

Dear %custfullname%

Covi Show, March 2021

UCC will be exhibiting at the Covi Show in Auckland in March. We look forward to catching up with you at the show.

New Christchurch Service Centre

Our new Service Workshop is now up and running. This has made it a lot easier and quicker for the Service Team to look after customers when they call in. We have also a waiting area for you if your job is going to take some time. Our next step is installing a vehicle hoist and be able to offer a wider range of services and accessories for your motorhome.

We are now better equipped to install accessories and upgrades such as additional solar panels, full-time rear-view cameras, Bike racks (when stock becomes available) amongst many other items.

Lithium Batteries

We have carried out a couple of Lithium Battery installations recently and thought it useful to explain our thoughts on this technology.

Lithium Batteries are a good idea but there are a few considerations you must consider if you decide to replace the existing motorhome leisure batteries.

The charging algorithm is different and not all mains powered battery chargers have a LiFePo4 setting so will need to be replaced. The same applies to the solar panel charge controller.

Most motorhomes have the option to charge the leisure battery from the engine alternator. This type of charge is pretty crude and won't bring the batteries to 100% capacity. We recommend fitting a DC/DC charge booster into the system which takes the basic 12V from the alternator and converts it to a charge current suitable for Lithium Batteries.

When you add these 3 things together with the cost of the Lithium Battery the total conversion cost can be quite significant.

If you shop around for a Lithium battery make sure it has a good battery management system incorporated into it. In this case cheaper is not better.

The Benefit – you can discharge your batteries regularly to more than 80% of total capacity without damaging them and they have a considerably longer life expectancy. Conventional Lead Acid batteries should not be discharged more than 50% of their rated capacity, doing so significantly reduces their life span.

Ad-Blue

Many of you will now be aware that the new Fiat motorhomes (2020 model year on) have Ad-Blue. This is a mixture of 70%water and 30% Urea that is injected into the exhaust stream to remove

Nitrous Oxides from the exhaust gas, reducing harmful emissions. We have recently received some advice from Fiat on expected consumption of Ad-Blue. Fiat advised that the Ducato will use 7-8l per 1000km giving you an approximate range of 2000km per fill.

You cannot operate the motor when the Ad-Blue tank is empty. The engine will not start until a minimum of 5l is put into the reservoir.

As always, if you need assistance or advice please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Rob & the Team @ UCC Motorhomes and Caravans

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