

Out & About

with

WINNEBAGO RV

MOTORHOMING IS FOR EVERYONE

There is no doubt that when Allan and Marnie Whettters approached Tynan's RV for a Leisure Seeker motorhome, Tynan's knew they had a challenge.

The Whettters had always been keen travellers. However, Marnie was now confined to a wheelchair. For years they had dreamed of travelling Australia in a motorhome and now they were hoping this dream would become a reality.

After detailed discussions with the Whettters, Tynan's then approached Winnebago to design a very special motorhome. The motorhome had to be designed around Marnie's disabilities. Given that the motorhome had to be wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair, a Mercedes Sprinter was chosen as the base vehicle. With its willing 2.2 litre turbo diesel motor and six speed Sprintshift gearbox or automatic transmission, it's a very easy vehicle to drive. It can also be driven using a standard licence.

There were a number of essential requirements that the Winnebago team had to install. These included a back door and wheelchair lift, a power operated front passenger seat that could move every which way, an aisle way wide enough for a wheelchair, and finally a shower area big enough to fit a wheelchair.

Interestingly enough, the only indication from the outside that this is a special motorhome is the extra door in the back wall - for the wheelchair lift. Designed so that it can be operated from both inside and outside the motorhome, the wheelchair lift makes access very easy for Marnie. Inside, the layout features two single beds at the rear, a kitchen area, a standard cabover double bed and a shower/toilet cubicle behind the driver's seat. The shower/toilet was designed with



a very large tray area to allow wheel chair access. The cubicle doors opened outwards to allow wheelchair access and a shower curtain was installed for privacy.

Directly behind the passenger seat, a space was created - large enough for the wheelchair to be stored when not required. Dining requirements were also changed. Each bed had a half width swivel table mounted beside it so that the tables could be easily moved in and out as required.

When Marnie and Allan first saw the finished motorhome, they were delighted.

"I am confident that we shall resume and enjoy our future travels", a smiling Allan said.

So if you see the Whetter's as you are travelling Australia, stop and say hello to a very determined couple that have not let a disability stop their dream of travelling by motorhome.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was received from Mr and Mrs Blaxell, regarding The Winnebago NRTA Roadside Assist Scheme.

"My wife and I recently bought a new "Freeway", trading in an older ex-rental Maui. Both vehicles have been covered by NRMA Roadside Assistance, as are our two cars. We only needed to use the road service once on the older motorhome for a flat battery.

Having read the article about Winnebago's new national Roadside Assist Scheme, and the statement; ".....such as the NRMA in NSW. However, motorhomes are not covered by such a Scheme because of their size and

weight," I rang the NRMA to check that they indeed had changed their policy. Instead, I was assured that motorhomes were covered for roadside assistance, not only by the NRMA, but also by all other State and Territory Organisations on a reciprocal basis.

The only penalty associated with a vehicle over two tonnes is a higher charge for towing; applying also I suppose to those 4WD's that are heavier than two tonnes.

Based on this information from the NRMA in Sydney, and my experience in the past, I will be staying with the \$55.00 program and not Winnebago's \$375.00"

NRTA ROADSIDE ASSIST SCHEME: RESPONSE

As the Scheme is new to the Motorhome Industry, we approached Matt Mills, the CEO of National Road and Trailers Australia for his response.

"We appreciate Winnebago Industries forwarding this letter on to us. We have made the necessary inquiries to our service provider – NRMA Road Service, and they have provided the following points of clarification.

- Vehicles up to two tonne and 4WD's over two tonne that are used for private purposes will be towed for free up to eight kilometres.
- Arrangements can be made for vehicles over two tonne to be towed, but the member will be required to pay for the tow at the time of service. Based on their past experience, the NRMA estimate this would cost between \$500.00 to \$2,500.00.
- The NRTA has been working with the NRMA and other State bodies to implement a system of training to ensure that the patrolman who service the Winnebago NRTA Roadside Assist calls have the knowledge and ability to fault find these units and let the member continue on with their journey. Towing is a last resort.

Although the \$55.00 NRMA policy gives access to standard road service, the Blaxell's are not covered by a number of key services provided by the Winnebago NRTA Roadside Assist Scheme.

To avoid future problems such as this, all NRMA staff have been updated regarding this information.

To further clarify Winnebago's NRTA Roadside Assist Scheme, all the benefits of the Scheme are outlined in the next column

BENEFITS TO NEW WINNEBAGO OWNERS

The Winnebago NRTA Roadside Assist Scheme is exclusive to Winnebago Motorhomes and covers all motorhomes produced in 2002 for a period of two years. Current owners of A Winnebago motorhome can join the scheme, at a cost of \$375.00 pa.

NATIONAL ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE 24 HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Complete roadside assistance provided;

1. Breakdown service – at home or on the road.
2. Lockout service - at home or on the road.
3. Bugged vehicle rescue.
4. Remote area recovery.
5. Wheel changing - suitable spare must be available.
6. Battery boost and 20% off NRMA battery service.
7. Up to 5 litres of fuel provided if required.

TOWING

Free towing;

1. Up to 20 kilometres in metropolitan areas.
2. To the nearest NRTA recommended repairer in country and remote areas.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

1. Accommodation - up to \$600 in total for driver and passengers.
2. Car hire – up to \$100 per day, for up to 5 days.
3. Passenger transport (in lieu of car hire) - provide transport for driver and passengers to home or intended destination.
4. Collision incidents - advice only.
5. Theft incident - advice only.
6. Medical assistance - advice only.

VALE

"FRANK", Winnebago's resident, passed away on the 17th January, 2002.

He will be sadly missed by those who knew him.



HARMERS IN HARMONY

"Motorhoming caused me to retire" Warren Harmer told Out and About. "Not because of stress" he added "but rather because we enjoyed motorhoming so much."

There is no doubt that Warren and his wife Wendy are very excited about their recent purchase – an Explorer Motorhome. Previously owners of an Alpine 2505, their first motorhome, they had taken to motorhoming like ducks to water.

They were very happy with their Alpine but it did cause them to think about post work travels and what they would want in their retirement motorhome.

A straight floor walk-through from the driver's cab was high on their list. This meant an 'A' class motorhome – hence their choice of the Explorer. A 9.5 model (31 feet) model suited their needs admirably. Being built on a purpose built Ford motorhome chassis, it has more comfort than a truck cab chassis but still has an excellent load carrying capacity. Whilst the Harmer's opted for the longer Explorer unit, Winnebago also manufacture a 8.6 model (27 feet). Both vehicles have, as a standard feature, dual fuel - petrol and LPG.

When the Harmers sat down to discuss their requirements, it was a very informed discussion on both sides of the table. They also wanted was a good amount of wardrobe space and that was accomplished by taking out the dinette that is usually to the right of the doorway and installing a second wardrobe in its place. With their Alpine, Wendy said "we were spoilt by having two wardrobes". In the Explorer, Warren and Wendy are quite content to use the smaller table behind the passenger seat for meals and did not require the dinette.

External storage was a concern and a storage bin that went right through from side to side was a required item for easier loading. Also on their list was an entertainment area that could easily hold their television, video player, CD stacker and be a storage area for their laptop computer. A feature they appreciated in their new Explorer, that their Alpine did not have, was a long lounge – just the thing for relaxing and enjoying that cool drink after a hard day on the road.

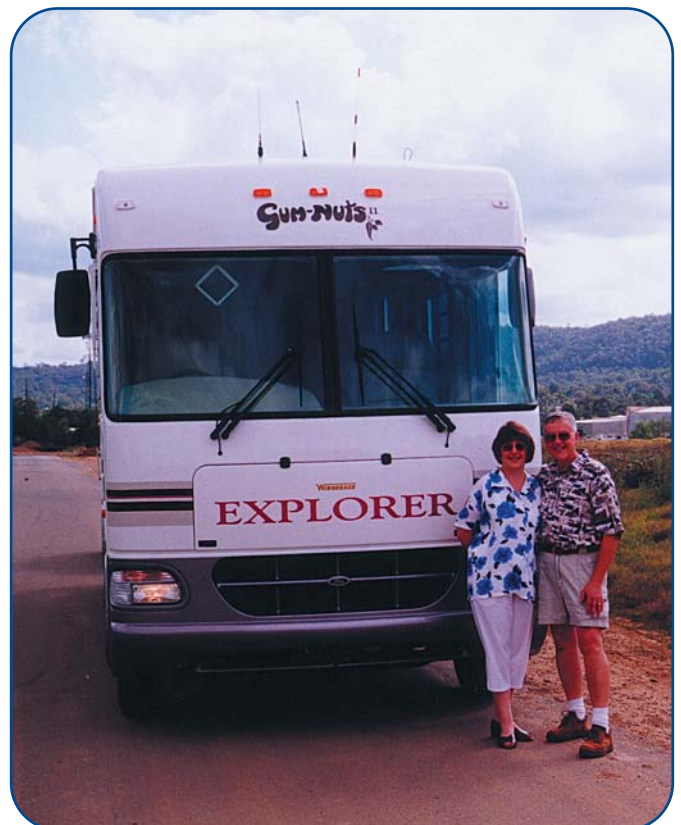
The Harmers purchased their Explorer through the Nowra dealership of Maconachie's Winnebago and found it to be a "great family team". Wendy told us that "I found their service, attention to detail and care with customers excellent. They are a lovely bunch of guys. Bill Kitchener even went to the trouble of phoning us during the January bushfires to find out if we were okay".

Whilst they have enjoyed a number of shorter trips around NSW and Victoria, Warren and Wendy are planning a few more trips to get themselves acquainted with their new Explorer before undertaking a lengthy trip to Western



Australia. Being keen Campervan and Motorhome Club (CMCA) members, they will also attend the Clubs anniversary rally at Barcaldine (Qld). Travelling in their Explorer will ensure them a enjoyable time as they discover the great countryside whilst doing it in luxury and style.

If you are thinking about your retirement travels then why not discover the lifestyle, as Warren and Wendy have done by taking the first step and contacting Winnebago or visiting our website for the name of your nearest Dealer.



ALPINE LUXURY IN 2002

Winnebago's Alpine Range is designed to fit into the luxury end of the Class C motorhome market. With its accent on comfort and tasteful decor, it is certainly an attractive proposition for people seeking luxury and affordability in a motorhome.

The Alpine Range has eight layouts, with 20 models available – the model variation due to the type of cab chassis chosen. The models vary from 6.5 metres (21 feet) to 9.5 metres (31 feet) in length. Each layout can be customised with the many options offered.

There is a wide choice of cab chassis. These vary from the Mazda T4600 (MWB & ELWB), the Isuzu NPR 300 and the Isuzu NQR 450 turbo charged unit. The Isuzu NPR 300 is available with automatic transmission.

For 2002 there are a number of features that have been added to the Alpine Range to make them an even more attractive proposition. All 2002 models have the Medallion external fibreglass finish, which creates a smooth, vibrant surface that requires minimum maintenance. There is a new colour scheme - both inside and out.

Out of sight but not out of mind, is the special "Winnebago Super Panel Construction" which means that the floor, wall and roof panels are fully laminated – all strengthened by metal framework. Externally, the entry door is fitted with a dead bolt and the windows are the Hehr louver windows, all of which are fitted with safety glass.

Inside there's Winnebago's unique ducted air conditioning system, the now standard slide-out pantry, tea towel rails and entry step storage. Some might sound like small changes but so often it's the little things that make all the difference! Other features new to the Alpine include a magazine holder, lights in all storage compartments, a

rubbish bin, key holder near the door and coat hooks in appropriate locations.

In the utilities area, improvements have been made to Winnebago's 240V and 12V integrated distribution control panel and energy management system – a very necessary feature in the sophisticated power systems used today. 1500W sine wave inverters are a standard installation. The hot water system operates from both gas and a 240V - a very convenient feature. All taps have flick mixer levers and all waste pipes are the larger and more practical 40mm diameter.

One item that is certain to gain interest is the optional satellite television system. It could save many arguments as your motorhome can be linked to cable television anywhere in Australia. To give even more room inside, on some models, a slide-out is part of the integral design.

There is an absolute plethora of exciting features, both inside and out, in Winnebago's Alpine, so do yourself a favour by visiting your nearest Winnebago dealer or visit the Winnebago website at www.winnebago.com.au.



If you are travelling or living Interstate, Winnebago have an Australia wide network of authorised Winnebago Dealers who can thoroughly service your motorhome.

Refer below for your nearest Winnebago Dealer.

Winnebago Dealers

Australian Motorhomes

31 Pacific Highway
Bennetts Green NSW 2290
Ph: 02 4948 0433
www.australianmotorhomes.com.au

Tynan RV

1 Kiara Road
Miranda NSW 2228
Ph: 02 9545 8658
www.tynanrv.com.au

Maconachies

Cnr North & East Streets
Nowra NSW 2541
Ph: 02 4421 7333
www.maconachies.com.au

Robert's RV World

1602 Hume Highway
Campbellfield Vic 3061
Ph: 03 9357 4555
www.rvworld.com.au

Brisbane Motor Camper Centre

3940 Pacific Highway
Loganholme QLD 4129
Ph: 07 3801 2045
www.motorcamper.com.au

North Coast Motorhomes

248 Nicklin Way
Warana QLD 4575
Ph: 07 5493 4699
www.northcoastmotorhomes.com.au

Skippy Winnebago

1297 South Road
St Mary's SA 5042
Ph: 08 8277 9966
www.skippy.com.au

Parkland Winnebago

1287 Albany Highway
Cannington WA 6107
Ph: 08 9458 7222
www.parkland-ptyltd.com.au

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