



# Mahindra's blue-singlet ute

By MALCOLM McCOSKER

**W**HILE traditional cold climate Christmas transportation might well be a sleigh drawn by a team of reindeer, a more practical vehicle for a sweltering Queensland summer yuletide break was the rugged Mahindra Pik-Up cab chassis ute.

Although most motoring scribes usually get in early to negotiate for more glamorous or luxurious test vehicles for holiday motoring, yours truly was quite happy to accept an extended loan test of the Indian-made, blue singlet Mahindra workhorse.

With diesel engine, manual transmission, four wheel drive and a steel frame chassis that would do credit to a much larger working truck, our Mahindra was no show pony.

But when it came to transport a pile of fallen giant palm fronds, trimmed garden trees and other assorted backyard waste, the doughty Mahindra revealed its enormous appetite for hard work and volume cargo carrying.

Like any willing workhorse, the Mahindra Pik-Up needs good loads to show its true mettle. Driven empty on any surface other than slick highway bitumen the Mahindra ute experience can resemble a rodeo bull ride. That's understandable because it is, after all, a fair dinkum working truck and doesn't pretend to be anything else.

The character changes of course when a heavy load of sawn timber beams for some real or imagined backyard project bends the big leaf springs to a more workaday profile, or when you help a cattle country mate to transport stock feed

bags and supplement blocks stacked high in the aluminium tray for a one trip job rather than several in a smaller standard-sized ute that doubles as a second car.

Wherever it went during those busy three weeks, the Mahindra had a commanding presence. Even an amorous Brahman bull, which reckoned the big white thing was getting to close to his beloved females thought better of a challenge when confronted with a vehicle snout that was broader, higher and harder than his own.

Powered by a 2.5 litre common rail turbo diesel engine and with electric shift four-wheel-drive, our test model Mahindra Pik-Up cab chassis model in arctic white paint had recommended retail price, including GST, of \$27,499.

Even better news for intending Mahindra buyers is a major sale offer now under way that knocks up to \$3000 off all model choices.

Because of home duties and a bit of Christmas family visiting, there was little opportunity to try the Mahindra's awesome four wheel drive capabilities, but I have no doubt that on the Cooloola sand beach or along timber hauling tracks of the Mapleton high country this work hungry Indian would hold its own with anything else in the 4WD category.

Despite their obvious rugged work capabilities, the Mahindra vehicles come with a list of highly sophisticated features. Our 4WD Pik-Up for example has automatic hub locks and limited slip differential, load adjusting headlights from within the cabin, tilt steering column, power windows, dual front

airbags for driver and passenger, anti lock brakes, remote central locking, follow-me-home headlights and crash protection crumple zones plus side intrusion protection beams.

The cab interior has ample leg and shoulder room plus excellent storage spaces including a map pocket, cup holder and mobile phone slot. As one would expect in a reliable workhorse vehicle the Mahindra carries a full size spare wheel – no nasty surprises with a slimline spare that means a quick trip to the nearest tyre dealer.

Mahindra Automotive Australia is a joint venture between Indian auto manufacturer Mahindra & Mahindra and Australian distributor TMI Pacific, formed to continue the growth and distribution of the Mahindra range of vehicles in Australia.

The Mahindra group, worth around SUS6.7 billion, is among the top 10 industrial houses in India and a market leader in multi-utility vehicles in India.

Mahindra also has made a recent entry into the two wheeler segment of transport vehicles which will see the company emerge as a full-range player with a presence in almost every segment of the automotive industry.

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A rugged workhorse with a dual personality for off road recreation, our test model Mahindra Pik-Up 4WD cab chassis ute needed a good solid payload to smooth out the ride of its strong leaf spring suspension.



# Pick up a hardworking Mahindra for big savings

**M**AHINDRA Automotive Australia has launched a national Rock Bottom Sale on its entire range of Pik-Ups, where every Mahindra will be on sale.

Amazing deals are being offered by new dealers in Western Australia and the dealer network in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland on all 4x4, 4x2, cab chassis, single or dual cab Mahindra Pik-Up variants, with savings up to \$3000 across the full range. Free alloy wheels will also be available on selected models during this time.

“With our '09 run-out this is the ideal time for Australian drivers to get an even better value for money workhorse ute that is made for the hardest places on Earth,” MMA chief executive officer Claire Tynan said.

The Mahindra Pik-Up, which was designed to withstand the

toughest of Australian conditions, has a 2.5 litre intercooled common rail turbo charged diesel engine and additional safety features such as ABS brakes and airbags, which were introduced mid-2009.

Available in an array of colours and offering extensive standard features including limited slip differentials on both two and four wheel drive models, the Mahindra Pik-Up has 210mm ground clearance, 24 hour road side assist, colour-coded bumpers, power windows/steering/mirrors and an 80 litre fuel tank, perfect for those road trips with family and friends this Summer.

It also comes standard with creature comforts such as air conditioning front and rear, tilt steering, load adjusting headlamps, remote central locking with immobiliser and a sound system with full CD/MP player and radio, USB port and an

SD card port that allows one to listen to music from a variety of sources with safety-first audio controls on the steering wheel.

Ergonomic seating, foot steps, fog lights, front and rear demisters and follow-me-home headlights are also standard. The instrument cluster has a contemporary look with all controls designed with ease of access and operation in mind. For security purposes, the Mahindra Pik-Up is fitted with an alarm and immobiliser, and offers keyless entry as standard equipment.

Sale prices on all Mahindra Pik-Up models and variants will be available until mid-February.

**◆ For more information on the Pik-up range, contact your nearest Mahindra dealer.**



The Mahindra Pik-Ups have gone on sale Australia-wide.