – lovingly recycled
 - Cooling your camper

PLUS: Travel, technical advice, expert columns, news & products



PP:255003/07



LOW-COMMITMENT CAMPING

A universal camper with a huge tent area.



If there is one thing that we recommend, whether it be caravan, motorhome or camper trailer, it is to try before you buy if possible, especially if you have never experienced the RV lifestyle.

One of the great features of the camper trailer side of the RV business is that it is quite easy to do that – a case in point being Complete Campsite. Operated by Grant and Jodie Joyce, Complete Campsite not only builds the camper trailers it sells, but rents them out, so it knows how its trailers fare when the going gets tough.

In addition, like many in the camper trailer industry, Grant and Jodie are keen campers themselves. The only problem is they don't get to enjoy using their product as often as they might like!

Another benefit of camper trailers is that they are great for family use. Relatively inexpensive, they are quick and easy to set up and can be expanded to offer a great deal of under-canvas area.

These thoughts occupied our mind as we looked over one of the latest products from Complete Campsite: the Nomad camper trailer. Built for on-road and offroad use (offroad model is pictured) the Nomad is a side-fold unit. The trailer is built on a DuraGal 40 mm x 40mm galvanised chassis and 75mm x 50mm drawbar with galvanised sheet walls and floor. Checkerplate steel is used for the mudguards and steps. Riding on Al-Ko 7 leaf rebound suspension with the option of shocks, Al-Ko IRS or independent suspension, the trailer sports new 15in Sunraysia wheels, offroad tyres and mud flaps. Paint is a Galmet metal protectant Hammertone finish. The underside is coated with Shultz underbody spray which protects against rust and salt.

All the doors and storage box lids are designed to be locked by stainless steel compression locks. Automotive pinchweld rubber is used for all seals and in order to minimise dust and water penetration to a minimum (especially through river crossings), Sikaflex is used in all joints. Inside, the trailer is lined with marine-style carpet.

Up front a 2000kg Hyland offroad hitch

Opposite: The Nomad side-fold camper trailer is protected by a heavy duty cover which lifts off to reveal the family-sized tent. A large screened vent with a zipped cover lifts for ventilation.

takes care of towing matters. Override brakes are standard but electric is available too. Also mounted on the extended drawbar are a stoneguard, spare wheel, two-way spirit level and storage box. In the latter are the house battery, powerpoint and a light which saves groping around at night.

Other external trailer fittings included two jerry cans, two 4kg gas cylinders and, usefully, a tap fitted mid-nearside for a quick drink or hand-wash during set up or pack up. Often the water tank is mounted under the trailer but in the Nomad it is in the trailer to eliminate damage caused by rocks to the plumbing or watertank itself. Also in the trailer is both a slide-out kitchen and, in our case, the slide-out for the fridge.

Setting up the Nomad is a matter of removing the heavy duty vinyl cover and unfolding the tent section. The zip-on cover is fully sealed, with Velcro covering the zip to help prevent water and dust entering the tent. It's quite a large tent section too, being the family model; the floor area is 16ft (4.9m) long and 9ft 6in (3.2m) wide. A 13ft (4m) tent is also available. A feature of the Nomad tent is the square DuraGal steel that is used for the internal hood bows – Grant says they are stronger than the round type.

Both walls and the roof are made using 12oz Australian manufactured canvas from Wax Converters. The screened window area is quite generous and there's a small canvas strip sewn in around the outside of the windows prevent water entering. Around the tent walls, pockets are sewn in various to keep small items and magazines. For the bed-end window, there's an awning (allowing the window to be kept open when it's raining) but instead of using pegs and ropes, the short poles fit into slots in the trailer side: a neat and simple arrangement.

From the floor, which is made from rip-stop PVC and sewn to the walls, there's a 50mm rise which keeps out any nasty undesirables and keeps the canvas walls out of the dirt and mud. To get a little air circulation at floor level, there's a large screened vent with a zipped cover in the lower part of the trailer wall. There are roof-peak vents on either side as well. We should also mention the skylights sewn into the canvas above the kitchen: they add a good amount of natural light.

In addition to the main tent area, there is a small 'ensuite' near the rear door. It does not have an inbuilt floor but rather relies on a



shower mat and natural drainage.

A problem that we have observed in some camper trailers is the lack of steps or any reasonable method of getting into the main bed. The Nomad design offers a very interesting solution: a fold-out step and platform at the end of the bed. The latter also doubles as storage capacity when travelling. It's a neat little idea.

Power-wise, the Nomad comes fully equipped, wired for both 240V and 12V, lights and sockets. The 12V 100Ah battery is charged by both the Anderson plug from

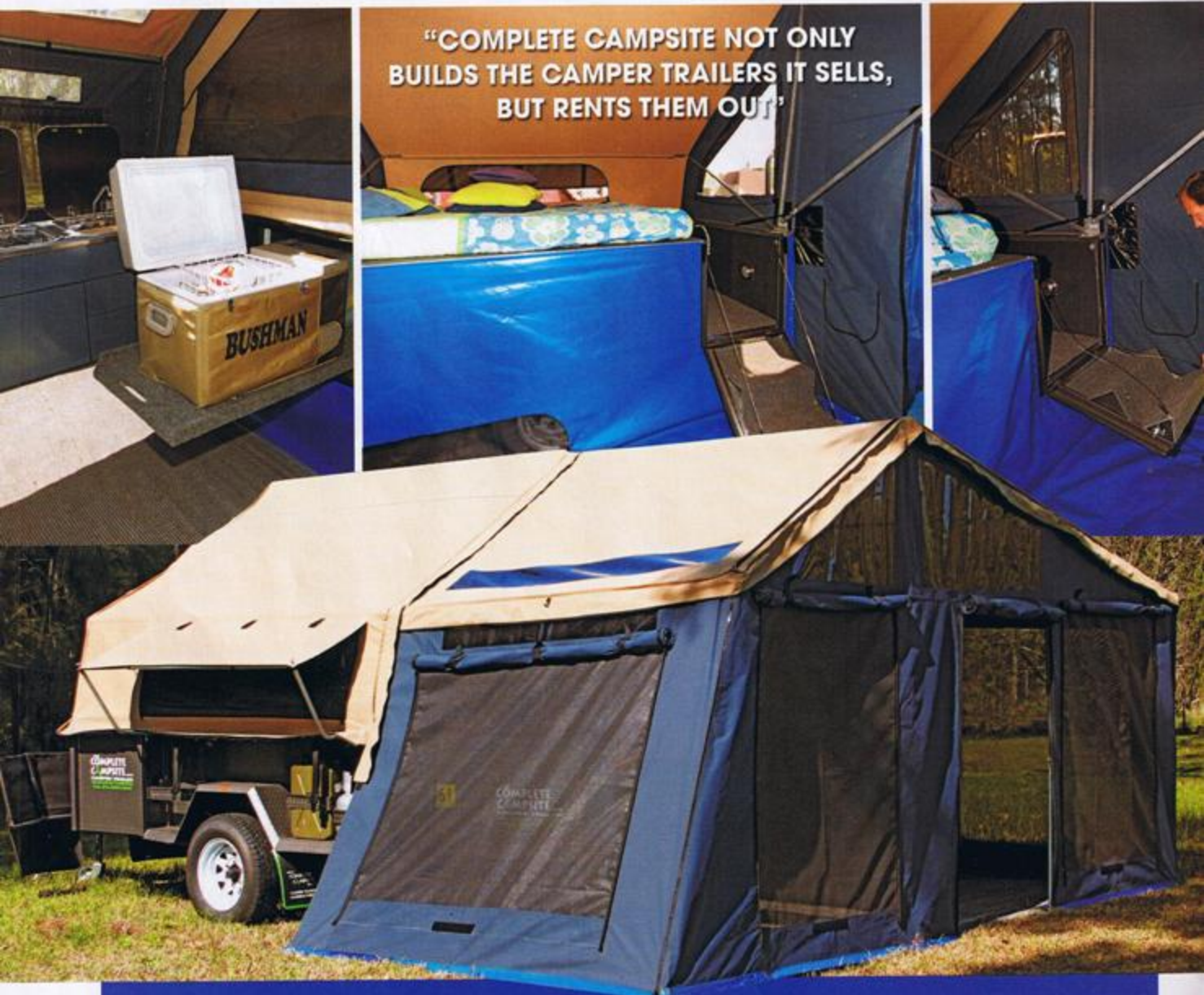
the tow vehicle and onboard battery charger (solar panels optional). There is internal lighting and a tricky little light fitted into the rear offside tail-light illuminates the kitchen.

SUMMING UP

Grant and Jodie are quite pleased with themselves because they were awarded the Caravan and Camping Industry Association's Certificate of Recognition for Business of the Year - Regional NSW in the 2006 Excellence Awards. This is something of a first in the camper trailer industry.

The Nomad certainly offers plenty of room for a family holiday. Features like the folding steps and large window areas make it a comfortable camper. Being as well equipped as it is, the Nomad is ready to be hitched up, whether it be for a weekend dash or something considerably longer. ■

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"COMPLETE CAMPSITE NOT ONLY BUILDS THE CAMPER TRAILERS IT SELLS, BUT RENTS THEM OUT"

Clockwise from above: The Nomad is a large, family-friendly camper; kitchen bench and fridge are both on slide-outs for easy access; folding steps make it easy to get into bed and also offer a storage area when travelling; the steps fold out very simply.