



bicycle – with the left-hand handlebar lever operating the rear internal hub brake and the right one applying side-pull ‘pincer’ brakes to the front wheel.

To start the VelectriX, simply turn the key in the lock above the battery to the start position then press the power button. The bike’s LED display lights up, showing you the gear the bike is in and you can select the level of power assistance you require on the adjacent buttons. Of course, the VelectriX also comes with lights.

You then ride the VelectriX like any other bicycle, pedalling and braking as normal, with both levers equipped with sensors to cut power during braking. Use the gears as on a normal bicycle, depending on the gradient.

There are a number of VelectriX models, including electric mountain bikes, but the handy thing about the Foldaway model is that it will fold into an 85x55x67cm package into its own carry bag for storage, meaning you should find room for one or two in your RV.

It may seem expensive until you consider the benefits it may have while on your travels. Add to that the fact that it is beautifully made and backed with a two-year local warranty.

– Michael Browning

POWER TO YOUR PEDALS

There are many benefits to motorhomes, but one of the disadvantages is that once you’ve set up on site, it can be a pain to pack up again to drive to the shops or a local attraction. A healthy, practical and relatively affordable solution to this dilemma is to carry an electric bicycle.

If you think the idea of a battery-assisted ‘e-bike’ is a gimmick, or a sign of senility, then you obviously haven’t ridden one like the VelectriX Foldaway.

VelectriX is an Australian company that has partnered with a long-established and successful European e-bike manufacturer to design and build a range of e-bikes specifically for the Australian and New Zealand markets.

As a keen cyclist, I was initially sceptical of the concept, but one ride on this stylish set of wheels set me straight. With five selectable levels of pedal assistance available from its 36V 200W Bafang front motor combined with its three-speed hub gears, you can select the level of physical interaction that best suits you, or the terrain.

For example, there’s a very steep hill in our street that really gets me panting on my lightweight 8kg bike, but which could be assailed with relative ease on the 19.7kg VelectriX. I say ‘relative’, as even in the lowest gear with maximum power assistance you still need to pedal, but not

too hard. On flatter terrain you can choose to do relatively little if you choose a higher gear and let the motor do most of the work.

As you would expect, riding range on a single charge of the VelectriX’s 8Ah lithium ion ‘brick’ depends on how much you call on it for assistance, but used with some human interaction on relatively flat country, you can expect to travel up to 45km in economy mode, at speeds up to 30km/h.

No special licence is required and you can ride a VelectriX anywhere you can legally ride a bicycle, which means an approved bike helmet is a must.

The battery holds its charge well in between rides and you should only need to give it a full recharge every few days with normal use. This takes up to five hours from fully depleted and can be performed by connecting the battery to any 240V source via its supplied charger – either removed from its seat post cradle or left in situ. If you are free camping, you could also recharge it from your RV’s 12V system via a suitable inverter.

EASY RIDER

Riding the VelectriX is easy and its step-through frame design, with height adjustable saddle, means your feet can be flat on the ground while you feel your way or when stopped at traffic lights. Stopping is also simple – just like a



2016 VelectriX Foldaway e-bike

RRP: \$1995

Where: Online and selected bicycle stores

More info: www.velectrix.com.au

Rating: ★★★★★