



New Products

Hauling headaches sorted

FOR work or recreation, finding space in the back of the ute to fit all the gear has caused farmers headaches since the invention of the automobile.

While many "stop-gap" solutions of varying safety and questionable effectiveness have been put into place during the years, permanently preventing the problem is a goal which has remained elusive.

However, the release of the new HitchMate cargo carrier looks to have squashed the conundrum.

The HitchMate is a hitch-mounted stationary platform designed to supplement the cargo-carrying capacity of any standard sedan, wagon, ute or four wheel drive.

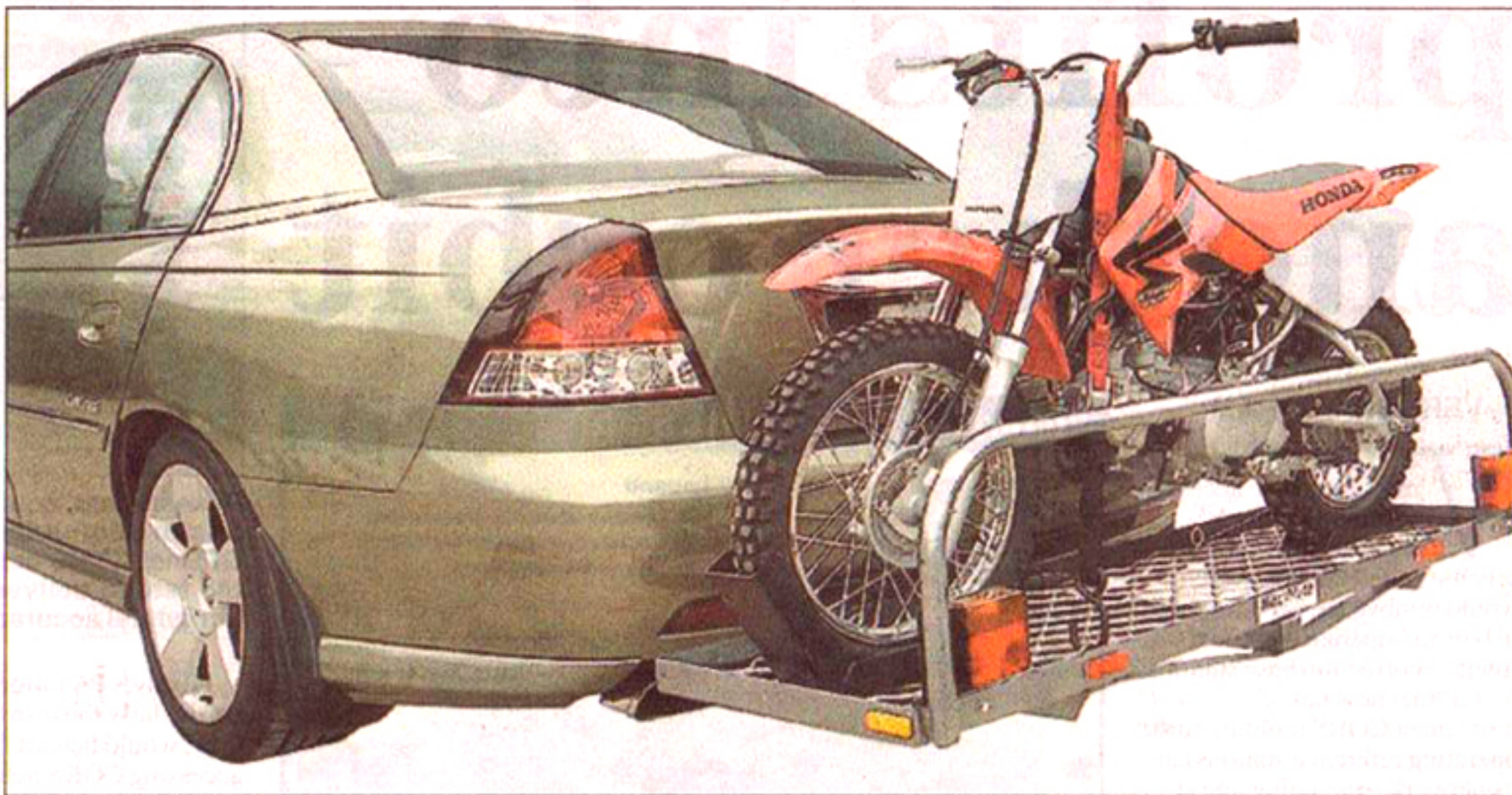
Inserting the HitchMate into a vehicle's permanent tow-bar provides a platform with a carrying capacity of as much as 160 kilograms.

Cargo previously difficult to accommodate due to size, quantity, or just considered undesirable, can be externally secured and transported on the cargo carrier.

The dangers of lifting excess cargo onto the roof of the vehicle is also eliminated by the HitchMate.

According to a HitchMate spokesman, the carrier is built to a reinforced industrial design using high-grade, premium materials and hardwearing coatings, making it one of the strongest hitch-mounted cargo carriers on the market.

HitchMate is manufactured with a powder-coated galvanised steel



The HitchMate is designed to supplement the carrying capacity of any sedan, wagon, ute or 4x4.

structure and bracing, a tempered aluminium mesh-bed and solid stainless steel fittings and, when fitted correctly, is totally compliant with all Australian stringent safety codes, allowing for use on public roads.

Despite the high carrying capacity, the HitchMate only weighs 15kg to 20kg and is small enough to be portable and easily stored.

According to the spokesman, the system takes less than a minute to secure and when not in use would fit into a garage or garden shed.

He said the structure was strong

and virtually rust and corrosion proof.

It was a cheaper option to increase vehicle load carrying capacity, with no annual registration or government fees.

HitchMate said the carrier design had reduced petrol consumption compared to other trailers due to reduced wind drag.

The system is directly attached to the vehicle and so does not articulate when reversed, removing the risk of jack-knifing.

HitchMate is an Australian company manufacturing on the Sun-

shine Coast, Queensland, using all-Australian materials and local employees.

The range is available in three sizes and custom made HitchMates can also be built and tailored to suit specific needs.

The three standard sizes are the "Hitchie" model for compact vehicles; the "Standard" model suited for mid-range cars and small utilities, and the "XL" model for full size four wheel drives, mobile homes and large sedans.

■ **Contact HitchMate,**
(07) 5437 8300.