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Above. The sleek looking coach. It is just possible to see the air conditioning unit on the roof. The spot lights on the side and rear of the truck are useful if arriving at night.

## The Wade Equine Coach

**In New Zealand they don't call them trucks, or lorries, or even horse boxes, they call them Equine Coaches. A fancy name you say, well they are fancy rigs.**

New Zealand has quite a reputation for impressive horse trucks (and Australia is catching up), as when over there, one is quite blown away by the quality of horse transport vehicle. We asked John Twomey, international eventing rider and Australian rep. for the New Zealand company, Wade Equine Coaches, just what is the story? "Having lived and ridden in New Zealand for a decade, you often end up parked in someone's cow paddock with no power or anything. Also a lot of farming families down there have horses and they treat the truck as a home away from home. They put their 4WDs and motorbikes in it and head off to the beach and away for their holidays, so it is not just a horse truck. This truck was imported into Australia about seven years ago and was one of the first in this country. The really interesting thing about it is that over 50% of it is living area and is therefore classed as a motor home, which greatly reduces the annual registration fee. It is not classed as a commercial vehicle for the purpose of carrying horses".

The truck was recently purchased by the Isbister family from Perth. Belinda and Sarah Isbister are beginning to make a name for themselves in the competitive domestic equestrian world and along with younger sister, Emma have launched Perth Performance Horses. "The truck will be used for our business", explains Belinda. "We needed a good, well set up truck to do the big trips from Perth to the East Coast and back again. It was bought principally for that big Nullarbor crossing, as it will be a lot easier on the horses and a lot nicer for us. You have everything at your fingertips, it will be fantastic and we are very excited. It is such a lovely truck; we are very lucky and we won't know ourselves".

The sleek coach is a Hino Ranger Pro 10 Ace XX, 270hp, GVM 17,000kg, with 240v power and all the features we have come to expect in the modern day horse transport vehicle/motor home, including under floor gas heating. With not much more than 75,000 kms on the clock it looks the perfect vehicle for Perth Performance Horses. It has a beautiful fit out for both the horses and their owners.



Above. The Hino dashboard and some useful information and advice.



"The stairway to heaven" or at least the roof where feed etc can be stored. The reversing camera is just above the rope to pull the ramp down.



The 270 HP Hino keeps the coach at the same speed up hill and down.



Arrived and ready for action, looking rather like a New Zealand flightless bird. See the solid ramp is not too steep.



The slide out pantry has revolutionised the modern kitchen and they are perfect for a confined space. One of the sound system speakers can be seen above, as can the drop down for the bench bed on the bottom RHS of the picture.



Luxury living in the home away from home. Plenty of bench space, with stone bench tops and a wonderful, deep sink. See the stove with the microwave above. The fridge is next to the stove and there is plenty of overhead storage. The many downlights create a nice, warm light, with the stylish Venetian blinds affording privacy.



The view to the front of the coach. The luton peak has a double and a single mattress and sleeps three. There is plenty of head room and it is possible to sit up in bed and read and is not the least bit claustrophobic. Another bed is behind the driver's seat in the cab and yet another can sleep along the left hand side bench, which has a drop down across the door. The Wade Coach sleeps five comfortably.



Coffee anyone? A useful corner of the kitchen.



The kitchen showing the upright gas stove with separate pull out grill and the "three way" fridge. (Gas, mains power and 12 volt battery). The exhaust fan above the stove is ducted to the outside.

The roomy luton peak sleeps three. There are plenty of downlights as well as main fluorescent lights in both the living and horse section. The exhaust fan takes out the hot air and brings in cool.



Above. An internal view with the bench bed in place across the side entrance.



Passenger seat belts in the living section.



The view from the sleeper cab back through the living to the horse section.



The fuse box and battery indicators etc. are out of sight in the wardrobe.



The shower with stainless steel base (as seen often in New Zealand) is separated from the rest of the bathroom by a shower curtain and the lip of the base prevents the bathroom flooding when someone takes a shower.



The wardrobe with formal gear to the front has a slide out hanging bar, which makes finding the right outfit to wear so much easier. There is a full length mirror to make sure you look your best. Also above RHS useful storage, perfect for towels.

A bifold door opens up the back to greatly increase the living area.



The internal area of the horse section and the living section are very well sealed.



With the horses out, it is serious open plan living in the Wade Equine Coach. Carpet to match the living section covers the horse section floor for more comfortable living at a show or when used as a mobile home. The walls and the floor are covered with ribbed waterproof rubber. The dividers for the four horse section are stainless steel and not padded. Often the padding is more trouble than it is worth, as it can perish and become smelly and unsightly. The smooth clean stainless steel is hygienic and the horses come with their own padding. The bays are 750mm wide and the partitions are very easy to adjust. The overhead rug racks get plenty of use.



Under chest storage space.



Heads this way. Head dividers and tie ups fold neatly away when not in use. The stainless steel finish is easy to maintain with the ribbed rubber covering the storage boxes. The horse section of the coach is well sealed and water tight.



The coach operates on mains power when available, a 12 volt system with solar re charger and there is also a 4 KVA generator.



The bank of 12 volt batteries that has a solar re charger on the roof is enough to be away and run the living area for four days without plugging it in to mains power.



There can never be too much storage and the Wade Equine Coach has plenty.



There is room for plenty of gear in the well appointed and (judging by this photograph), well used tack box.



The springs provide an easy manual lift of the ramp. There are not always wash bays at competitions in New Zealand and the retractable hose hot wash is good for the horses and hosing out the horse section. There is an 800 litre water tank for all coach functions.



The awning is adjusted manually.



The closed circuit TV camera in the horse section and the roll down weatherproof cover for the back of the coach.



The back corner of the horse area, showing the fitted carpet and the winding device for the awning. The chain goes across the back to prevent the last horse from coming out when the ramp comes down.