



Step into the interior of the luxurious Allisee Supremacy and it's like stepping into an apartment, not only in décor but also in the sheer space that's been created with the ground-breaking use of a full-length slideout.

New Allisee Supremacy – a step into the future

First unveiled to the public at the 2015 Covi SuperShow, the ALM Group's new generation Allisee Supremacy motorhome is truly a step into the future.

The end product of a two-year design and build project by the New Zealand manufacturer, the Supremacy combines the latest technology and sheer innovation to produce a motorhome that within its 7.9-metre length captures the look and feel of an apartment.

For members of the public stepping into the Supremacy for the first time the result was simply 'wow'. That's a response that was heard over and over again at the Covi SuperShow and was music to the ears of ALM Group boss Andrew Fink and his team who had poured their heart and soul into the project.

Andrew explains that work had begun on planning a second generation Allisee – first launched by the company back in 2007 – when

a discussion with a customer proved to be the catalyst for some fresh thinking.

The customer (Wilf Emmett, from Wanganui) told Andrew that he was in the market for a new motorhome but just couldn't find what he was looking for: "Wilf's prescription of what he wanted became the starting point for our new design.

"It's a major expense to set off on a venture like this and to have the catalyst of someone who was prepared to back us by saying 'I believe in you, let's do it' was a big advantage. We haven't looked back from that moment."

Going back into the arena with a new product is a major challenge for any manufacturer; particularly here in NZ where it's difficult to manufacture and compete against imported product.

"In my view New Zealand product will always be better in quality, more robust and more

specifically designed for our conditions," says Andrew. "But the sheer numbers game mean it's almost impossible to compete pricewise against imported product from manufacturers who have the benefit of massive volume.

"The first thing that's very obvious is that you can't build a 'me-too' product. In New Zealand the only way I believe we can succeed is to build slide out vehicles because that's one thing the European manufacturers don't do.

"So it had to be a slideout but it also had to be a slideout that was unlike any other on the market."

To say that's what the Supremacy delivers is putting it mildly – the vehicle features a full-body slideout that, when extended, gives the vehicle the same interior cubic volume inside as a 9.3 metre vehicle without a slideout.

"What we wanted to create was an apartment. The width is what gives it the spaciousness," says Andrew.

"Nobody in NZ had done a full body slideout previously because there is significant structural engineering that's required when you cut a big hole in the side of the vehicle and push it out," he explains. "We had to replace that strength in other areas – a feat that required careful engineering."

The ALM team also picked up on a comment Wilf made that 'these slideout vehicles are all very good but all they gain is floor space'.

"That was a pivotal comment in designing a lounge area which grew with the slideout - not only do you gain volume but you also gain seating."

The same principle applied to the Supremacy's bedroom where the slideout carries out the bed by 350mm and then the slideout continues to 700mms providing full walkaround of the bed.

"In manufacturing a new product like this you know you're not going to meet everybody's requirements," says Andrew. "However our multi-configurable lounge scenario enables owners to have a compact lounge, or then with the slideout extended a full lounge, which then has the ability to convert to a full dinette. It's no longer a matter of the customer having to choose one configuration – this enables them to change it easily to suit the situation."

Other 'NZ firsts' in the Supremacy include:

* C-Zone automation technology, as opposed to conventional circuit breakers.

"The whole vehicle is run by one central control module," explains Andrew. "So, for example, when the owner wants to drive they simply select driving mode and the control module automatically goes through and turns off the gas, water pump and all the lights etc and prepares the vehicle to be driven.

"Then when the driver gets to their destination they chose from such modes as day living, night living or night entertaining and the vehicle reconfigures to the most appropriate settings.

"This type of technology is now expected in high-end craft in the marine industry and by bringing it into this industry we believe we're raising the bar once again."

* Double-glazed windows – which offer the benefits of heat retention in winter, keep the vehicle cool in summer and also provide outstanding noise dampening.

Andrew is particularly proud of the fact that their glazing requirements proved to be a first for the manufacturer, which is one of the largest suppliers to the RV industry in the US.

"We had the windows made from Solex glass which is colour-matched to the glass in the Mercedes cab," says Andrew. "That's the first time in the suppliers' history they have been asked to do that."

Such attention to detail underscores ALM's determination to create a motorhome that fits with the look and feel of the Mercedes cab and chassis: "Our company design philosophy is to ensure that the back of the vehicle looks like it was built by the same people who built the cab."

The ground-breaking Allisee Supremacy is built on a Mercedes Benz Sprinter 519 chassis, with 7-speed automatic transmission and dual rear wheels providing rear wheel drive. It sells for \$300,000.

For more information, contact: the ALM Group (07) 850 5512.



ALM Managing Director Andrew Fink (left) and Wilf Emmett have had a business relationship that goes back nearly 20 years. It was the trust and mutual respect built up over that time which provided such a strong foundation for their collaboration on the new Supremacy. As the proud owner of the first Allisee Supremacy to roll off the production line (the vehicle pictured above on show at the Covi SuperShow) Wilf is delighted with the end result.

"It was a win/win for everyone involved," said Andrew. "Wilf has owned motorhomes before so he had a handle on what he wanted, we had a free rein and he had the confidence that what we were going to come up with was going to work for him.



As the feature of the ALM Group's display at the Covi SuperShow, the Allisee Supremacy complete with boat trailer, boat and quad bike well and truly lived up to the firm's promotional tagline – 'live the dream'.

It also reflected the company's years of experience in the marine industry because the Enduro boat and trailer weren't just props; they had been designed and built by the ALM team too.

The idea was to show motorhomers that such a set-up, with a transport trailer and a boat trailer combined, would enable them to avoid the hassles that often accompany launching or retrieving a boat with your motorhome. "It's about solution solving and giving people the freedom so they can have the best of both worlds – they don't have to sacrifice one or the other," says Andrew.

"We designed this to make people start thinking about lifestyle and how they can 'live the dream'."