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In the first of our series on motorhome manufacturers, we take you behind the scenes at Trakka Recreational Vehicles.

On the FACTORY FLOOR

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Building a campervan, motorcamper or motorhome is almost like no other industry in Australia. This is mainly because a manufacturer normally takes a brand new van or cab chassis that has already been finished, pulls some of it apart and rebuilds it into a brand new recreational vehicle.

Manufacturers have different ways of building their products, depending on what they make, and over the next few MHG issues we'll be taking you

Top: Here's where it all begins at Trakka, with the design team working on CAD (computer-aided design) terminals.

1. This is where the construction process starts in campervan/motorhome manufacture: a blank but fully manufactured van.

2. A pop-top conversion being started: everything, including windows and most of the roof, has been stripped out. Yes, it will look a little tidier when it is finished!



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3. Once everything unwanted has been stripped out, the re-building process begins.

4. It's not only vans that Trakka converts, LandCruiser 'Troopies' are also a very popular conversion. A rising roof has been added to this one and the internal fit-out is happening.

5. Every factory needs a substantial storage area for parts and components and Trakka is no exception.



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6. While van/cab chassis work is going on in one part of the factory, timber and cabinetry work is taking place in its own dedicated area.

7. One of the benefits of being a larger manufacturer is that major components can all be made to an exact fitting size. Martin Poate explains the inner workings of a motorcamper bathroom to an attentive editor Bromwich.

through a few different factories. For our first visit we'll be going to Trakka Recreational Vehicles.

Trakka is based at Mt Kuring-gai north of Sydney and produces a variety of RVs, everything from the VW Trakkadu campervan and the Fiat Ducato Torino motorcamper to the Sprinter/VW LT Sandpiper motorhome.

Martin Poate, the general manager at Trakka, was kind enough to give MHG editors Ros Bromwich and myself the grand tour through the factory.



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SPECIAL FEATURE



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8. With all major components pre-built, it doesn't take long to get them fitted

9. Trakka also has a manufacturing facility in NZ and there is an interchange of manufactured components, including whole motorhome bodies. Looking rather odd here, without its Fiat Ducato cab chassis, is Trakka's new Veneto motorhome. Trakka will fit the chassis and complete the internal fit-out work.

10. The Veneto's rear; note the VW van on the hoist in the background: Trakka also does vehicle servicing at Mt Kuring-gai.

11. Here we are, almost finished and out of the factory door - this is the inside of a Veneto motorhome.

12. Where it all ends, as far as manufacture is concerned: a brand new Sandpiper motorhome ready for sale.

13. A little sneak preview: Trakka's Trakkadu based on a VW's T5 4Motion all-wheel drive (AWD), which Trakka has fitted out and done a few suspension mods to. A brief drive revealed veeerrry impressive offroad performance. ■



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