

# CAMPER TRAILER CONQUEROR UEV-360

**The Conqueror military-look camper range has been an instant success in Australia, with most customers opting for the top-end units. We checked out the smaller end of the range, hauling a UEV-360 to a favourite beach camping spot.**

The UEV (Urban Escape Vehicle) 360 is designed primarily for a touring couple, or for a couple with kids who can sleep in an optional add-on tent section. For a couple wanting an overnight home on the track the UEV-360 can be set up in a couple of minutes, by raising the hard roof, clipping rolled-up canvas side extensions to a pair of spring-steel bows and zipping on a rear privacy panel. Sleeping four requires the add-on tent to be connected to the back of the trailer.



For longer-duration camping the UEV-360 can be ordered with a side awning that covers the kitchen area, or with an L-shaped awning that covers the rear as well. All awnings are made from PVC rather than canvas, making them much more compact and allowing stowage in 'sausage' bags on the camper side and back panels.

Conquerors are built in South Africa, but are given the Oz-compatibility treatment when they arrive at Conqueror Australia's Queensland HQ. Off come the standard mechanical brakes, coil springs and dampers and on go King Springs, Koni shocks and AL-KO heavy duty stub axles, bearings and off-road electric brakes. Trailer electricals, including lightweight deep cycle batteries, are also Australianised. The stub axles can be specified to a length that ensures wheel track matches that of the towing vehicle.





Thus packaged, Conquerors have completed many thousands of kilometres of on and off road testing under Australian conditions.

Conquerors are distinguished by their mainly-metal construction, using a combination of steel and aluminium parts. Time consuming shaping of panels to confer strength is used instead of the cheaper and heavier panel on frame method. Where aluminium and steel co-join the connections are insulated by neutral materials or pre-powder-coated holes.

The UEV-360 derives its model number from an overall length of 3.68m. Into its compact shape the UEV-360 squeezes a 74-litre fridge freezer; 90L water tank; two 100AH batteries; Tregg coupling, marine-style control panel with charger, tank monitor and circuit breakers; double bed; hard-roof; large table; generous roll-out kitchen; storage cupboards and drawers; and gas bottle and jerry can holders.



Storage racks are provided on top of the fridge box and the hard roof and these are designed to use military-type, clip-on, tie-down rings.

## On and Off Road

Our test vehicle was a brand new UEV-360, optioned with an L-shaped awning, National Luna fridge/freezer, BBQ-plate, camping table, LED strip lights, various canvas utility and storage bags, gas bottles, jerry cans, bush tools, electric water pump and an under-bed drawer, adding around six grand to the base price of \$29,300.

Coupling the UEV-360 to our chosen tow test vehicle, a LandCruiser 78 Series tray back, was a doddle and the nose height matched the Toyota's tongue perfectly. Ball weight ranges from around 80kg, depending on fridge and storage rack loads.

With only a full water tank and not much cargo on board the UEV-360 towed very easily behind the 'Cruiser's big V8 diesel and there was very little to-ing and fro-ing transmitted through the coupling. AL-KO's latest brake package certainly has some grabbing power, so we backed off the Redarc brake controller to suit.

Rough roads and tracks showed off the Conqueror independent suspension to best effect, with the trailer bobbing around much less than the 'Cruiser's lively leaf-sprung rear end. Manoeuvring the UEV-360 was a tad tricky, thanks to a short drawbar that ensures minimal cut-in on tight bush tracks (an optional longer bar is available), but we soon adapted to the need to 'catch' trailer movement quickly when reversing. Conqueror's stabiliser legs act as corner posts when they're retracted, so it was easy to judge the trailer's nether region position.

## On the Beach



After a drop in tyre pressures the Toyota/Conqueror combination made light work of very soft, windblown sand and we scooted along the high-tide mark with few engine revs on the clock. At our desired post we backed up to the vegetated bank and set up camp.

It was handy that Rick from Conqueror accompanied us, because we hadn't had time to study the erection manual and, as with all camper trailers, it's easier if you've done it before!

Step one was to check out the ease of an overnight set-up – roof up, bed extended, canvas rear panels clipped on, rear wall zipped in, kitchen rolled out, table erected, stove in place and coldies in hand - accomplished in about five minutes. The hard roof carries the hefty spare wheel and tyre up with it, but spring-assisted rams do all the hard work.

Next, we put up the L-shaped awning in the teeth of a strong nor' east sea breeze, using the steel poles provided and that added around 15 minutes. A quicker set up would have been to erect just the side awning, without zipping on the L-shaped bit.

The fact that Conqueror's awnings are attached to the vehicle panels overcomes the main difficulty of attaching an awning to a camper. This job is usually such a pain that most owners don't do it unless they're camped for a week or so.

Conqueror's PVC material certainly made awning handling a lightweight task, compared with lifting canvas sheets that size. Waterproof characteristics aren't an issue, but we do wonder about long-term durability: time will tell.



With all-metal work surfaces and table the UEV-360 kitchen area should certainly prove durable, but we imagine most owners will use cutting boards to spare the powder-coat finish.



Lighting all around the trailer was made easy by the provision of six 12V Hella plugs and a 240V outlet.

Sleeping in the UEV-360 isn't a problem and access is made simple by a clip-on ladder. The awnings provide excellent campsite cover and can be supplemented with zip-on walls, for additional weather protection.

Packing up was an easy job, provided two pairs of hands rolled the awnings away. Yep, we could live with one of these...

More information at Conqueror Australia [www.conqueroraustralia.com.au](http://www.conqueroraustralia.com.au)