



CUT LOOSE

Rough it in comfort in Cub's Supamatic Drover XTD.

There are a few women writing in this issue of CTA, and what better camper is there for the fairer sex than this Cub Supamatic Drover XTD? Not only is it Cub's top-of-the-range offroad tourer, it utilises Cub's unique Ezy Wind system to open and stow the camper.

I've used this system on a number of Cub campers over the years and I have to say it makes quick work

of folding the camper up, without any musclework required. Cub's Russell Wood says that it is probably this user-friendliness that accounts for the company's success over the last 40 years. It probably has something to do with the innovative design of these campers, too.

COOKING

The Supamatic Drover XTD comes with either an

inside or outside kitchen. Our review model featured the outside version, which I would expect is going to be the big seller.

The kitchen features a full stainless steel roll-out box with a stainless steel sink and four-burner cooktop with wind deflectors. The cooker features a grill below and there is a large storage space below the sink. Gas is permanently plumbed. The sink has a 12V tap attached for easy use.

Below the kitchen drawer, a shelf can be suspended from a few thin wires, which is easy to set up and provides a little extra flat storage while you're camped. Directly next to the kitchen is a pantry drawer, good for holding all of your pots and pans. Both the kitchen and the drawer have locks to prevent them moving during transit. There isn't much room to prepare food, so you'd probably want to have a table along for that, but the stainless steel will make it easier to keep things clean.

LIVING

Inside, there is a queen-size north-south innerspring mattress at the front of the trailer. This is wrapped by windows on three sides, and there is room down the sides of the mattress for storing bits and pieces.

On one side of the foot of the bed is a cupboard for storing the included Sani Pottie. The other side is devoted to the 60L three-way fridge. The only weakness with this design is that you don't seem to be able to get to the fridge while driving, unless you open up the entire camper.

Being a hard floor rear-fold camper, there is a lot more space under the canvas, where you can hang out away from the flies, or just in deep shade. A big window on the end and two huge doors let plenty of light and breeze in. One interesting feature is the roll-up sides, which would be fantastic if you're lucky enough to camp somewhere with no bugs. You can lie in bed in the open air and stare out at the ocean, which sounds just fine to me.

RUNNING GEAR

Draped in sexy checkerplate below the waist, the Drover is built for touring, and I've seen these things in some pretty out-of-the-way places.



Top to bottom: Cub's Ezy Wind system makes quick work of setting and packing up the trailer. **Left:** The queen-size north-south bed has an innerspring mattress.



Sixteen-inch rims are complemented by new tyres and a fully independent trailing arm coil suspension. The suspension system was designed by Ultimate Suspension, which has been around for 25 years. All of that sits on a heavy-duty galvanised chassis, so beach work isn't going to make you lose sleep.

Our review model also had a large toolbox up front, which I've found can be invaluable for all the extra bits of canvas such as awning walls, dirty tools and the like that have no better home when you're camping. The Drover is also set up with three jerry can holders on the camper.

SUMMING UP

I could go on and on about the little things on this camper, but for the price, \$29,990, you're not going to get much more

out of an offroad camper. And most offroaders that are not only capable of making it as far as you can go, but are also comfortable and have all of the important bells and whistles, cost a lot more.

Cub Campers, 40 Merola Way, Campbellfield, Vic 3061, (03) 9357 7170.

For more information, including your nearest dealer, visit www.cubcampers.com.au

Clockwise from top: Fully independent trailing arm coil suspension is a feature; inside view; large toolbox up front is invaluable for storing extra bits of canvas and the like; a cupboard at the foot of the bed houses the portable toilet.

