

# NEW MUSCLES

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ROLL UP, ROLL UP... THE AUTOMOTIVE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN! STARRING THE MERC A 45 AMG, THE CHRYSLER 300 AND TWO OF AUSTRALIA'S STRONGEST MEN.



# Muscle flex



Mercedes' little AMG A 45 will clip 100km/h in an astonishing 4.4secs. But that's under perfect conditions. The official, more realistic figure stands at 4.6secs. Today we'd be lucky to crack 10.

That's because the two huge slabs of muscular beef currently shoehorned into the front seats – their terrifying biceps stretching across the middle of the cabin and meeting in the usually empty air above the centre console, creating a wall of flesh that sunlight is struggling to poke through – are making conditions anything but perfect.

Our two passengers add a combined 250-odd kilos to the littlest AMG's sprightly 1550kg. Throw in my dainty 75kg, and the Merc's kerbweight has leapt by a solid 21 per cent. Even its punchy turbocharged plant, good for 265kW and 450Nm, is no match against the two moveable mountains forcing the front bumper to grind into the pavement over even the smallest bumps.

It's a problem not shared by the Chrysler 300 SRT8. The American gangster's power arrives the old fashioned way: with a life-affirming thump as a house-deposit's worth of petrol ignites within that massive 6.4-litre engine, sending 347kW and 631Nm thundering towards the rear tyres in a great surge of power and torque. All that grunt – and a heft of just under two tonnes – means the big Chrysler isn't overly concerned with the size of its passengers. Remember, this is a car designed to carry Americans, so a trifling 325kg is

hardly going to force it to break a sweat. The 300 will climb to 100km/h in around 4.8secs, and no amount of excess baggage is going to change that.

Of course, we could tell the boys to get out while we're testing the cars, but then you could also slap Mike Tyson about the head for speaking like a girly girl. But we wouldn't recommend trying either. Because our two jumbo guests are the strongest men in Australia. Seriously.

The first is Derek Boyer: the biggest monster in a sport of monsters, and 12-time winner (he retired undefeated in 2011) of the Australia's Strongest Man crown. He shook my hand on arrival and swallowed my arm to the elbow inside that leg of ham attached to his giant wrist. He's since claimed five world records, including one for flipping a Corolla 10 times in under four minutes – a record we hope he won't be attempting to break today. The second is Ben Simpson, a current strong man challenger who's famed for towing a 17-tonne truck using just a rope and his own staggering willpower. Ben is wearing a weightlifting belt that looks like one of Saturn's rings.

Derek's from the old school. He can remember when hurling midgets was an official strong man category (it was banned eventually, much to the dismay of the suddenly out-of-work midgets, apparently). Ben, on the other hand, is an upstart. An up-and-coming powerhouse trying to

## “TWO PASSENGERS ADD A COMBINED 250KG TO THE AMG'S SPRIGHTLY 1550KG”



### MERCEDES-BENZ A 45 AMG

Price: \$74,990  
Engine: 2.0-litre turbo four, 265kW, 450Nm, 6.9L/100km, 114g/km CO<sub>2</sub>  
Transmission: 7spd automatic, AWD  
Performance: 0-100km/h in 4.6secs, 270km/h, 1550kg

“CAN'T WE JUST GET OUT AND CARRY THE DAMN THING?”

### CHRYSLER 300 SRT8

Price: \$66,000  
Engine: 6.4-litre V8, 347kW, 631Nm, 13L/100km, 303g/km CO<sub>2</sub>  
Transmission: 5spd automatic, RWD  
Performance: 0-100km/h in 4.8secs, 1983kg

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH BEING BIG – BIGGER UNITS ALWAYS WANT TO SCRAP

