

TAKE

IT

E-EASY

WORDS NOEL PROBERT

The electric bike scene in Australia is booming (or more appropriately, humming quietly but purposefully). Only a few years ago, mainstream bike shops didn't stock them or service them, forcing would-be e-riders to order them online or through backyard importers. Complete bikes were expensive and difficult to get, while DIY conversion kits offered a cheaper alternative with a big variation in quality, usability and after-sales service. Those days are behind us now, however, with growing numbers of riders taking up the power-assisted option, and plenty of commuters swapping their tin-tops for the freedom, fun and fresh air of two-wheeled transport. Since Australia adopted the European standard, allowing power levels of up to 250 watts, the variety of models available has grown dramatically. There's more choice than ever, from folders to off-roaders, cheap and cheerful to premium machinery that will impress the most fastidious rider. Here are just a few of the choices available.

A SELECTION OF OUR FAVOURITE E-BIKES FOR THE TECH-SAVVY CYCLIST.



GAZELLE ULTIMATE C8 HMB

\$4,999

Dutch brand Gazelle has been a leader in the e-bike market for decades. The C8, available as a step-through or full diamond frame, is an aluminium-framed city bike that uses the proven Bosch mid-motor. The motor transfers its 48 Nm of torque through an enclosed, maintenance-free chaincase to a Shimano eight-speed internal gear hub. The bike weighs in at 22.4kg, with the battery adding another 2.6kg to make the whole package 25kg. The C8 comes with a Bosch Active Line 400-watt-hour battery that promises up to a 145-kilometre range in Eco mode.

gazellebikes.com/au



KALKHOFF INCLUDE i8

\$4,999

These German bikes are available in multiple frame sizes and configurations with disc brake and suspension up front and a sprung seat post to help soak up the bumps. The rear brake is operated by pedalling backwards, and the display has a built-in navigation app, bluetooth connectivity and a USB outlet so you can charge your phone. The Include i8 model has a mid-mounted Impulse Evo motor, driving through a Shimano Nexus eight-speed hub. The battery is a beefy 603-watt-hour unit that provides a range of up to 205 kilometres. The battery is mounted behind the seat tube, keeping the centre of gravity low, which helps when trying to manoeuvre at low speeds.

kalkhoff-bikes.com/en

**BUTCHERS & BICYCLES MK1-E**

\$9,900

Don't ditch the bike when the kids come along; with this Danish cargo trike you can bring them with you. The tough front box has a transparent front door so your passengers can see where they're going, and it mounts for standard car seats so you can strap them in safely. Best of all, the "built-to-tilt" steering system lets you bank into corners just like a two-wheeler, so it's fun and safe to ride. The drivetrain is made up the Bosch Performance Line motor and Gates carbon belt drive, with a NuVinci N380 hub. Stopping duties are handled by Tektro hydraulic discs all round. It even has a cup holder!

butchersandbicycles.com

**REISE & MÜLLER CHARGER GX**

\$6,206

Hey Charger! No, it's not the 70s muscle car but this German machine does pack a punch. Its aluminium frame features 29-inch wheels and high chainstays that allow for a Gates belt drive if you don't want the standard Shimano 11-speed derailleur set-up. The Bosch motor is fed by a 500-watt-hour battery on the downtube, and brakes are Shimano discs front and rear. Front suspension is a Suntour 100-millimetre airshock with lockout. Cables are inside the frame and under the top tube – keeping the appearance neat – and the bike and battery weigh in at 23.5kg.

r-m.de/en-au

**HAIBIKE XDURO ALLMTN 7.0**

\$8,499

If your riding strays beyond the bitumen, this might be the e-bike for you. The Haibike XDURO AllMtn 7.0 promises serious off-road capability, with 150mm air forks, Fox rear shock, hydroformed aluminium frame, 75Nm Bosch Performance CX motor and an integrated 500Wh battery mounted low in the frame. At 22.9kg, this German bike is a relative lightweight, and the wheelbase is kept short for nimble handling, thanks to a nifty design feature. The swingarm pivot point is set quite high, with a jockey wheel keeping the chain run high and even. This smooths out gear changes and also makes it almost impossible for the chain to come off, even on bumpy terrain.

haibike.com/en-US/INT/home

**SINUS TRIA N7**

\$4,299

Another stylish German offering, Sinus e-bikes are made by Staiger, a manufacturer that dates back to 1898. The TRIA N7 is a well-equipped cycle with rack, mudguards, internal cabling, and integrated front and rear lights. The Suntour N7 fork gives 50mm of suspension travel, helped out by a suspension seatpost. It's fitted with the Bosch Active Line motor and 400Wh battery, promising up to 190km of assisted travel. A Shimano Nexus hub gives you seven gears, while stopping duties are covered by Magura hydraulic rim brakes.

sinus-fahrrad.de



ORBEA KATU

from \$2,999

The Katu, from Spanish manufacturer Orbea, is a compact, small-wheeled urban run-about that's as practical as it is fun to ride. All models come with a big front basket that's mounted on the frame rather than the forks or bars, so it can carry up to 15kg without ruining the handling. Orbea offers a range of Katu models with options including Bosch or Shimano motors, derailleur or hub gears, rear rack, centre or side stand, adjustable headstem, mudguards and lights. Small wheels make it manoeuvrable and easy to store, and the full-sized frame is adjustable to suit most riders.

orbea.com/au-en/#featured



VELECTRIX FOLDAWAY

\$1,795

If you need a folding bike for your commute, caravan or just to fit in a small storage space, the Velectrix Foldaway two-fold system allows it to pack down tight, and it weighs a manageable 19.8kg. Its front hub motor is only 200 watts but this allows it to be legally fitted with a hand throttle, so you can cruise with no effort if you're carrying an injury or just want to relax. Its low step-through frame makes it accessible to riders of all sizes and physical abilities, and the seat tube-mounted battery keeps the centre of gravity low and central.

velectrix.com.au



DYSON FOLDABLE ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN BIKE

\$1,999

Like the Velectrix, this bike folds for storage and has a 200-watt hub motor, but the Dyson is a full-sized mountain bike with suspension at both ends, Tektro disc brakes and Shimano Acera 24-speed derailleur. As well as allowing a thumb throttle, the lower power output means a 25-kilometre-per-hour cut-off is not required, so the motor can continue to provide assistance at higher speeds. The battery is built into the chunky central frame spar, and the 6061 aluminium frame keeps the weight to 23kg. Dyson offer a range of accessories to suit, including folding pedals, racks and lights, with spare batteries and chargers available separately.

dysonbikes.com.au



YUBA SPICY CURRY

\$6,399

Like its cousin the elBoda Boda, the Spicy Curry features a versatile cargo carrying system that can be adapted to suit your needs. It's fitted with the Bosch Performance Line CX motor and 48 volt 400Wh battery, with the option of a dual battery set-up for extended range. Combined with a 10-speed Shimano derailleur, this drivetrain promises serious climbing grunt, even when loaded up. What makes this bike stand out from the crowd is its long tail and 20-inch, double-spoked rear wheel, which keeps the centre of gravity low and allows for larger carrying capacity.

yubabikes.com



MICHAEL BLAST "GREASER"

\$3,000

Styled after the board-track racing motorcycles of the 20s, the Greaser stands out from the e-bike crowd.

Low-slung and fat-tyred, its motorbike looks are completed by the oversized headlight and "fuel tank" battery compartment. The aluminium frame has two crank locations to suit different-sized riders, driving the chain through a Shimano Acera seven-speed derailleur. The motor is a Bafang 250-watt hub unit powered by a Samsung battery.

It's no lightweight at 28kg, but it's built for cruising, not for speed, and the Tektro hydraulic discs offer plenty of stopping power.

lovetindustries.com.au



AVANTI INC E

\$3,999.99

Avanti's Inc E has a quiet Gates belt drive and eight-speed hub so it's perfect for people who haven't got the time or inclination for drivetrain maintenance. A Shimano STEPS 50Nm motor gets it going, hydraulic discs bring it to a stop, and geometry designed for urban riding makes it nimble but forgiving. Weight is central thanks to a downtube-mounted battery, and the frame and most of the components are alloy to keep the weight down. Riders wanting extra performance or range can opt for motor and battery upgrades.

avantibikes.com/au

RACV Electric Bike Package

**Pedal hard.
Hardly pedal.
The choice is yours.**



- Interest Free Repayments
- 24/7 Bike Assist
- Annual Servicing

With an RACV Electric Bike Package, use pedal power, electric power or a combination of both and travel up to 120km on one single charge. With two Avanti eBike models to choose from, eight Bike Assist call outs & a variety of flexible repayment plans, we've got everything you need to get you up and riding.

Discover more, including where to take a test ride at racv.com.au/ebike

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