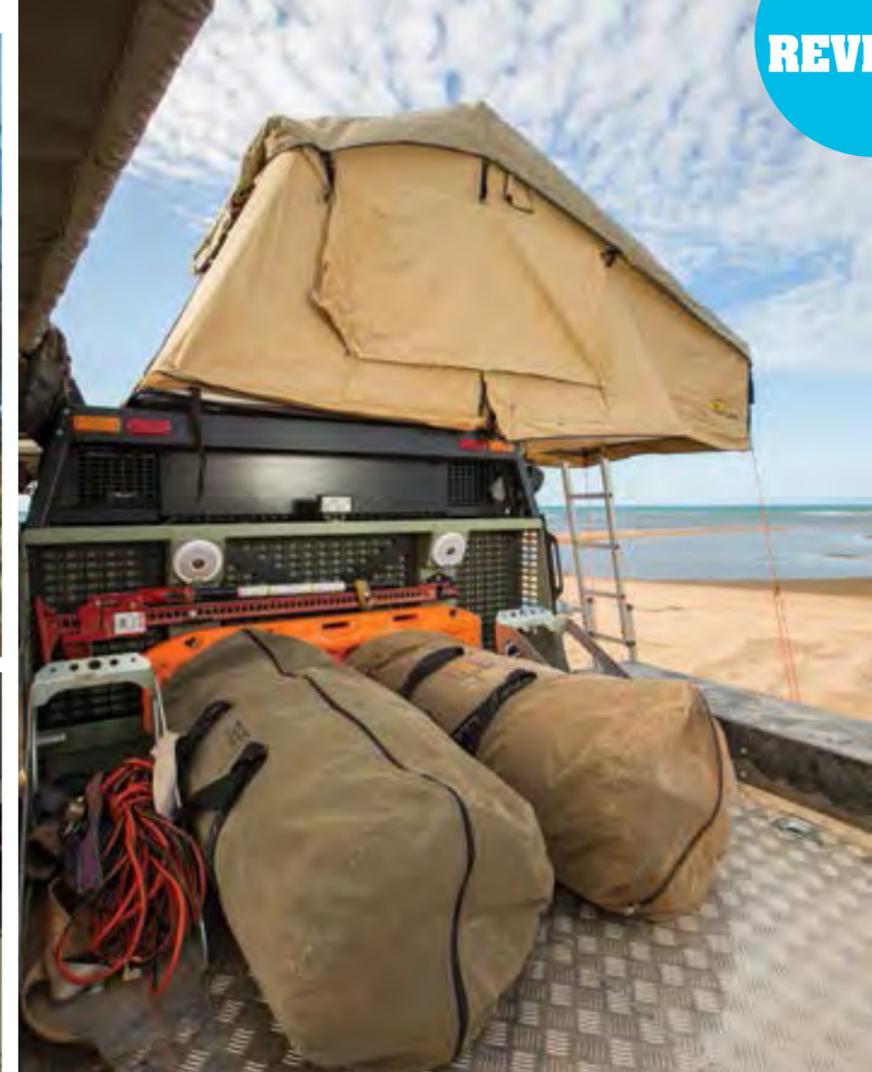


Patriot Games

WORDS EMMA RYAN PICS JACK MURPHY

FOR BOYS WHO LOVE THEIR TOYS, PATRIOT'S NEW TH560 WILL BE AT THE TOP OF THE CHRISTMAS WISHLIST.





We pulled off the Bruce Highway 40 minutes north of Townsville at the almost impossible-to-find gateway to Ollera Creek, where we'd arranged to meet Justin from Patriot Campers and Jase and Simon from the TV program *All 4 Adventure*. The boys had been tearing around Cape York for several weeks filming part of the new season and were on their way home, while we were headed north to bask in the treasures of Tropical North Qld for a few weeks ourselves. Why not rendezvous on the road to check out Patriot's brand spanking new camper and sophomore model for the brand, the TH560?

And let me tell you, the rig that pulled off the road where we were waiting was nothing less than badarse. Towed by Jase's modified 200 Series with Sea Jay tinnie on the roof, the tandem-axle TH560 was a beast, carrying a big Polaris RZR 1000 side-by-side ATV on its extensive toy-hauling rear platform. I can only imagine the fun the boys had on the Cape in this ultimate adventure rig. And as three scruffy, shirtless blokes spilled from their respective vehicles to say g'day, all suntans, beards and beaming smiles, I could tell they'd had a ball.



"If you're going away with mates, remove the tent and load the rooftop storage basket full of swags"

BUSH BASHIN'

The first thing you notice about the TH560 is that it's big; at 5.6m long and 2.4m wide, it dwarves its smaller brother, the X1, which prides itself on its compact size and offroadability. So would the big boy keep up in the rough stuff?

Common sense dictates the TH560 is not going to be as manoeuvrable as the X1; however its performance on the tight, badly washed-out tracks into Ollera Creek demonstrated an impressive, take-no-bullshit offroad attitude regardless. It's fitted with three tough "rock sliders", which protect the underside of the back end by sliding along the ground like a sled if

the rear of the camper makes contact with the ground. Similarly, where the camper widens at the toy deck there are two "bashers" to bear the impact of overhanging branches and shrubs on tight tracks.

Like the X1, the TH560 is built like the proverbial brick outhouse, with a laser-cut, interlocked and hot-dipped galvanised chassis in 151x52mm RHS. The body is comprised of 3.5mm power-coated aluminium to keep the weight down, while the drawbar is extendable to suit your towing vehicle and is hitched up with the Vehicle Components DO35.

The camper on test was riding tall and proud on 35in BFG tyres, but as standard you'll get

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Demonstrating function and comfort with the dirt bike gear storage alongside the hot water service; Jase and Simon take a load off; At camp, the deck doubles as an elevated living space for swags, a table and chairs, etc; Two massive pantry drawers; Auto-levelling independent suspension takes you far and wide; Stainless-steel kitchen makes dinner time easy.

33in Federals. It has dual suspension with four trailing arms and two shocks per arm, with 12in electric brakes bringing it to a stop. Airbag suspension comes as standard and is auto-levelling to painlessly adapt to the payload no matter what toys you've taken along for the ride. When you arrive at camp you can flick it to manual mode to level the camper for set-up, then back to auto before you take off the next morning and the suspension will readjust itself. The gauges are easily located in the kitchen.

TAKE THE TOYS

The TH560 is rated to carry a massive 2600kg, facilitating more than 1200 kilos' worth of toys

given its 1340kg Tare weight. The toy deck measures 3x1.7m and will happily house a full-sized side-by-side ATV (as pictured), five dirt bikes (three along the front, two at the back), two quads (with space remaining for a dog cage) and two jet skis. And if Patriot hasn't tapped into enough markets here — from the weekend warrior to hunters, dirt biker riders, musterers, go-kart riders, etc — Justin hopes to eventually develop an optional boat loader and even a version of the camper with a horse float. This is true innovation in camper trailer design, and is unlike anything else on the market. The convenience of taking only one vehicle yet being fully self-sufficient and also having your toys with

HITS & MISSES

I LIKED

- > Huge gear deck and big payload to suit
- > On-board fuel for toys
- > More storage than you're likely to fill

I WOULD HAVE LIKED

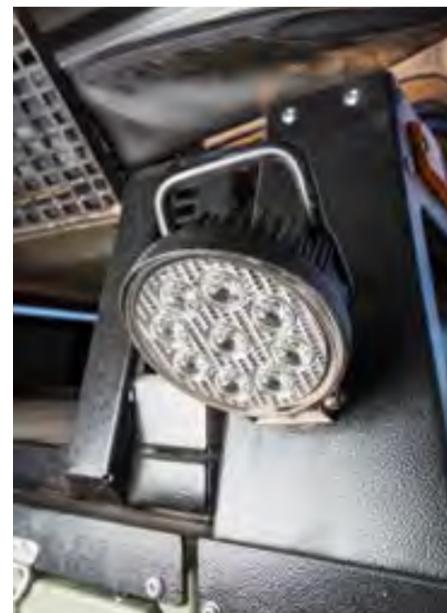
- > To keep it — and the Polaris!



CTA RATING

- 1. FIT FOR INTENDED PURPOSE
- 2. INNOVATION
- 3. SELF-SUFFICIENCY
- 4. QUALITY OF FINISH
- 5. BUILD QUALITY
- 6. OFFROAD-ABILITY
- 7. COMFORTS
- 8. EASE OF USE
- 9. VALUE FOR MONEY
- 10. X-FACTOR

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: After several weeks on the Cape, the *All 4 Adventure* boys look right at home lounging on the TH560; With Fusion speakers positioned over it, the toy deck doubles as a sun deck; Simon takes Emma for a spin on the Polaris; The TH560 oozes both toughness and functionality; LED lights in all the right places.



DOIN' IT ALL 4 ADVENTURE



All 4 Adventure's Jase and Simon had an absolute ball hooning around Cape York with the TH560 as their chosen steed. Check out our video at www.campertraileraustralia.com.au to catch the boys' thoughts on the rig, and don't forget to tune into Channel 10 at midday on Sundays to follow their adventures in the Top End.



with the two speakers from the Fusion Bluetooth system and LED lighting all positioned over the deck, it makes a killer dance floor. As anyone who has ever had more than a couple of drinks in my presence will attest, this would probably seal the deal for me. Party doesn't take a holiday, after all.

GEAR HAULER

The TH560 also has loads of storage space for whatever paraphernalia may be associated with your chosen toys. There's a massive storage locker on the driver's side of the camper, designed with dirt bike gear bags in mind, and will happily house three or four bags. There's a huge 880L lockable storage basket between the body of the camper and the rooftop-style tent, suitable for boots, chairs and anything else you can shove in there. Or, if you're going away with mates, remove the tent and load the basket full of swags. This camper is certainly a versatile piece of kit.

The front storage locker takes care of the chainsaw, the generator and two jerry cans, with space for extra gear, and there's a mount for a gas bottle at the front corner with the option of a second mount at the other corner. At the rear of the camper there's a Hi-Lift jack mount and four MaxTrax holders as standard.

ALL THE COMFORTS

If you're reading this magazine you'll likely agree that time spent on (and off) the road is precious, and if you're the type who's inclined to have a shed full of toys you probably begrudge having to choose between them when planning a weekend or a week away. That's where the TH560 comes into its own; not only is it tough enough to get you and your playthings just about anywhere you want to go, it will also allow you to camp there in all the comfort you're used to as a camper trailer traveller.

It has a Country Comfort on-board hot water service as standard, supplied by a 120L water tank with 12V electric pump, which also supplies cold running water to the food-grade stainless-steel kitchen. The slide-out and fold-down kitchen is functional and beautifully finished, with two massive pantry drawers for grocery items (one on either side of the camper) plus additional pantry storage above the bench area. All drawers and lockers are marine carpeted and have LED lights. Unlike the X1, you'll need to BYO burner with the TH560, but there is plenty of space to stow a butane cooker and they are an undeniably hassle-free way to sizzle a sausage. The kitchen area is protected by a 180-degree batwing-style awning, which remains fixed to the camper and is very easy to

you certainly elevates the cheeky weekend away to a whole new level.

There are tie-down points in all the right places and, if needed, Patriot will customise the configuration of your camper to suit whatever weird and wonderful toy you may be planning to haul. And you're going to need extra fuel for said toys, so Patriot has incorporated an optional 120L on-board fuel tank with an electric pump

to keep the good times rolling.

The beauty of the toy deck design is it provides a useable, elevated space that will come in handy when you're at camp, too. Two swags will fit comfortably on the deck to get your mates or older kids up out of the dirt, and it's an awesome spot to soak in the sun during the day or get up out of the mud to eat dinner if it's been raining. And, my personal favourite,



CTA SPECS

PATRIOT CAMPERS
TH560

> TRAILER

Tare: 1340kg
ATM: 2600kg
Suspension: Auto-levelling airbag independent trailing arm
Brakes: 12in electric
Coupling: Vehicle Components D035
Chassis: 151x52mm RHS
Drawbar: 151x52mm RHS
Body: 3.5mm powder-coated aluminium
Wheel/tyre: 16x8 steel rims with 285/75 R16 MT
Style: Toy hauler

> DIMENSIONS

Box size: 1700x2200mm
Length (hitch to tail-lights): 5600mm
Tent size: Optional

> ACCESSORIES

Water: 120L
Hot water: Country Comfort
Kitchen: Food-grade stainless steel
Battery: 2 x 120Ah Full River
Fuel: 120L with pump

> PRICE AS SHOWN

\$59,990

> SUPPLIED BY

Patriot Campers, 60 Export Drive, Molendinar, Qld 4214, (07) 3200 8355, www.patriotcampers.com.au



“Patriot has incorporated a 120L on-board fuel tank with an electric pump to keep the good times rolling”

use, requiring no guy ropes.

Like the X1, the TH560 comes standard with a double-bed rooftop tent, but you can make it king size or upgrade to a James Baroud tent. You can also choose to add the Family Pack, which gives you an additional bedroom off the driver’s side to sleep up to four kids in two bunks. This option also provides extra privacy.

The camper is powered by two 120Ah Full River batteries, with a Redarc BMS monitoring system, Narva control switches, water level indicator and an on-board air compressor.

THE WRAP

Built by a bloke who loves bikes, hunting and just about all other outdoor pursuits, the TH560 is designed from the ground up as the ultimate leisure machine. At almost \$60K standard it doesn’t come cheap, but with an exceptional build-quality and all the comforts you’d expect of a high-end camper trailer, I have little doubt the TH560 will find a happy home in the garage of a broad range of outdoor thrillseekers who will see the benefit of its one-stop-shop approach to camping and playing off the beaten track. **CTA**

