

IN BRIEF

- ⊙ 4.8m (15ft 9in) single-axle hybrid
- ⊙ Fully moulded fibreglass body
- ⊙ Cruisemaster ATX coil spring suspension
- ⊙ Forward hinged pop-top roof



Words
and pics
MALCOLM STREET

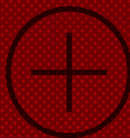
BUILT FOR THE BUSH

With a stylish look and a construction that many boat-builders would be familiar with, the Exodus 16 hybrid is ideal for couples looking for a compact offroader.

“It's built differently from most hybrids and caravans, using a technique familiar to many boat builders and European caravan manufacturers”



MEASURING UP



PROS

- ⊕ Fully moulded fibreglass body
- ⊕ Well-equipped external kitchen
- ⊕ Longer than standard bed
- ⊕ Composting toilet
- ⊕ Storage capacity, inside and out



CONS

- ⊖ Compact interior space
- ⊖ Price point may not be for everyone

ABOVE AND BELOW New owners Jan and Chris relax under the awning of their new Exodus 16 hybrid; They were seeking a few more comforts

When I turned up to look over the Exodus 16 hybrid, I was a little surprised to find the very new owners, Jan Boswell and Chris Hill, there too, along with their dog, Sprocket. The couple was very excited about their brand-new hybrid and gave me some interesting insights into their reasons for purchase. They are old hands in recreational vehicle travel, having previously owned a Supreme caravan and, more recently, a Jurgens TuffTrax. One of the reasons for the Exodus 16 purchase was the couple's desire to upsize to a slightly bigger van with better ensuite facilities. “We're ageing gracefully,” Jan told me. “We wanted a few more comforts but without a large van to tow”.

THE BUILD

The Exodus 16 is built by the manufacturer formerly known as Complete Campsite. Unlike many hybrids, the Exodus is constructed entirely in Australia – Newcastle, NSW. It's also built differently from most hybrids and caravans, using a technique familiar to many boat builders and European caravan manufacturers. The single-piece, hand-laid moulded fibreglass body forms the main structure with a hinged fibreglass roof on top. As any boat builder will tell you, it results in a strong structure, one that doesn't have to rely totally on the chassis for build strength.

Underneath the body, the chassis is hot-dipped galvanised with 100mm (4in)

RHS main rails and a 150mm (6in) drawbar. There's less cross-member steelwork than most caravans/hybrids have. The sub-chassis area has a clean look, with nothing dangling down to get damaged on rough tracks. An option on the Exodus 16 is a bike rack designed to fit around the drawbar storage box. It's quite a clever arrangement but requires a bit of physical ability to lift the bikes.



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STAYING OUTSIDE

Jan and Chris were looking for a good external kitchen – “we love living outdoors,” Jan enthused. The Exodus 16 delivers with its slide-out stainless-steel kitchen that sits parallel to the van and rides on purpose-designed ball-bearing runners. In addition, there’s a slide-out EvaKool 95L fridge and large slide-out stainless-steel drawers. It’s a very impressive arrangement that includes a pantry area built into the wall of the hybrid. A clever little idea is the plastic table stored above the kitchen when travelling. The Fiamma awning covers the entire kitchen area.

EXODUS 16

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

- Body length 4.8m (15ft 9in)
- Overall length 6.75m (22ft 2in)
- Width 2.0m (6ft 7in)
- Height 2.37m (7ft 9in)
- Internal height 1.56m (5ft 2in)
- Tare 1850kg
- ATM 2800kg
- Payload 950kg (calculated)
- Ball weight at tare 190kg
- Ball to tare ratio 10.3% (calculated)

EXTERNAL

- Frame N/A
- Cladding Moulded fibreglass
- Chassis Hot dipped galvanised 100mm (4in) rails, 150mm (6in) drawbar
- Suspension Cruisemaster ATX coil springs
- Coupling Cruisemaster DO35
- Brakes Dexter 12in electric
- Wheels 17in alloy
- Water 1 x 120L and 1 x 100L freshwater, 1 x 72L grey water
- Battery 3 x 120Ah lithium LiFePO4
- Solar 760W
- Inverter 2000W
- Air-conditioner Optional
- Gas 2 x 4.5kg
- Sway control N/A
- Cooking Smev three-burner
- Fridge EvaKool 95L dual zone

INTERNAL

- Cooking N/A
- Fridge N/A
- Bathroom Composting toilet in combo bathroom
- Washing machine N/A
- Hot water Webasto EVO5 Hydronic diesel water and space heater

PRICE FROM \$136,550

OPTIONS FITTED

- Internal ensuite
- Bike racks

PRICE AS SHOWN \$139,147.50

MORE INFORMATION

Complete Campsite / Exodus Off Road Campers
 39B Munibung Road
 Cardiff NSW 2285
 P: 0412 656 271
 W: completecampsite.com.au

ABOVE AND BELOW The fibreglass roof is hinged and opens like a clam; Water tank fillers are readily accessible, yet out of sight

“The Exodus offers plenty of external storage ... there are ample storage bins at the front and a drawbar storage box”



The hybrid has an ATM of 2800kg and a tare mass of 1850kg, resulting in a payload of 950kg, thus making it ideal for any dual cab ute or an older vehicle, like the Land Rover Defender that Chris likes to drive.

As an offroad hybrid, it’s well-equipped in the suspension department with Cruisemaster ATX coil springs and shock absorbers. Cruisemaster also supplies the DO35 hitch. Then consider the narrow, compact design and you’ve got a nimble offroader that will fit down tight tracks with ease.

The Exodus offers plenty of external storage for a 4.8m (15ft 9in) van. There are ample storage bins at the front and a drawbar storage box – more than enough for all the bits and pieces carried on a camping trip. The gas cylinders have a compartment within the drawbar box. One of the external bins contains a diesel-fired Webasto EVO5 Hydronic water heater. Instead of directly heating the water, the EVO5 has a glycol tank that heats water via a heat exchange. Innovatively, the EVO5 can have a fan heater attached, which can be used as a space heater.



ABOVE AND BELOW Storage compartments and bike rack on the drawbar; Lots of external storage



"A bed occupies most of the front area, but that still leaves plenty of room for the pair of seats, corner ensuite and rear kitchen"

ABOVE The Lagun-mounted dining table can be easily moved around

RATINGS

VALUE FOR MONEY

It's hidden, but much of the value in this hybrid van lies in the engineering and building

TOWABILITY

Easy towing by a wide range of mid-sized vehicles

SUITABILITY FOR INTENDED TOURING

It is well designed for getting outback, either on rough roads or smooth highways

BUILD QUALITY

A few minor issues, but the overall structure is good

LIVEABILITY

Adequate interior space and well set up for the outdoor lifestyle

SELF SUFFICIENCY

High capacity 12V electrical system along with the composting toilet means that the water usage is the real limiter

CUSTOMER CARE

Two years manufacturer warranty, lifetime on chassis and body structure. OEM warranty on items like suspension and windows

INNOVATION

Moulded fibreglass body structure with lighter weight chassis

X-FACTOR

A great looking and well set up hybrid

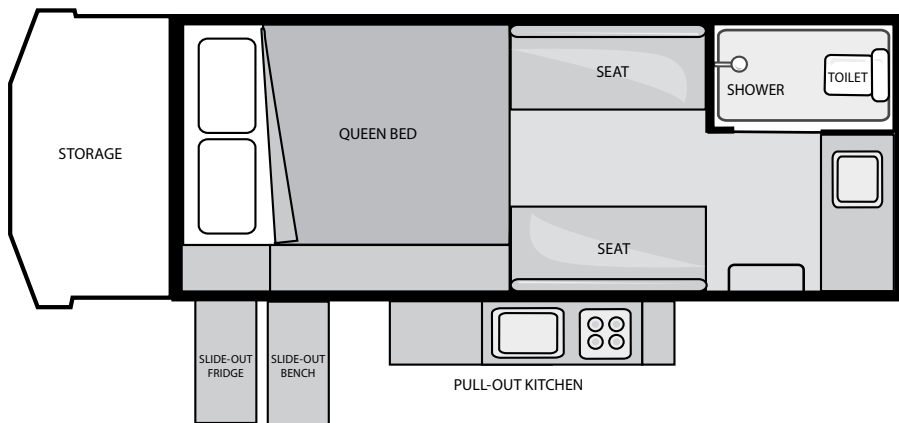
STEP ABOARD

Setting up the hybrid doesn't take long, particularly as an electrically operated actuator raises the roof. Inside, the layout is quite simple. A bed occupies most of the front area, but that still leaves plenty of room for the pair of seats, corner ensuite and rear kitchen.

The bed, measuring 2.05m x 1.53m (6ft 7in x 5ft), sits off the floor somewhat but is easily accessed by using the seats on both sides as a step. The bed head has wand reading lights on both sides and device charger points. Behind the pillow are a couple of storage compartments.

Around the bed, good-sized windows are fitted into the front and offside walls. There's a smaller window on the nearside, mainly because some helpful cupboard space fills the rest of the wall area. For extra ventilation, there's a fan hatch in the ceiling. Behind the floor hatch under the bed is where the battery charger, inverter and associated electrics are to be found.

Two people will comfortably sit in the twin lounges. When mealtime comes around, the Lagun-mounted table is easily fitted into position. Like the bed, there are windows on both sides, with the extra bonus of screened windows in the roof gusset above.



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THE LIST GOES ON. "IT'S A BUSHMATER SO IT'S "AUSTRALIA'S TOUGHEST OFF ROAD CARAVANS!"



“The Exodus 16 is well equipped electrically. There are three 120Ah lithium LiFePO4 batteries, 760W of solar panel capacity and a 2000W inverter”



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Electrics access; Compact kitchen at the rear; The add-on canvas ensuite is standard

COMPACT BUT CONVENIENT

Across the rear, the compact nature of this rig is obvious. There's a small kitchen with a smoked glass-topped stainless-steel sink. That leaves a nominal amount of benchtop area but a more generous amount of drawer capacity. Under the benchtop is where a Simarine touchpad, inverter controls, light switches and a roof switch are located. That, in addition to the 240V power point and charger hub above, makes it the electrical centre of the van.

Jan and Chris like the internal bathroom's convenience. They find the shower as comfortable as you'd expect and are getting

used to the composting toilet, which they haven't used before. "We like the self-sufficiency capability," Chris told me, "It's better than a cassette toilet."

On the subject of self-sufficiency, the Exodus 16 is well equipped electrically. There are three 120Ah lithium LiFePO4 batteries, 760W of solar panel capacity and a 2000W inverter. Given the hybrid van has a gas hob and no air-conditioner, that's plenty of capacity for extended stays off the grid, provided a little bit of care is taken with water usage – the main freshwater tank has a 120L capacity and there is a 100L underbody tank for 220L total.



External ensuite

Although my review van had an internal ensuite, it's an option included on this reviewed model. In standard form, the Exodus 16 has an external canvas ensuite that fits along the rear wall. It comes complete with a toilet and shower but does add to the setup time. Not having an internal ensuite does give more space inside, but for a couple I know what I'd be opting for!



ABOVE AND BELOW The external kitchen was one of the attractions for Chris and Jan; Stainless-steel stovetop, sink, benches and drawers

CUSTOMER CARE

Exodus Off Road Campers offers a lifetime warranty on the chassis and GRP (aka fibreglass moulded) body. There's a two-year warranty on all other work done by Exodus. The original manufacturer's warranty covers items like the electrical fittings and windows. Warranty work must be handled by Exodus.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Chris and Jan have travelled extensively. I asked them their favourite destination, and they said, "anywhere with blue sky and red dirt". There's no doubt that Exodus 16 is well-equipped for a destination like that. What impressed me was the overall build of the hybrid van, particularly the moulded fibreglass body and the weight-saving features. If the aim is to have a compact van that can travel narrow offroad tracks, offer a primarily external lifestyle with a few internal comforts – that's what the Exodus 16 offers, and exactly what Jan and Chris wanted. 

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WHY I LOVE
THE EXODUS 16 -
- Let's hear from Chris and Jan

"For me it was the outside kitchen, the fact that everything was there. From my view I didn't want to be stuck inside because all the action happens outside, and the outside kitchen means you are a part of it." - Jan

"I would say the easier way of doing things such as the switch that makes the roof go up and this awning is easy to put out unlike others, so it is a combination of easier things to do." - Chris

"We're always researching what our next camper will be, but it wasn't until we went into towns like Thargomindah or Eromanga that we saw the off-road Exodus 16 camper and knew it was the one." - Chris

For Exodus sales and general enquiries, please contact us on

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