

# Gulf King Warrior

Words and pics by Malcolm Street



## Brave HEART

**The Gulf King Warrior is a dream for courageous adventurers.**

**P**olyethylene is one of those new buzz words you may hear much more in the next few years in the camper trailer industry.

Why? Because several camper trailer manufacturers are starting to use it in the construction of their models.

It's a material that shows some very good potential as a strong but still relatively lightweight material for the camping industry.

Polyethylene, however, is not a totally new phenomenon: it's quite common in the boating industry where strength, lighter weights and water resistance are relevant design factors.

Also, if you have a look under quite a few camper trailers already out there, a green (food grade) polyethylene water tank is a common feature.

### FANTASTIC PLASTIC

Gulf King has manufactured camper trailers for just over five years and has made a foray into the use of polyethylene for its models.

Up until now the Gulf King team has only had a side-fold steel trailer with a hard polyethylene top, but we understand that a full polyethylene trailer will be released very shortly.

Campermart, based at Bennetts Green (Newcastle), NSW, is the NSW distributor

for Gulf King and had offered one of its Off-Road Warriors for our review.

Campermart's Warren Quirk is quite enthusiastic about the concept of using polyethylene and was keen to show us the Warrior.

This model is a side-fold steel trailer, with a polyethylene (hard) top/floor, which is an interesting departure from the norm, because most side-fold trailers have a soft top/floor.

"There are quite a few advantages," Warren told us. "When folded up, the poly floor provides a dust-proof and waterproof cover for your tent and bedding. When unfolded, it gives you a solid base to keep you high and dry off the ground.

"Further to that, most side-fold campers with soft floors are more easily erected by two people but with the Warrior, the floor is easily folded out with the assistance of gas struts by just one person. You can erect the tent in minutes without the need for ropes and poles, as the whole structure is self-supporting from the inside. Without the awning, the camper can be erected in minutes – it's great for overnight stops."



**Top:** A hard top lid protects the camper while on the road. **Above:** The polyethylene floor keeps the tent dust- and waterproof.

### TOUGH ENOUGH

The Warrior is built on a conventional 2in x 2in (50mm x 50mm) RHS chassis, with leaf spring suspension and rear corner stabilisers – the quick release variety. The similarly conventional 3in x 2in (75mm x 50mm) drawbar has an AT35 hitch and jockey wheel for the towing bit plus has an aluminium checkerplate toolbox and spare wheel.



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Steel is used for the body construction, and steel checkerplate is used for the mudguards as well as the fore and aft infills. Together with the polyethylene hard top, it is quite a neat looking trailer. Out of sight underneath the rear of the trailer is another polyethylene fitting, a 65 litre water tank.

Fitted on the trailer sides are the water filler, one 4kg gas cylinder and two jerry can holders.

It's worth pointing out that all the latches for the top and tailgate are stainless steel, an indication of the general quality of the build of the trailer.

Pinch weld rubber sealing is used throughout to ensure dust and water entry is kept to a minimum.

### UNDER COVER

Erecting the tent was quite easy for one person. Unclipping the latches and lifting the roof over, assisted by gas struts, took barely any time at all.

The tent (not connected to the roof when packed up) followed almost as quickly. It attaches to the floor by simple clips but future campers will be attached by Velcro all round the floor base, thus keeping the insect population at bay.

The poly base measures 5ft 6in x 6ft 8in (1.7m x 2m), has a lip about 6in (150mm) all round which looks like a very shallow swimming pool for keeping water out – but not in!

Outside the main tent the zip-on 8ft (2.5m) awning, complete with an end wall, gives good cover over the doorway and kitchen areas.

The bed height, at 3ft 3in (1m), is somewhat lower than most side-fold campers and taller persons won't need the standard aluminium ladder. Around each wall surrounding the queen-sized mattress are three large screened windows and there's also a full-sized window in the end

**Above:** Erecting the tent is easy for one person. **Right, top to bottom:** The bed is lower than in many side-fold campers; plenty of storage space; the small but convenient kitchen.

wall. Both side walls have a door each: one to give access to the awning side and the other to the optional side bedroom, which at 6ft (1.8m) square offers a good sized bedroom for children.

### SUMMING UP

With its polyethylene top/floor the Gulf King Warrior offers a very interesting piece of innovation to the camper trailer market on several counts.

Certainly the polyethylene floor is an innovative concept and while we cannot claim to have tested the poly floors to any great extent, we note that they come with a 25-year guarantee – not bad.

We also note that polyethylene water tanks are fitted underneath quite a few camper trailers from various manufacturers without any need for further mechanical protection.

Another item of interest is that most side-fold campers have a soft floor and generally speaking take a little longer to erect than a hard floor rear-fold camper. But the Gulf King Off-Road Warrior can be set up just as quickly and it also has a fairly attractive price.

Owners of smaller tow vehicles in particular will be interested in the unit's relatively low weight and resulting increase in fuel economy.

It's good to see some 'new' poly technology being used in the camper trailer market and we can't see why it shouldn't become more popular. We'll certainly watch with interest when the full polyethylene camper trailer appears. ■



### GULF KING WARRIOR

**Manufacturer**  
Gulf King  
**Model**  
Off-Road Warrior Camper  
**Advised Tare weight**  
500kg  
**Advised ATM**  
750kg  
**Advised ball weight**  
70kg  
**Price as reviewed**  
\$15,900

Gulf King, 46 Alexandra Street, Bundaberg, Qld 4670, (07) 4152 3737, fax: (07) 4152 1265, email: info@gulfking.com.au; web: www.gulfking.com.au