

ISUZU EQUIPMENT

Adri's passing away brought about some lifestyle changes. One of the biggest decisions was to stop with serious overlanding for the foreseeable future, and sell our fully kitted Land Rover Defender Hardtop. I replaced it with something more suitable for my present circumstances – i.e. an Isuzu KB300 Extended Cab 4x4.

I took delivery of the vehicle on 22 January 2016 and had the windows slightly tinted to cut the harsh Namibian sunlight, the load box rubberised, and a heavy duty tow bar fitted. I also ordered an additional spare wheel as I do quite a bit of travelling over weekends into areas where there are hardly any shops – let alone a place where a tyre can be bought.



The first thing I did after that was to fit a Valor 6-wheel tyre pressure monitoring system.



I mounted a small 15 litre Engel fridge/freezer and a Victron 150W pure sine-wave inverter behind the front seats. Now I can have cold drinks at hand whilst driving and have the ability to charge camera batteries and my laptop on the road. I fitted one of my VHF radios, with a magnetic base antenna, below the front passenger seat.



I then purchased an aluminium canopy, and decided on the one by Big Country. As they are manufactured to order, there was a lead time of 6 weeks. The canopy arrived a week before I was due to depart on a 10-day trip to the Southern Cape. One small problem though they made the canopy 90mm too narrow after some very “diplomatic” e-mails, a temporary frame was built so that the canopy could still be fitted. On top of this, I fitted a new Big Country aluminium rooftop tent. It is not as good as the glass fibre Wild Earth one I used on the Landy, but the vehicle can pass through a “standard” garage door opening with 30mm to spare when the tent is fitted. The biggest advantage of this tent is that I can carry a load on top of it AND I don’t have to remove the load to sleep in it.



A week after I returned from the Southern Cape, I made some very serious structural alterations to the front of the vehicle



The 2-month old vehicle with 6240km on its odometer was a write off..... Fortunately the insurance replaced it with a new one. I took delivery of it on 8 April 2016 and had to refit everything to the new one again.

The new canopy (correct this time) was fitted, and I mounted strip lights above the gullwing doors, an ARB compressor and a spade to the inside of it. I fitted tie-down rails to the floor and pulled two 16mm² cables from the main battery under the engine hood to the load box.

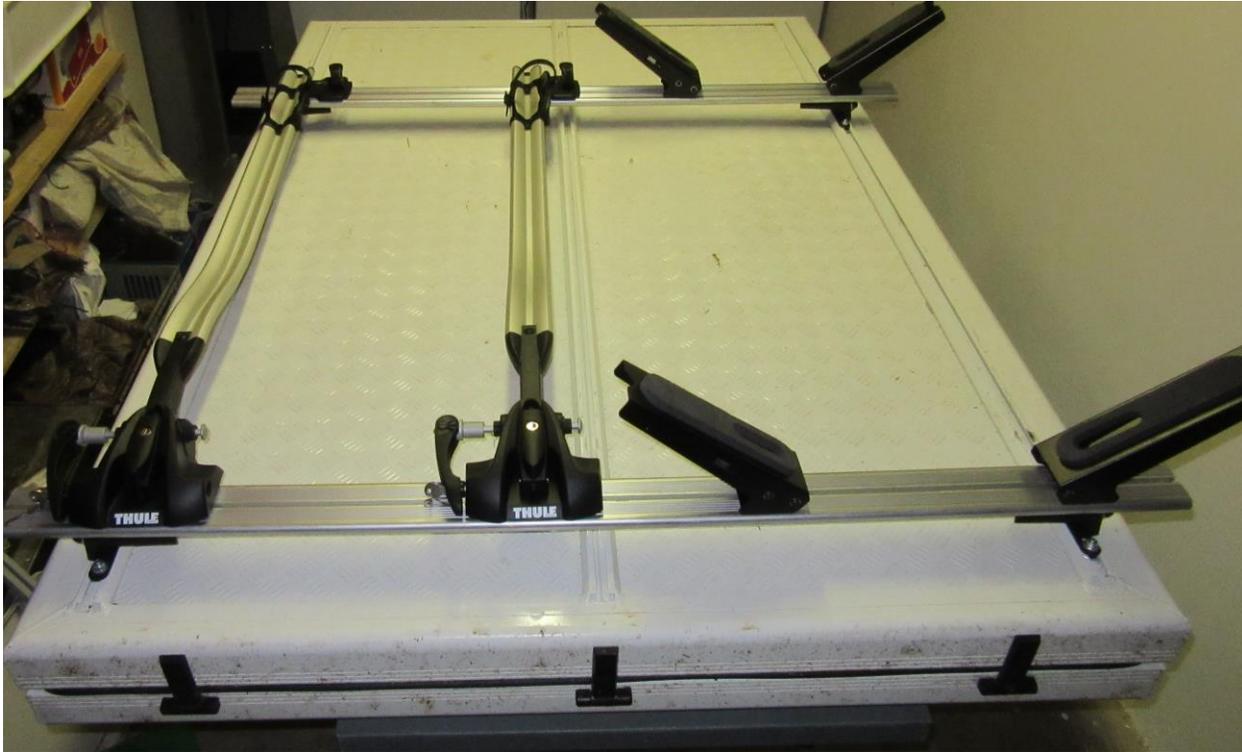


I purchased a National Luna Split charging battery box, a 102 Ah Deltec High Cycle battery and a C-Tec battery charger. I also fitted a 52 litre National Luna Weekender fridge/freezer and a storage box for some tools and recovery equipment.





The additional set of loadbars arrived on 15 April. They can be mounted on the canopy or the rooftop tent, depending on circumstances, and I fitted carriers for my bicycles and kayak to it.



And this is basically all that needs to be done to meet by present requirements
