

Sunlight show stunner

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The past year has been a big one in the motorhome and caravan realm, with sales of motorhomes and caravans throughout New Zealand going through the roof, and similar experiences worldwide.

Rob Floris, from UCC in Christchurch is looking forward to the March 19–21 Covi Motorhome Caravan and Outdoor Supershow in Auckland.

It is here that the new exciting models in the Dethleffs Distinction range will be on display, with new lounge layouts to consider and a new family motorhome for six – the 2020 SUNLIGHT A72 six-berth motorhome – will all debut at the show.

We took a look at the SUNLIGHT A72 family six-berth bunk unit, and I must say it

impressed us on many levels.

In the current environment where families are getting into the RV Lifestyle at a great rate, this model will tick a lot of boxes with its bunk beds, dinette bed and super big Luton over-cab bed. Plus the dining area has a four-seat dinette setting and a separate two-seat table setting parallel on the other side. This allows for lots of options – the dinette could be made up as a bed and just the single table used.

First impressions of the exterior was how high off the ground it is – with 16" Fiat wheels you won't be dragging the bottom end around the ground easily in this baby. The coach-built style gives the Luton area for sleeping, the habitation entry door is on the driver's side

near the rear of the vehicle, a large gas locker for two 9kg bottles is behind the driver's door, and there are boot storage locker doors on each rear side. There are no other external storage areas or pods. Opening the locker doors reveals a large rear garage with lowered frame, anti-slip surface, lashing rings, power point and interior lighting – and depending on what you are carrying, a bunk bed that is either down in sleeping position, or up to allow taller items to be stowed.

The aluminium sides and GPR construction are great for future repairs if you have a knock or two, and the moulded rear bumpers offer protection as well.

Access into the habitation area is via a set of two electric steps. The floor is one level from



front to rear, something I particularly like – no internal steps. To the left across the rear are the two bunk beds, and at 2100mm long and 800mm wide what a generous size they are compared to many RV single beds. The bottom bunk has an LED light, the top bunk a light, opening window and roof vent.

Directly opposite the entry door is the bathroom with a vanity sink, mirror on the wall, good storage cupboard behind the pedestal 12V electric cassette toilet on the right side, and on the left wall is the panel that moves to create a shower wall. This Vario bathroom wall is a winner for me, a simple swivel action moves the wall from one side to the other to block off the shower and prevent the toilet area from getting wet.

To the right of the bathroom is the fridge with separate freezer tower, a storage drawer underneath and a nifty TV storage cupboard above it. Wardrobe and cupboard storage next to it. To the right of the entry door is the kitchen bench with round stainless steel sink unit and three-burner gas hob. The bench is a little deeper than usual, offering a bit more useable prep space, especially with the glass lids down on both the cooker and sink. Under the kitchen bench is a Thetford gas oven with storage drawer below, and on the side a utility drawer and storage cupboard with shelf. A good-sized window with screens, blinds and backsplash surround, leads up to the overhead locker cupboards with LED strip lighting and lights above.



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1. The 16" Fiat wheels look good, and this vehicle is noticeably high off the ground, hence the double entry step – a great feature for New Zealand roads
2. Fiat does a simple cab with easy-to-use controls, USB chargers, infotainment centre with reversing camera, drink holders, cruise control and electric mirrors just some of the must haves in this Fiat cab
3. Upon entry – bunks to left, bathroom straight ahead, kitchen to the right, dining behind the front cab, Luton bed above 4. The Luton bed is big at 2100mm x 1600mm, window with screens and blinds, LED lighting 5. I love the dining table set up, with the dinette converting to a bed leaving a dining area still free, plenty of room for six people. The size of the windows is great, plenty of views from side to side 6. The TV lives in the cupboard above the fridge/freezer. It slides out and folds down, swivels to front or back of vehicle 7. Screen door is great, all the windows and vents have screens as well. Monitoring panel above the door
8. Lower bunk bed down in position, plenty of storage length and height below accessible from both sides
9. The lower bunk can be raised to allow storage of larger items, plenty of tie downs in this area as well
10. Under the kitchen sink and bench, a Thetford gas oven, cupboard storage 11. View from front dining to rear, kitchen on the left, fridge with separate freezer overhead, on the right side; bathroom then the two bunks across the rear, a good width at 800mm wide and 2100mm long; habitation door to the left rear in this view. The bunk beds are situated over the full-width at the rear; the top bunk has an opening window at its head and roof vent above, both have lights



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A small wall separates the view from kitchen to dining, just at the height of the head rests, providing a clean break but keeping the top viewing space clean and clear. This creates a better aesthetic looking through the vehicle, not closed in at all.

Forward of this mid-ship area is the living space, with a four-seat dinette on the driver's side, with seat belts fitted, and on the other wall a two-seater dinette, overhead locker storage and LED lighting. The four-seat area converts easily to a king-single bed, the same size as our bed in the Mitsi RocknRobyn, so the Rock and I could sleep in here, but with the size of the Luton bed above the cab, and its head height I don't think it would come to that.

I like the large windows alongside both dining areas. They will appeal to the Kiwi market I am sure. All the house windows are double-glazed acrylic with fitted fly screens and privacy blinds. The front cab has privacy curtains to shut the cab area off from the habitation area. The Luton area above can be lifted up for easy walk-through head clearance. This area has privacy curtains as well.

The front cab area is walk-through, with a spacious Luton bed above. As I have mentioned already this bed is a nice size at 2100 x 1600mm and the head height is great at 720mm. There are LED lights, an opening window and the roof vent above, plus privacy curtains to shut yourself away if desired.

The cab itself is pleasing with easily accessible heating controls, drink holders, a tablet holder and USB charging ports. With the latest 9-speed auto transmission these vehicles are a dream to drive. You become

familiar pretty quickly and feel like you are in a car, further comforted with the rear camera, and all the latest safety technology that is standard with Fiat like cruise control, electric mirrors, air bags and the EURO 6 engine technology that gives the driver a good experience, and is brilliant for fuel economy.

Being built in Europe you can be assured it will have the common build features from these parts, like the AirPlus ventilation system which essentially moves air around the vehicle, behind furniture and around the walls to ensure a healthy environment in the whole vehicle. Double floors insulate inner workings like the water tanks and services (heated floors in some models). Nice curves and lines on furniture and fixtures, and a tower fridge/freezer offering substantial food storage are features common to these types of models. The finishes may be a level below the luxury Dethleffs models, but the quality and innovation developed by the manufacturer over the years carries to all the brands and models manufactured.

This bunk model might not be for you, but perhaps one of the other new floorplan models may suit, as Rob at UCC says he has a model for everyone's tastes, fixed rear island bed, drop-down beds, two- four- or six-berth, new and slightly used. **RV**

12-13. Bathroom toilet en suite area with storage cupboard behind the 12V electric flush pedestal cassette toilet, vanity sink with mirror and plenty of LED lights, wooden removable shower tray. Note the catch on the left of the wall. The Vario wall swivels to create separate spaces when showering

DETHLEFFS SUNLIGHT A72 6-BERTH MOTORHOME

Chassis

- 2020 Fiat Ducato 2.3L 140hp MultiJet direct injection, emission standard EURO 6 engine, latest 9-shift automatic gearbox. Fiat high platform wide-track chassis, front-wheel drive, ABS, EBD, ESP, ESC incl. ABS and hill-holder, rear and front axle stabilisers

Dimensions and measurements

- GVM 3650kg tare 2975kg payload 675kg – tow 2000kg braked
- Tyres 215/70 R 16C FIAT 16" alloy rims and wheel trims
- Length(mm) 7200, width 2320, exterior height 3140, interior height 1950
- Wheelbase 4040mm
- Payload in garage up to 150kg
- Rear locker – right side 600 x 1200mm, left side 600 x 1000mm
- Beds – length x width (mm) – bunks 2100 x 800, dinette 1750 x 1000, Luton 2100 x 1600 x 720mm head height

Self-containment

- Water tanks – fresh 102L, grey 92L
- Gas bottle locker for 2 x 9kg gas bottles
- 167L Fridge with 29L freezer compartment
- Battery – 1 x 95Ah AGM leisure battery – charger 12V/18A, 100W solar and MMP controller
- 19" TV-DVD player, auto satellite dish
- Gas-electric Combi 6 heating and 20L hot water system
- 12V electric flush Thetford 18L cassette toilet, Vario shower
- Thetford gas oven, three-burner gas hob on bench

Construction

- Roof and sidewall thickness 34mm, floor thickness 41mm
- Aluminium sidewalls GRP (glass fibre reinforced plastic) roof and rear wall
- Rear moulding with integrated lights in three parts
- Double-glazed hinged window with cassette blinds and flyscreens
- High-quality entrance door with ergonomic handle inside and outside
- Flyscreen door (one-piece), electric double entry step into habitation area.

Want to read about other Dethleffs models from UCC ?

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