12 June 2023

Dear

Winter has finally arrived after a long and wet summer for the North Island. There are still some awesome places to visit in winter and in a modern motorhome and caravan there is no need to be cold.

**Insurance repairs**

Should you suffer an unfortunate accident that requires you to contact your insurance company we can help with the repair process. We can carry out most repairs in our workshop.

If you are not near Christchurch, we can supply parts to your nominated repairer or provide advice on the best steps to take to get the best repair possible.

**Inverters**

If you have an inverter in your motorhome or caravan you should turn it completely off when it is not being used. Many have a standby load of up to 1 amp. Over 24 hours this adds up to 24-amp hours. For a 100A/Hr AGM battery this is half of the stored capacity! This is a significant and unnecessary load on your batteries and can contribute to low voltage problems especially in winter.

For those that are not familiar with Inverters they are used to power mains (230V) appliances when you are freedom camping by taking 12V from your leisure batteries and converting it back to 230V AC.

**Alde Heater maintenance**

Some motorhomes and caravans have the Alde heating system which uses a Glycol solution pumped through pipes and radiators to heat the interior of the RV. This is very similar to your engine coolant and like your vehicle it needs to be replaced to ensure the anti-corrosive properties are maintained. Allowing the aluminium pipes and radiators to corrode will lead to small leaks which can be difficult to locate and repair. Alde recommends that this be done every 2 years.

If you are unsure when this was last done, we have a glycol tester that will give a reasonable indication of the state of your existing glycol solution.

If you are not sure which heating system you have, the Alde Heater control panel brings up the Alde logo when it is turned on. If you have a blown air system (Truma, Diesel Heater etc.) they generally have round outlets that warm air comes out of around.

**Fiat Comfort-matic Transmission**

Many of you will have Fiat motorhomes with the 6 speed Comfort-matic Transmission. We have placed a document from Fiat about the transmission, how to use it and what the warning messages are about onto the UCC Motorhomes Website. You will find this under the Service and Support Tab.

Apart from explaining how to get the best from the Transmission it also highlights the need to replace the Fluid in the Clutch Hydraulic activation system every 2 years.

**Cab Steps**

This is something I have written about before but for those who may not be aware, we have   
Cab Steps to suit the Fiat Ducato chassis that makes it a whole lot easier to get in and out of the cab, especially if you are shorter than average. They are in stock now and take between 1.5 and 2 hours to install. They come as a pair, look good and have the added benefit of reducing the amount of dirt that can end up on the side of the motorhome. The price to supply and fit is $1216.13 inc GST.

**Diesel Heaters**

We have fielded a number of enquiries about fitting diesel heaters into motorhomes (and caravans) that have an LPG fueled heater now. This is generally a reasonably straight forward job with a variety of brands available. We prefer to install brands that have a support network around New Zealand just in case some additional support is needed.

Diesel heaters are more economic to operate than LPG heaters and have the added advantage of being able to operate at very low temperatures and be operated while travelling. A 2kW heater typically average 100 – 150ml of diesel per hour while running.

If you want more information about upgrading your heating, please contact our Service Team.

**Recent Service Questions**

Gas Safety Checks

We get asked reasonably regularly whether the LPG system in a motorhome or caravan needs to be recertified, similar to an Electrical Warrant of Fitness. The answer is no. It may seem strange but there is no requirement for you to have your LPG system recertified unless an approved practitioner carries out work on the system.

The Team at UCC think this is unwise and include a gas safety check as part of the Annual Water Ingress Inspection where we check the system for leaks, the correct operating pressure, appliance operation, flame failure system operation and general condition of the LPG Installation. This is also done prior to any used vehicle being sold. If you don’t do this annually then please have your LPG system checked no longer than every two years.

It does not take much for something to not operate correctly leading to problems with your appliances or worse a safety issue for you.

Please remember that if you need help or advice for your motorhome or caravan, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of our team.

Wishing you and your family enjoyable, warm and safe travels.

Kind regards

The Team @ UCC Motorhomes and Caravans

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