



**Succeed** in transport

# Daihatsu Terios test drive

## – What a HOG

by Eugene Herbert

**Sitting** across the road from a waterhole in Botswana, three big rhinos were caught in my peripheral vision. These magnificent animals frolicked in the mud while a warthog stared on – seemingly oblivious to these behemoths' capabilities.

The somewhat odd similarity between the Terios and some of its 4x4 counterparts did not escape me. Like the warthog, the Terios is supremely competent in the bush and, with due caution, is able to tackle most off-road hazards in a competent manner. Off course it won't venture deep into the mud – as with a frolicking rhino – but it is capable of getting right up close and personal when it comes to enjoying the benefits associated with most AWD vehicles. Grunt, in the form of low ratio it certainly does not have (think of four powerful rhino legs), but in terms of agility and speed it is quite capable of whipping across a muddy terrain and, because it is so light and sure footed, it does not get bogged down.

In a world where big is best, it is amazing that an SUV with such a small engine cuts it so well, or rather, ingratiates itself so well. Clearly not intended to win any prizes when it comes to massive ground clearance or tree wrenching torque, the Terios does however provide ample performance for highway cruising with adequate clearance for rutted roads

and reasonable seating for a family of five who aspire to visit the wide open spaces.

Keeping things cool in the bush is an air-conditioner, front and rear power windows for easy photographing, front and rear accessory power outlets for GPS, and convenient slide shutters for the driver's and passenger's seats.

Access to the rear, albeit not too great when backed up against another vehicle, is a large side-opening rear door with an externally mounted alloy mag spare wheel. It is easy to reach to change a punctured tyre, and also, according to the press release, helps protect back seat occupants in a rear-end collision.

Under the bonnet is a 1500cc four-cylinder engine with double overhead

camshafts, that produce 80kW at 6 000 r/min and 141Nm of torque at 4 400 r/min. Great fuel economy at 8.1 l/100km from its 50l tank. It also only produces 190g CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometre. The engine feeds power to all four wheels via a five-speed manual gearbox and boasts a centre differential lock that can be selected for better grip in off-road driving.

### Specifications:

**Transmission:** five-speed 4x4 with locking centre diff

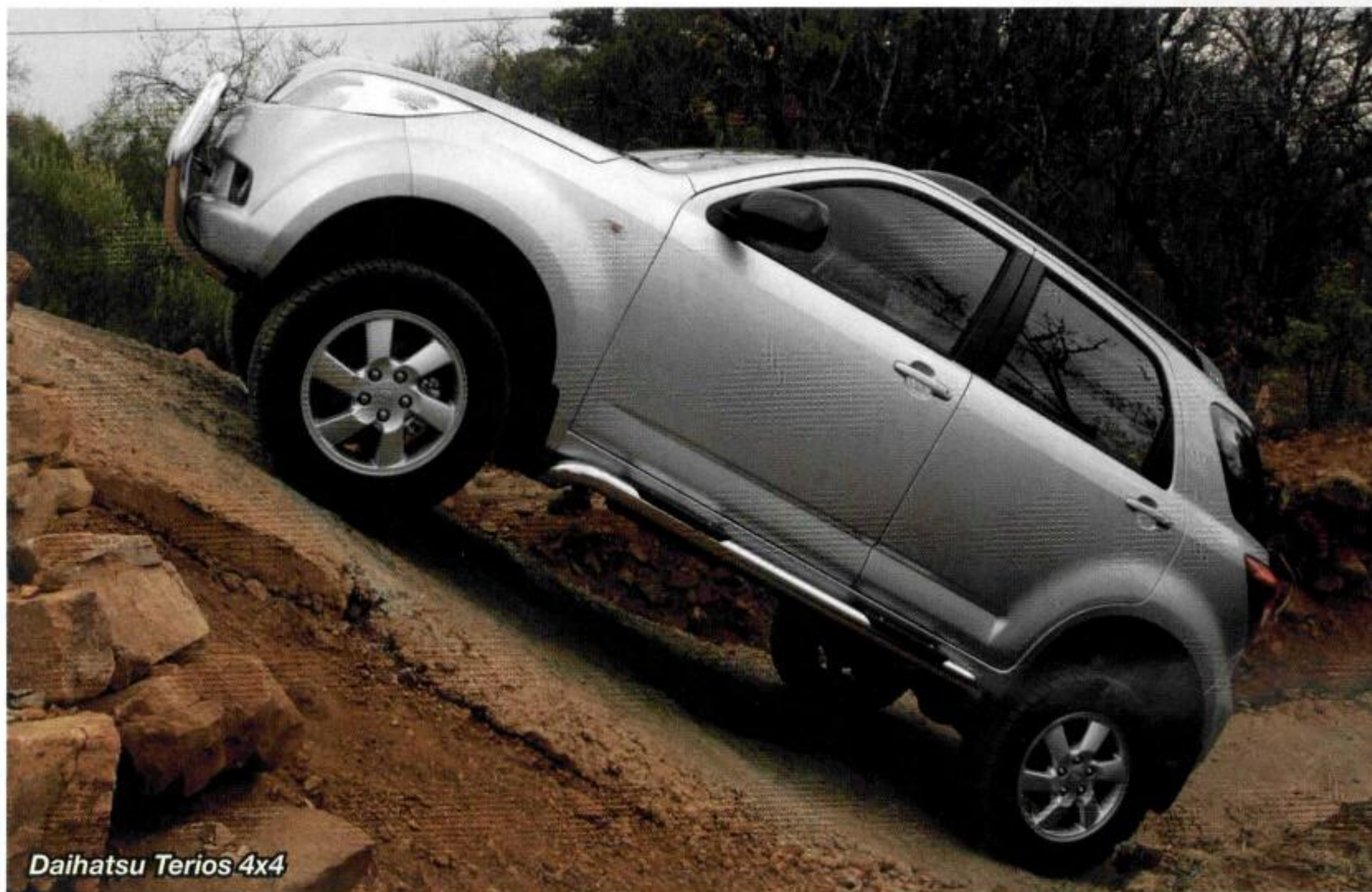
**Engine:** 1495cc

**Power:** 87 kw @6000rpm

**Service intervals:** 15 000km

**Warranty:** Three years per 100 000km

**Price:** R 239 995 **S**



Daihatsu Terios 4x4