

# iMotorhome

because getting there is half the fun...

# Luxury Explorer



**Wirraway's 4X4 takes off-road  
comfort to the extreme...**

by Malcolm Street.

## 2 | Day Test: Wirraway Eurostyle 260 SL 4X4



Being able to get off the beaten track – and back on – with confidence is what this 4X4 Wirraway is all about. Luxury in the bush – what more could you want?

Four-wheel drive motorhomes are thin on the ground. There are some good reasons for that; mostly to do with either practicality or cost. Until a few years ago, those wanting to travel off-road either had the choice of something built on a Toyota Hilux 4X4 or Isuzu truck 4X4 (normally used in bushfire tankers) or something very expensive like a MAN 4X4 truck chassis. Iveco has changed the game somewhat with its compact Daily 4X4, currently only used by specialist manufacturers, but it was Mercedes Benz that made the most difference, with its 4X4 Sprinter in both van and cab-chassis form.

Mildura-based Wirraway Motorhomes builds on just about all the current range on Sprinter cab-chassis, so when a customer came along looking for 4X4 motorhome it wasn't a difficult request to meet.

### The Vehicle

For its standard motorhomes Wirraway normally supplies the Sprinter 516 CDI, with a 2.2-litre turbo-diesel producing 120 kW and 360 Nm. However, for a four-wheel drive a little more grunt helps, so the more powerful 519 CDI model is preferred. It's a 3.0-litre turbo-diesel producing 140 kW and 440 Nm that drives through a 5-speed automatic transmission (2WD Sprinter auto are 7-speed).

In terms of motorhome construction, a box-section RHS aluminium frame supports a 12 mm plywood floor. Above that, composite styrofoam/fibreglass vacuum sealed panels form up the wall structure, which includes Seitz double-glazed hopper windows and a Dometic door with a fixed window. Two-pack epoxy

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**Right:** The slide-out barbecue is a nice touch.  
**Below:** The rear drawer is at a good height, while the side lockers, with their dust-sealing lids, provide easy access to stored items, including the gas cylinders. All are remotely controlled!



paint is used on the entire body structure for increased durability as well as good looks.

External storage is definitely a feature of Wirraway motorhomes! Instead of conventional lockers, most are drawers – with some having a dust sealing lid – and all are operated by remote control! Particularly handy is the rear drawer that's at a very user-friendly height.

External drawers are certainly different to the usual set-up and an advantage is minimal bending over, including the gas cylinder bin (with 3 x 4.5 kg cylinders) and the storage for the 2

KVA generator. On the kerb side it also means a convenient table top for the adjoining slide-out BBQ. Another Wirraway feature is the automatic hose rewriter that has enough water pressure delivery that allows for washing the motorhome or pumping water from another source, like a river, without contaminating your potable supply. Very clever!

### On The Road

**T**he 519 CDI Sprinter powers along and it's difficult to pick any difference to the more usual two-wheel drive, even in ride quality.

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“ I gained the impression that even proprietor Rob Tonkin was impressed with the vehicle's abilities.”

Where the 4X4 did count was on some nice red-dirt tracks that Rob Tonkin, owner of Wirraway, managed to find. That was where the bigger V6 turbo-diesel really counted. It delivered enough power so the motorhome could easily climb the hilly tracks, while the 4X4 system delivered good traction. I gained the impression that even proprietor

Tonkin was impressed with the vehicle's abilities. Sure the 4X4 Wirraway doesn't have the ground clearance, arrival/ departure/ramp-over angles or toughness of a Land Cruiser, but it gives extra traction when needed and provides peace-of-mind when venturing onto gravel roads and in to bush campsites.

### Living Inside

Wirraway has relatively few layouts in its range, but there's nothing wrong with that. Far better in my opinion to keep refining a layout that already works well, rather than the scatter gun approach some manufacturers seem to use!

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The kitchen isn't massive, but is well equipped and even has a top-loading washer in the benchtop corner. Drawer space is considerable, too.



In this case the 4X4 has the Eurostyle 260 layout. It consists of an island bed in the rear with a split bathroom separating the bedroom from the front living area. Both cab seats swivel and work in well with sideways-facing lounges on either side and table in the middle. That leaves the central area for the entry door, plus the L-shaped kitchen bench on the driver's side. Like many a layout, the result is bedroom/bathroom area in the rear and lounge/dining up the front. Generally speaking, the layout has been fairly evenly proportioned; that is no one area (like the front lounge) has been compromised too much because of, say, a large bathroom.

Tasmanian Myrtle timber or laminate is used for the all interior cabinetry and the end result is very pleasing to the eye. A feature of note are the large handles on all the cupboard doors and overhead lockers. Often, catches are

quite small and not easy for those with arthritic fingers. Large roof hatches, generous window space and a glossy white ceiling all contribute to a light, bright interior. During the evening, well situated LED ceiling and under-locker lights do the same.

### Electrics

In this layout most electrical controls, including the radio/CD player, are either above the doorway or down the panel beside the doorway: all very handy. Keeping the two 120 AH batteries charged are a 25 A smart charger, the vehicle alternator and in this case, optional solar panels. Controlling all those is a Sargent EC325 control panel. Electrical systems in any RV these days can be quite complex, so it's helpful at least when the controls and switching are mostly in the same location.

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Having the major electrical and system controls grouped together by the entry door is a good feature.

## 7 | Day Test

**Below:** For a motorhome with a central split bathroom there's still a good feeling of space.

**Bottom:** Cupboard and drawer handles are well sized for older fingers.



### Lounging Around

Although the sideways lounges aren't particularly long, they will seat a person on each side quite comfortably. Of course, there are the swivelled cab seats as well, with all seating nicely upholstered in leather. Fitting neatly in between the seats, the table is finished in exactly the same way as the bench tops: that is, with a timber edged laminate.

Above the cab seats it's all quite open with a handy shelf across the front and small cupboards on either side. Overhead lockers are fitted on both sides above the lounges. TV viewing is fairly easily accomplished because the front TV (there are two) is mounted above the fridge on the rear side of the entry door, and in this position can be seen from all the seats.



## 8 | Day Test



### Time To Eat

One thing is for sure: In the kitchen there's no shortage of drawers – eight to be precise! All are fitted into the L-shaped bench, with the stainless steel sink/drainer sitting at right angles to the wall and the cooktop/grill/oven in the more conventional position against the wall. There's even a bit of bench space squeezed in between the two. It's not immediately obvious, but fitted into the corner of the kitchen bench is a top loading washing machine. It might seem a funny place to locate it, but frequently that corner space is hard to use effectively, so it's not a bad location at all. Just move the wine bottles and glasses first!

Fitted in between the kitchen bench and adjoining shower cubicle is a full height slide-out pantry – one with decent shelves so that food supplies don't bounce out when travelling on rough roads. Across the aisle the

**Below:** Kitchen storage space is well catered for!  
**Bottom:** Quality Tasmanian myrtle timber gives the Wirraway's interior a real sense of style.



## 9 | Day Test



**Above:** The kerb-side bathroom cubicle is well equipped and houses the toilet and vanity.

**Below:** The driver's-side shower cubicle is nicely rounded and a good size.

186 L 3-way fridge is topped by a microwave oven, which is a fair height off the floor, plus the aforementioned flat screened TV.

### Keeping Clean

Forming up the split bathroom is a Euro-style (partly rounded) shower cubicle on the driver's side and a toilet cubicle directly opposite. The latter having not only a cassette toilet, but also a shaving cabinet and vanity cabinet with pedestal style wash basin. Supplying the ventilation are a small window and a fan hatch in the ceiling. Handy additions are towel rails on both sides. The toilet cubicle door can be used to close off the bathroom/bedroom area from the front of the motorhome.

### After Hours

Sitting in all its splendour in the rear is an island bed. It's surrounded on three sides by good sized windows and comes with a well crafted bed head, side



## 10 | Day Test

“ WHERE THE 4X4 DID COUNT WAS ON SOME NICE RED-DIRT TRACKS THAT ROB TONKIN, OWNER OF WIRRAWAY, MANAGED TO FIND. ”





**Above:** The island bed is surrounded by windows, providing an abundance of light and fresh air.

**Left:** Tables, drawers and a wardrobe are provided on both sides of the bed.

cabinets, wardrobes and overhead lockers. The wardrobes are the hanging variety, leaving enough space for a bedside shelf, complete with power point.

## What I Think

I don't think it is being disrespectful to Wirraway to suggest it might be better to classify this motorhome as an all-wheel drive unit rather than a four-wheel drive. After all, it's size and ground clearance are going to restrict its abilities somewhat. But at the same time, having traction on all four wheels improves the vehicle's abilities considerably, especially in the likes of mud or snow.

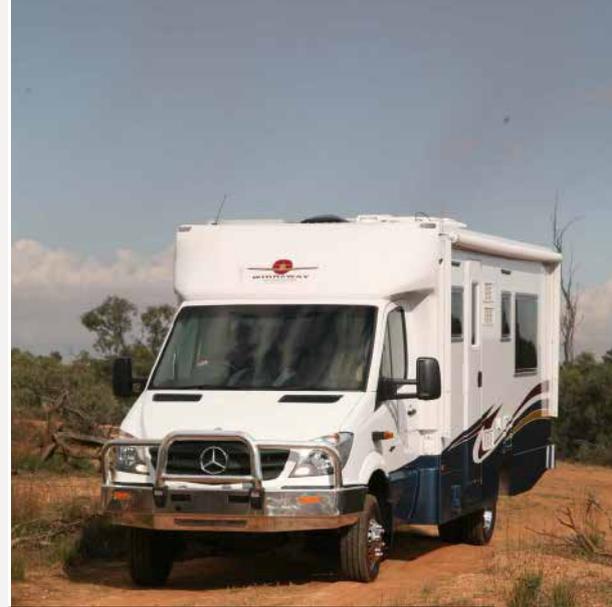
Apart from that the 4X4 EuroStyle 260 comes with all the features we have come to expect from Wirraway. It provides luxury travel with added ability and would be a very civilised way to go see even more of Australia than is usually possible. 🚐

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# Specifications

Manufacturer	Wirraway Motorhomes
Model	Eurostyle 260 4X4
Base Vehicle	Mercedes Benz 519 CDI
Engine	3.0 L V6 turbo-diesel
Power	140 kW @ 3800 rpm
Torque	440 Nm @ 1400-2400 rpm
Gearbox	5 speed auto
Brakes	ABS Disc
Tare Weight	4280 kg
Gross Vehicle Mass	5250 kg
Towing capacity	2000 kg
Licence	Light Rigid (LR)
Approved Seating	2
External Length	7.90 m (26 ft)
External Width	2.25 m (7 ft 5 in)
External Height	3.15 m (10 ft 4 in)
Internal Height	2.00 m (6 ft 6 in)
Rear Bed Size	1.88 m x 1.52 m (6 ft 2 in x 5 ft)
Cooktop	Dometic 4 burner, grill & oven
Fridge	Dometic RM4605 186 L
Microwave	Sharp Carousel
Lighting	12 V LED
Batteries	1 x 120 AH
Solar Panels	1 x 135 W
Air Conditioner	Air Command Ibis
Space Heater	Optional
Hot Water	Truma 14 L
Toilet	Thetford cassette
Shower	Separate cubicle
Gas Cylinders	3 x 4.5 kg
Water Tank	118 L
Grey Water Tank	52 L
Price	\$235,000 (on road in VIC)

Layout see Page 41. >>>>



## Pros

- Quality
- Sprinter 4X4 chassis
- Very generous external bin capacity
- Sophisticated water hose/pump system
- Stylish, light and bright interior
- Well proportioned interior
- Kitchen drawer space

## Cons

- Ground clearance off-road
- Smallish water capacity

## Manufacturer

**Thanks to  
Wirraway Motorhomes**

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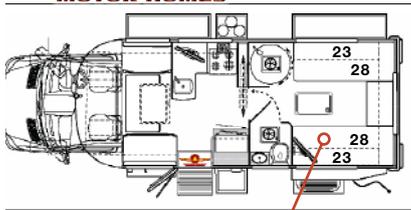


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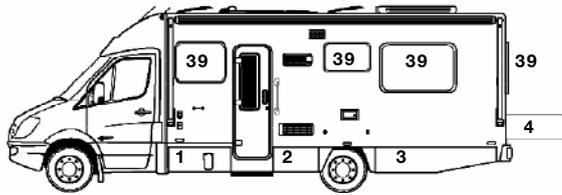


## The EuroStyle 260

From Wirraway "Australia's Most Innovative Motorhomes"



The Wirraway EuroStyle 260 Options Include:  
Single Beds Layout (28) with side overheads (23)



### Automatic - Remote Locking Drawers

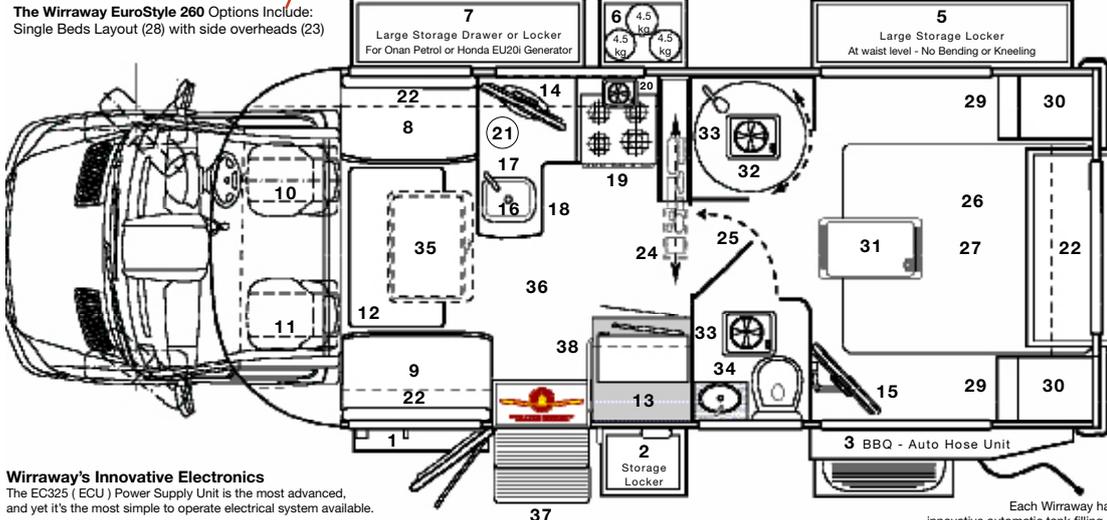
When you enter your vehicle, there's a "Key tab" to select and open any one or all 7 storage drawers / service lockers. Once remotely activated the drawer system locks after itself by automatically releasing and activating the pneumatic opening mechanism that unlocks and extends the drawer for you at waist level. Each drawer has a Locking Lid that doubles as a tabletop or convenient workbench, refer to illustrated items 1 - 7 below.



Key tab for Remote operation of all 7 Storage Drawers and Service Lockers

### Snapshot Specs

- 1 - 7 Storage - Service Lockers
- 8 - 9 Full Leather Lounges
- 10 - 11 Matching Leather Swivel Captains Chairs
- 12 Large Swivel Table
- 13 Dometic 150lt AES fridge with 27lt Microwave over
- 14 22" LCD Television
- 15 Optional LCD Television
- 16 Large Kitchen Sink
- 17 Large Kitchen benches
- 18 Deep Drawers
- 19 Stove, Oven, Grill
- 20 3 x Gas + 240v Hotplate
- 21 Dometic Rangehood
- 22 Waste Bin with Lid
- 23 Overhead Overheads
- 24 Optional Overheads
- 25 Full Height Pantry
- 26 Privacy Door
- 27 Double Bed with Storage
- 28 Queen Bed Optional
- 29 Single Beds Optional
- 30 Bedside Table - Drawers
- 31 Half Wardrobe
- 32 Roof Mounted AC
- 33 Separate Circular Shower
- 34 12v Vented Roof Hatch
- 35 Separate Toilet - Vanity
- 36 Skylite - Roof Hatch
- 37 Vinyl Floor Covering
- 38 Carpet is an Option
- 39 Automatic Entry Step
- 40 Access Assist Handle
- 41 Large Windows throughout



### Wirraway's Innovative Electronics

The EC325 ( ECU ) Power Supply Unit is the most advanced, and yet it's the most simple to operate electrical system available.



Layout or specifications that are subject to change without notice.

Each Wirraway has an innovative automatic tank filling & electric rewinding mechanism for the food grade water hose. See full documentation for details.

### For Details & Pricing Contact Our Sales Team

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## The Wirraway 260 SL

With it's Full Length Slideout Room & Apartment Styled Layout!

From WIRRAWAY, "Australia's Most Innovative Motorhomes"

**3D VIRTUAL TOURS**



Wirraway is a dedicated family owned business striving for Motorhome excellence. Our Motorhomes are our passion! Every Wirraway Motorhome is handbuilt and designed by experienced motorhomers who know the importance of making life easier on the road.

New to our Range is the brilliant 'live like a movie star' Wirraway 260 SL, the latest in our 260 series; our EuroStyle 260 with it's European styled interior and "The Motorhome of the Year", the Wirraway 260.

Wirraway Motorhomes feature opulence, style and all the legendary design, electrical and construction innovations that are unique to all Wirraways.

**Each Wirraway Model is unique! - All are a Must See!**

*View Our New Website to view All Models, Download Brochures & Virtual Reality Tours*



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