

The Advanced Engineering Technology of the Ford Everest 4wd

By John Bourke

When Raewyn and I splashed out on a new Leisureline Southern Star caravan a couple of years ago, we then needed to upgrade the towing capacity of our tow wagon. Our Toyota Prado only had a legal tow capacity of 2:5 tonne and our new caravan weighed in at 2:4 tonne when empty. With food, clothes, bedding and camping equipment we would be well overweight for the Prado.

We needed to search the market for a suitable tow vehicle and eventually chose a Ford Everest with a legal tow rating of 3 tonnes. The Everest is the RV wagon version of the very popular Ford Ranger Utility vehicle. The major mechanical difference is the Everest comes with a wide variety of engineering and technological delights. Among them is a self parking feature, which supposedly reduces your stress and automatically should prevent any incidents, or bending, whilst going about this manoeuvre.

Recently I was planting a tree to provide shade during sunny days, for our cattle and sheep. Due to a lack of a suitable vehicle, I took the Everest towing a trailer to the back of the farm. Arriving on site, I stopped on a slight hill, put it in park and applied the handbrake. (As one does.) Off came the shovel and fertiliser from the trailer and I set about digging a hole to plant the tree. Suddenly a slight squelching noise caught my attention. I looked behind me and 'lo and behold', the Everest was on the move, all four wheels skidding on the grass. A rapid decision was required. Do I run after it and attempt to jump in and drive it on to more level ground? It was beginning to slide sideways to the hill with the driver's door on the bottom side. Now I might be nearly

past my 'use by date' but I could see no benefit at all in advancing that inevitability! So, Everest you clever devil, go park yourself, I quickly decided.

After 100 metres downhill, two fences demolished, one trailer buckled; the results of the self parking feature of a bent Ford Everest is well illustrated here.

John

