

CAMPERTRAILER  
AUSTRALIA

OFFROAD  
CAMPER  
OF THE YEAR  
2009



I shouldn't like the



**VISTA RV**  
BUT I DO.

**"It's just such a smart way of doing things," says Philip Lord.**

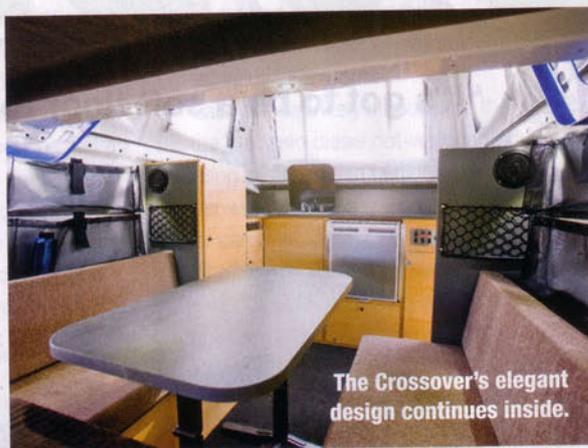
**T**his is the camper I shouldn't like, because with two young kids, there's nowhere to let them bed down in the built-for-two Vista RV Crossover. Or rather, there's nowhere for me: I'd be the one in a swag out

in the rain. Despite its sleeping quarters that are really confined to accommodating two adults, I can't help but give this camper the big tick. I just love well the thought-out engineering and the precision finish that

feels like it is built to last. If this was a car, it'd be German for sure. I like being able to set up quickly and if the weather closes in, to be able to settle in inside and have a table to sit at and some cooking facilities, and to have all this at



The Vista RV is best-suited to touring couples, but it has one of the most advanced suspension systems on or off the road.



The Crossover's elegant design continues inside.



The sink slides out from the kitchen, which slides out from the nearside of the camper.

hand in such a compact crossover camper is a bonus. Being able to pull up stumps after a long transport stage and collapse into bed without fiddling around with latches and making the bed is a big advantage for me, too. The technical stuff that really appeals to me include the chassis: it is a conventional

MS suspension system designed by the late Alan Mawson is far more sophisticated than almost anything that will tow it. I can't believe that this suspension is fitted to a camper. Aside from all the obvious big-picture features, it's all the fine attention to detail that I like about this camper. The laser cut, formed and power coated sheet steel fittings

way they are shaped is really a work of art. In particular, I like the way the swing-away jerry holders mesh and lock in place. The lower portion of the powder coated steel panels locate or meshes with interlocking 'fingers' and is secured with a lock at the top – it's just such a smart way of doing this. The drop down dining table that folds in one articulated movement to form part of the bed base is simple but clever too. Then there is the underseat storage built so it will accommodate water containers. The best thing about this is it is not technology for technology's sake, just well-engineered, and that is exactly what I want in a camper trailer when belting down rough bush tracks day in and day out. ■

**"I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS SUSPENSION IS FITTED TO A CAMPER"**

boxed section – no big deal there, except that it is made from much stronger boxed-section steel rather than a C-section channel chassis. It's almost over the top, but the Crossover's

at the front and at the rear of the camper are just sensational. These fittings are not attached any old way either – they are fixed together with aircraft-grade aluminium rivets. The precision of the laser cutting and the