

Baby Boomer

The baby of the new Bailey Pursuit fleet is just a little over five metres in length, but its baby boomer target market is unlikely to find anything lacking, writes **Peta Stavelli**.

Those in the market for a new compact, single-axle British caravan with twin single beds, will perk up at their first viewing of the Bailey Pursuit.

The Pursuit series offers numerous layouts in caravans from 17-20 feet in length. All offer similar construction features familiar to Bailey fans, such as Alu-Tech construction; galvanised chassis; Alko anti-sway coupling; double-glazed windows and a Grade

Three heating and thermal insulation rating.

The latter feature, which is the mark of British-made recreational vehicles, will be of special interest to buyers looking for one suited to extended winter touring; especially when it's supported with the uber-efficiency of the installed Truma (dual fuel) Combi boiler.

But neither have summer tourers been overlooked. The Pursuit has loads of opening windows; all with insect screens as well as the usual blinds, and fully-

closing (as opposed to merely decorative) curtains. I particularly liked the opening front window which spans the entire front-end of the vehicle and also creates a light, ambient lounge-come-bedroom. Internal headroom is 6' 5", so tall folk are well catered for.

And so to bed. This was not a road test, so I will have to take as gospel the manufacturer's claim that the twin single settees are easily deployed on a smooth glide track to make a comfortable double.▶▶



In Pursuit... of a Jeep Grand Cherokee in this instance



The Heki skylight adds to natural light in the kitchen



Plenty of floor space in here. Nothing feels hemmed in



At just over five metres in length, the Pursuit remains compact enough for easy parking when not on the road



if preferred. However, I can attest to the cosy conviviality and practicality of this set up after enjoying an extended happy hour chatting with friends in their compact British caravan during a winter break in Oamaru. There was also a small caravan,

Specifications

Model:	Bailey Pursuit 400/2 2014
Price:	\$41,990 (at time of publication)
Berths:	2
Shipping length:	5.41m
Internal length:	4.18m
Overall width:	2.23m
Payload:	1090kg

but the open layout easily absorbed four adults for a thoroughly enjoyable early evening exchange.

For me, there are two other highlights in this vehicle: the practical kitchen layout and the rear bathroom, which is unexpectedly generous in the extreme. The light-filled kitchen owes a great deal to the well-positioned Heki skylights – but cooking odours and steam will also be easily dispelled through the practical kitchen window, placed up above the sink and stovetop.

Bench-top space is limited in this cosy, but workable space. RV galleys are always something of a compromise, but in this instance, some of the preparation could be done on the bench-top opposite. Either way, the glass stove top and stainless sink with chopping board cover, will be mostly adequate. Certainly the three-way 80-litre fridge is large enough to suit occupants and I always enjoy cooking on three burner hobs. There is always sufficient space for all of our needs, and in this instance the 240V microwave (read: plate warmer) would be much appreciated.

The spacious bathroom was a pleasant surprise. Not only is it light filled,



The Bailey Pursuit makes the most of available space

but it manages to combine a good-sized basin, swivel cassette toilet and a very generous shower with an Ecocamel shower head. This was the first time I had come across this name or concept, although it may be I have not been paying sufficient attention to the water economy of such an installation which makes perfect sense.



I was not as sure about the placement of the wardrobe into this space. There was certainly plenty of room for it, but something always rankles about designing all-important storage units for potentially damp environments. That said the 'dry' bathroom – with its large spate shower – has plenty of widows to ensure it's well vented. And there are numerous other well thought out storage options throughout the 'van, in the way of overhead lockers and under-bed storage.

And now to the nuts and bolts. I mentioned earlier the Alko Anti-sway



Pursuit 400-2 ††

Coupling. I'm such a fan of this recent technology which takes all the fear out of towing that I would not consider the purchase of a caravan which did not have it. This extra-ordinary development offers peace of mind for newbie towers, and also for seasoned travellers, because none of us is immune to the unexpected.

Being mindful of power savings, I cannot understand while LED lighting is not standard in all new RVs. It just makes sense. In this instance there are abundant LEDs throughout, as well 240V and 12V plugs; and the back-up security of a deep cycle battery. Thumbs up to the manufacturers for the installation of both carbon monoxide and smoke alarms; and also the smart new control panel.

Regular readers aware of prior problems associated with some British caravans will also appreciate the new bonding system, which marries bonded



- Light-filled interior
- Large bathroom
- Opening windows



- Wardrobe in bathroom

side and roof panels to the aluminium extrusion. Manufacturers claim this will offer increased strength to the lightweight vehicle, as well as protection against water ingress.

In summary, this is a cool wee caravan and I expect it will have broad appeal to the baby boomer market looking for a lighter, stronger, spacious, light-filled caravan that is compact and easy on the budget. ■

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A two berth caravan that still
offers space aplenty