5 August 2022

Dear

We have been talking to quite a few customers who have been waiting for the weather to warm up a bit so they can get out and enjoy NZ. If this sounds like you it pays to spend a bit of time before you go away checking that everything is working as it should (Appliances, water pump TV etc) plus tyre pressure, engine oil etc. If you don’t feel confident doing this yourself then we suggest you get your local RV Workshop to do this for you. If your next Annual Inspection is coming due, then it would make sense to do this a little early and get a full check over.

**Spare wheels**

We currently have limited stock of 15” and 16” Fiat Ducato spare wheels on steel rims. The tyres are not new but are in good condition and very suitable for use as a spare wheel. Pricing is dependent on the condition of the tyre and rim but will range between $250 to $500 including GST.

**Tyre repair kits**

We also have stock of Tyre repair kits (small compressor and tyre sealant). Pricing is $137.70 inc GST (plus freight if required). These kits are standard in most European built motorhomes that do not come with a spare wheel.

**TV’s**

There are some very good TV’s coming to the market now. Most have internet connectivity built in and are getting much easier to use than earlier versions. The big change is that they no longer have DVD players.

If you have an earlier TV that is not a smart TV and you want to stream Netflix, Sky Go or one of the other services the simplest option is to use a Chromecast or Apple TV device. The take their power from the USB socket on the TV and output to an HDMI socket. Then you can use your phone to connect to the device and stream your content.

**Inverters**

If you are considering installing an inverter to your motorhome it is very important that you consider the items you want to power from your inverter. For those who are unfamiliar with inverters they take 12V from your house batteries and change this back to 230V. They are used when you are freedom camping.

As an example, if you were to use an inverter to run a Nespresso machine which draws approx. 1300w you will need to supply108 amps @12V. As a general rule of thumb, we work on an inverter efficiency ratio of 90%. This then takes the current draw up to 120A. In a typical motorhome with 2 x 100A/Hr deep cycle batteries you will use all your available power in approx. 50 minutes.

Based on this example you must be very careful managing your power consumption with high load appliances. You also need to be able to recharge your batteries reasonably quickly which in most cases means a larger solar system.

You have some options how you connect to the inverter. The simplest is to connect directly to the output of the inverter. The next is to have some dedicated socket outlets located in a convenient position in your motorhome or caravan. The last option is to have your inverter connected to all the existing socket outlets in your caravan or motorhome. To achieve this, you can have a manual change over switch to select between mains power or inverter supply or install an inverter that does this automatically for you.

The most common things we are installing inverters for are E-Bike chargers, C-Pap machines, small coffee makers, toasters and charging laptops.

**Rain**

With all the rain we have had in the past month it is a very good idea to check your motorhome or caravan if it has not been used for a while and air it out. I suggest opening all cupboards and lockers plus lifting seat squabs and mattresses to ensure there is good air flow. This will help prevent mould and mildew building up which can be difficult to remove once it becomes established.

Most times this is not a result of a leak but just excessive moisture inside your motorhome or caravan.

**Dethleffs caravans**

After a long time waiting, we are starting to receive stock of new Dethleffs caravans to complement our new motorhomes. Like the Dethleffs motorhomes they are well built and finished to a high level of specification.

**Checking your caravan brakes**

A simple way to check your caravan brakes if they are a mechanical type rather than electric is to park the caravan on a flat surface disconnect from the tow vehicle. Push the caravan and once it starts moving activate the brake lever. The caravan should stop immediately and not twist to the side. If the caravan twists to the side, one of the brakes is not operating correctly. If the caravan does not stop immediately both brakes are not operating correctly. In both cases the brakes need to be serviced.

**NZMCA Hamilton Motorhome & Caravan Show**

The NZMCA Motorhome & Caravan show is happening this year in Hamilton from 23 September till 25 September at the Mystery creek Events Centre. UCC Motorhomes & Caravans will be exhibiting at the show and look forward to catching up with any of our customers who are visiting the show.

Kind regards

Rob & the Team @ UCC Motorhomes and Caravans

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