

THERE'S A UCC FOR YOU AND ME

Built on a Mitsubishi Fuso Canter FE150E3 cab and chassis (and sometimes on a Ford Transit), UCC Motorhomes are fully insulated throughout and offer four or six berths, depending upon your requirements.

WORDS + PHOTOGRAPHY *Brian Strong*



Despite a successful career working for a large scale manufacturer, Rob Floris decided to see what he could do in the motorhome industry.

"I thought there was a niche market for someone who could design a motorhome suited to New Zealand conditions, that was a good quality product and that would provide the best value for money," he said.

Rob took over Universal Caravan and Coachbuilders based in Christchurch and set about applying the lessons he had learned with his former employer.

First up he changed the company name to UCC Motorhomes to better reflect the new operation and he set about overhauling the workshop.

"I put in a system of workshop flows which made life a lot easier for the production team. Until then they had spent a lot of time looking for tools and materials they needed which someone else might be using or were spread

around different parts of the workshop. Now each stage of the operation is grouped in one place within the workshop with all the tools and materials to be used dedicated to that area."

Standing in the workshop it was easy to see the work flow with motorhomes being built in one section and moving through to the finishing work in another.

"Our team have grown up with camping and exploring our wonderful outdoors so we wanted to design a motorhome which was comfortable and also built for New Zealand conditions, a home on the road built by New Zealanders for New Zealanders," says Rob.

"We believe we are providing the best value for money in the market. Our motorhomes have a full warranty and all parts and accessories are available from our factory." One feature that stood out when I visited their display motorhome at the Motorhome Extravaganza was the large side and rear >



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01 Enough room to spend a penny or two **02** Slide out pantry and 19 inch flat screen are fitted as standard **03** Large side and rear windows **04** Large exterior storage locker

windows which give a panoramic view. There are also pull-along fly screens so you get plenty of ventilation in hotter weather. UCC Motorhomes are mainly built on a Mitsubishi Fuso Canter FE150E3 cab and chassis although a Ford Transit is sometimes used. They are available in either four or six berth and have full insulation in the ceiling, walls and luton area. They can be driven on a standard New Zealand driver's licence. The kitchen area has a slide out pantry and a fridge/freezer, together with a microwave, oven and a four burner gas hob and grill with a rangehood. And you certainly won't go short of storage. There are large exterior storage lockers and also storage for fishing rods or skis. Inside, space has been turned into large storage lockers and there is separate crockery storage and a wardrobe as well. The standard UCC Motorhome comes fitted with a 19 inch flat screen TV/DVD with two rear speakers. A nice touch is the provision of child anchor points. There is a diesel heater, a gas/electric boiler, a smart battery charger, the usual range of tank monitoring gauges and standard in-cab air conditioning. A great range of optional fittings are also available and these include a reversing camera, solar panel, bike rack, satellite TV, a safe for your valuables, and an alarm, just to name a few. "We want you to have the luxuries of modern day living but still have enough space to feel relaxed. There's a culture of quality within our organisation and we spend a lot of time



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05 Well laid out kitchen 06 Pleasing decor 07 Hard out in the workshop 08 Four burner gas hob and grill 09 Roomy overhead lockers 10 Easy access luton

attending to detail," says Rob. "Before we start any build we will sit down and talk over the details of your vision of what you want. This means that what we deliver is exactly what you are expecting to see and it is delivered when you are expecting it." UCC Motorhomes are fully certified as self contained which means you can stay at a wider range of places during your travels and meet the requirements many District Councils set for freedom camping. Rob Floris and his team must be doing something right as their motorhomes are also utilised by many rental companies. UCC's workshop also handles motorhome and caravan repair and refurbishment work. "We are really focussed on our customers because their investment in a motorhome is an investment in a future lifestyle they have aspired to," says Rob. "That's why we listen carefully to people – so we can provide them with a quality product." 🌟

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