

LIVING LARGE

The Wirraway Eurostyle requires a licence upgrade but that gets you the business

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY DES COOMBES





GOOD THINKING

Beautifully crafted interior, clever bathroom/bedroom door, large pantry space

COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER

Remote for auto-opening lockers, more natural lighting inside

While moving up to the large C-class motorhome does require one to obtain a light rigid driver's licence, it certainly does open up the options for improved living space when on tour. You simply can't get the amount of interior space and storage facilities in smaller, lighter motorhomes that you can with a C-class motorhome.

One company that specialises in the larger motorhomes is Wirraway. Wirraway builds C-class and A-class motorhomes at its Mildura, Victoria base.

Here we're looking at the EuroStyle 260, a motorhome with European-inspired interior furnishings, and the shared entry-level model (with the Wirraway 260) of the Wirraway range at a \$209,000 opening price. There is also the Wirraway 260 SL slide-out, priced from \$239,000 and the A-class Wirraway Evolution 330 SL at \$450,000 (all plus on-road costs).

CAB AND CHASSIS

The Sprinter cab-chassis is a familiar unit for motorhome conversion, and here it's the latest 2015 519 CDI model. This particular unit has the optional all-wheel drive powertrain, adding extra security for driving on slippery surfaces.



An aluminium bullbar is also an option fitted to this particular vehicle.

Another feature worth noting in the EuroStyle 260 – and which is standard – is its 100-litre fuel tank.

The Sprinter has driver and front passenger airbags, ABS brakes with traction and stability control, power windows, height-adjustable driver's seat, climate control air-conditioning and cruise control.

ON THE ROAD

The Sprinter's V6 turbo-diesel has plenty of power and torque and the seven-speed auto has a good pick of ratios and shifts smoothly. The Sprinter's 210mm ground



clearance is great for high-crowned roads. Vision out of the cab is very good with large side mirrors and the bullbar not only gives good protection against animal strikes but also makes it easier to see the front of the vehicle from the driver's seat.

INSIDE

The EuroStyle 260 has a very welcoming interior, with its use of blond timber finishes, beige leather and dark granite benchtop. The gloss-white walls and pale vinyl flooring adds to the bright, welcoming ambience. The fit and finish of this conversion is very good.

When you step into the motorhome (via the nearside door, with its automatic,

powered step) you're presented with the dining area to the left, kitchen in the centre and then to the right you have wardrobe/storage areas, the separate bathroom and shower and then the bedroom.

While the colour palette gives the Wirraway interior a pleasant, bright look, the hopper windows could allow more natural light into the main living area. On the nearside, there is one small window at the front and the window on the entry door. On the offside there are two windows over the dining area and the kitchen. This lack of large window openings is a compromise dictated by the layout; with the centre of the layout occupied by wardrobes and bathroom facilities, you can't expect to have windows here. Likewise within the dining area, the large lockers near the ceiling on each side of the dining area eat into window space. However, there is a ceiling fan above the dining area that allows in some natural light and there is also ample LED lighting to brighten the area on darker days.

Setting up the Wirraway for camp is not difficult; there are four electrically operated stabiliser legs (that you don't necessarily have to drop down) and once inside if desired all you need to do is spin the captain's chairs around and slide the table into position.

CATERING

The L-shaped kitchen area is quite compact in the EuroStyle. The stainless-steel sink is deep but quite compact in its circumference, and is augmented by a mixer tap offset to the right of the sink. The separate plastic drainage tray, plastic tub, cutting board, clip-on cutlery drainage rack and swing-up glass cover are all convenient, nice touches. While the kitchen bench area is acceptable, with the sink's glass cover and cooker's glass cover down there is a good deal of space for food preparation.

A water fountain sits on the kitchen bench, to which filtered, cold water is pumped.

The cooker is a good size with the bonus of not only a griller but also an oven. The microwave is built into the nearside wall opposite the cooker, and like many RVs, it is located quite high up, making retrieval of hot liquids a bit more difficult than if the microwave was mounted in a lower position.

The large three-way fridge-freezer is in a convenient position on the nearside wall



below the microwave and just opposite the kitchen.

There is a lot of kitchen storage space to choose from, starting with the floor to ceiling pantry located on the offside in the hall between the kitchen and bedroom. This is an excellent, relatively compact and very useful feature. Below the kitchen bench there is a surfeit of drawers — a total of eight, plus a pull-down hatch below the sink. There are also two lockers above the kitchen.

Many people prefer cooking outside, and the EuroStyle has this covered. On the nearside rear, one of the large lockers opens to reveal a roll-out Coleman cooker.

SLEEPING QUARTERS

The central corridor of the motorhome opens up to the bedroom at the rear. This is a light, airy space with a particularly large nearside hopper window and two smaller windows, one at the rear and one on the offside.

The queen-size island bed is flanked by bedside tables, each with three drawers, and a narrow, mirrored wardrobe above the tables. There are two high-mounted lockers on each of the three walls of the bedroom. The bed lifts via strut assistance to reveal further storage space, and internal access to the external drawer. Fabric-covered pelmets and lined curtains feature throughout the motorhome.



KEEPING CLEAN

The shower, located on the offside in the bedroom area, offers ample room beyond its curved sliding glass door. There are three useful horizontal surfaces moulded into the shower enclosure and a ceiling fan and vent. The toilet is positioned on the nearside wall just off the bedroom, and this generous space has an upper wall locker on the nearside wall and a small sink offset to the right of the ceramic cassette toilet. The bathroom door can be swung into the corridor to close off the bedroom for additional privacy.

The plumbing includes an external hose on a power-operated reel (for rewinding the hose) that pumps with enough pressure to even wash the motorhome, plus there is also an external shower.

ELECTRICS


The EuroStyle 260 has a comprehensive electrical system. The key to the system is the EC325 power supply unit, which coordinates the power supply between 240-volt inlet, the 25-amp automatic smart battery charger and the two 120-amp deep-cycle batteries. The EC325

even monitors the water supply and automatically fills the 118-litre tank (from an external source) when required.

STORAGE

Not only is storage well covered inside, but there is ample storage outside the Wirraway, too. There are five roll-out lockers around the side and the rear of the motorhome, each unlocked via a power remote button. Three of the lockers (two on the offside, one of the nearside has a strut-assist, dust-sealed lid that is secured with compression locks. The nearside rear locker swings up and houses the Coleman cooker, hose reel, HDMI/co-axial jacks, 12-volt port and an external speaker. One offside locker opens to reveal the three 4.5kg gas bottles. At the rear, a slide-out tray reveals further storage space.

VERDICT

The EuroStyle 260 is a superbly finished, quality motorhome. It has the living space, convenience features and storage to make any tour a very pleasant one. Added to that is its electrical and plumbing capacity to go free-camping in comfort and style. 

SPECIFICATIONS

VEHICLE

Manufacturer	Wirraway
Model	EuroStyle 260
Base vehicle	Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 519 CDI
Tare weight	4490kg
GVM	5250kg
Licence	Light Rigid
Passengers	Two

MECHANICALS

Engine	V6 turbo-diesel
Power	140kW at 3800rpm
Torque	440Nm at 1400-2400rpm
Gearbox	Seven-speed automatic
Brakes	Discs (front and rear)

DIMENSIONS

External length	7900mm (26ft)
External width	2250mm (7ft, 3in)
(incl awning)	
External height	3150mm (10ft, 3in)
Internal height	2000mm (6ft, 5in)
Rear bed size	1800mm x 1540mm (5ft, 9in x 5ft)

EQUIPMENT

Cooktop	Two gas/one electric
Fridge	150-litre Dometic RM2555
Microwave oven	27-litre Sharp
Lighting	12V LED
Batteries	2 x 120 a/h deep-cycle
Solar panels	Optional
Air-conditioner	Air Command Ibis
Toilet	Thetford ceramic bowl cassette
Shower	Separate cubicle
Hot water heater	23-litre gas/240V
Space heater	n/a
Water tank	118 litres
Gas tank	52 litres
Gas cylinders	3 x 4.5kg
PRICE	\$243,700 (plus on-road costs)



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