19 January 2024

Dear

**Welcome to 2024**

We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead.

**Getting ready for your next trip**

If you haven’t used your Motorhome or Caravan for a while, it pays to carry out some preventative maintenance and simple checks before you plan to head away on your next trip. There are some simple things you can do such as checking tyre pressure, engine fluids, all your appliances are working correctly, spiders haven’t built a home in the back of any gas appliances, birds aren’t nesting in the engine, lubricate hinges, rubber seals etc. Check your Self Containment, Electrical Warrant of Fitness etc. are up to date are just a few things to make your next trip trouble free. It also helps to do this the week before rather than the night before – just in case something needs attention.

**Dethleffs Distinction Motorhomes new season release.**

McRent NZ are releasing a range of Late Model Low Mileage motorhomes to us over the next few months. There are a range of floor plans available. There is a mix of 2022 and 2023 models. Some are on the new Fiat chassis, and some are on the Ford Transit chassis. All have automatic transmissions. If you are looking to upgrade your motorhome, please contact the Sales Team to find out more about this range that offers some incredible value for money.

**Self-Containment**

Effective 7 December 2023 the Self Containment regime is now operational. Self-Containments can still be carried out under the old regime until 7 June 2024. Self-Containments issued under the new scheme will be issued a green warrant card which will be valid for 4 years. All blue Self-Containments will expire on 7 June 2025 (unless sooner) even if they are dated later.

The final guidance notes from the PGDB have been distributed and are as expected apart from a new condition around venting toilet cassettes. The NZMCA and others are going back to the PGDB to seek clarification and hopefully a common sense amendment to this point.

The NZMCA will go through the process to become a Certifying Authority as will a number of other organisations, which should be completed in the first half of this year.

For most people the things that will change are the colour of the warrant cards, the costs and when your current self-containment will expire. Everyone who has a blue Self Containment that is dated after 7 June 2025 will have to renew on or before then, the blue warrant will not be valid after that date.

**3-Way fridge cooling**

We have had a few calls over the past month about fridges not cooling on LPG but operating on 12V and mains power. In simple terms the gas burner operates within a very narrow energy range. The flame may appear to be Ok but the energy output is not enough for the absorption cooler to function properly. The usual causes of this are incorrect gas pressure, dirty burner assembly or a partially blocked jet. A dirty burner assembly can usually be fixed by blowing out the burner with compressed air. Pressure and jets should be repaired by a gas fitter, both are reasonably quick to do.

Some models of Thetford fridge are prone to blowing a 20A fuse on the main power module at the back of the fridge. This prevents the fridge operating on 12V while driving but mains power and LPG cooling are not affected. The fuse is not easily accessible and for most people is more an inconvenience until it can be repaired.

**How to stop your 3-Way refrigerator from icing up**

There are a number of steps that you can take to prevent your fridge from icing up. This information was provided by Thetford.

1. Reduce the number of times you open the door each day.
2. Keep the time spent with the door open as short a possible.
3. Make sure the door is completely closed after opening.
4. Don’t overfill the fridge.
5. Use containers on products that can dry out.
6. Clean up any spillage in the fridge immediately.
7. Let hot food cool down before refrigerating.
8. Manually defrost, if needed, every 3 weeks.
9. Keep the interior of your RV as dry as possible.
10. Select a lower cooling level (warm it up a bit)
11. Check the fridge door gasket is not damaged, dried out and seals completely.

**Waitangi Weekend closure**

Waitangi Day falls on a Tuesday this year so we have made the decision to close on February 5th to give the team a 4 day weekend. We suspect that there are a lot of businesses taking this approach.

**Support videos**

Just a reminder that we have some videos on the UCC motorhomes web site that cover some of the common items on European sourced motorhomes.

Go to <https://www.uccmotorhomes.co.nz/videos>

You will also find previous issues of this newsletter on our website.

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 an enjoyable Summer.

Kind regards

The Team @ UCC Motorhomes and Caravans

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