17 August 2023

Dear %custfullname%

This newsletter has been prompted by a couple of calls about the Alde Heater air pocket and 2 Lithium Battery upgrades we have seen that could have been done a lot better, so we thought it prudent to highlight this.

**A little bit of History**

UCC Motorhomes & Caravans started many years ago as Universal Caravans & Coachbuilders. The name said it all, the Company built caravans and carried out repairs and maintenance on caravans and motorhomes. By the time the 2000’s arrived the company was building van conversions as well as ongoing work repairing and maintaining a wide variety of RV’s. Shortly after a long term contract to manufacture 2,4 and 6 berth rental motorhomes was won and the company took off.

When Rob & Jackie Floris took over UCC in 2008 when it was purely a manufacturing company who predominately built motorhomes for the NZ rental market. Due to the seasonal flow of production, the company soon branched out into retail sales. As retail sales, and the demand for manufacturing bespoke motorhomes grew, the focus and skills of our team grew alongside the change.

We moved in 2014 to our existing premises in Foremans Road. It was soon after this that UCC started working alongside Zion Motorhomes from Pokeno to sell the Dethleffs brand of motorhomes from Germany. Selling award winning, quality European motorhomes has now become the main focus for UCC. Not only do we sell new Dethleffs motorhomes into the South Island, but with the introduction of McRent into the NZ rental market, UCC gained exclusive rights to sell all ex-rental Dethleffs motorhomes nationwide. Due to customer demand, UCC now also sells Dethleffs Caravans and the German brands of Frankia *&* Sunlight.

This evolution in the company has also led to a huge growth in sales of used motorhomes and caravans. The skills and knowledge we have developed over the years manufacturing motorhomes is invaluable when we prepare used vehicles for sale. When you can build a motorhome, you have an entirely better perspective about how to bring them back to a high standard and to repair them when necessary.

**Alde heating system**

For those of you that have an Alde heating system in your caravan or motorhome are you aware that the water heater has an air pocket in the water cylinder to accommodate expansion as the water heats and absorb any pressure shocks from the water pump. Alde recommend after 10 days of continuous use that the air pocket be refreshed. It is an easy process where you open the drain valve beside the heater for 10 seconds while the water pump is turned off then close the valve and restart the pump. Job Done!

If you are unsure if you have an Alde heater the Alde heater control panel has 2 buttons, an on/off button, and a menu button. It also displays the Alde name on the screen when turned on.

**Accessories**

We are able to supply and fit a wide range of accessories for your motorhome or Caravan. A list of the most common accessories that we install follows. If you are interested in having any of these installed, please contact the Service Team at service@uccmotorhomes.co.nz or ph 03 349 7747 ext 2.

* Solar upgrades
* Awnings
* Bike Racks – Fixed, Manual Lift, Electric Lift options
* Lithium battery upgrades
* Diesel Heater installation
* Automatic Satellite Dish
* Semi Air Suspension
* Roof vent replacement
* Water pump upgrades
* Cab entry steps (Running boards)

**Lithium battery upgrades**

We have seen a few motorhomes recently where Lithium (LiFePo4) batteries have been installed to replace the original AGM battery. Some installs have been done really well but there have been some where all that was done was to replace the battery. The original chargers, alternator connections etc where not upgraded. Lithium batteries are great, but you can destroy one just as easily you can destroy a Lead battery. They have different charging requirements.

When you upgrade to Lithium you need to upgrade (or change the settings) on your battery charger, solar charge controller and most likely add a DC/DC charger to ensure you look after your new batteries the best you can.

Another consideration is assessing the rate that you can recharge your batteries after they have been discharged. If you only have 100W of solar you won’t recover from a large discharge and will find that you will run out of power quickly. We also recommend assessing the charging capacity of your solar system at the same time. We have a spreadsheet model that we can share if you want to play with the numbers to determine what will work and what won’t. Contact the team at service@uccmotorhomes.co.nz to request a copy.

**Facebook**

Just a reminder that we are posting things you may find interesting to our Facebook page, search for UCC Motorhomes to follow us.

**New Motorhomes**

After a couple of years of extremely limited supply of new motorhomes and caravans the supply chain has started to improve, and we are starting to receive new stock of Dethleffs motorhomes and caravans plus Sunlight Motorhomes. The new Fiat engine combined with the 9 speed automatic transmission is very nice to drive. They are well worth looking at if you are in the area.

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

Kind regards

The Team @ UCC Motorhomes and Caravans

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