

# Promenade

# Magic

Royal Flair has just released an all-new van, the Promenade, to its extensive range

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY KILNER





The shape of the kitchen bench works well



The layout is good

**R**oyal Flair as a company is always pushing the boundaries in caravan manufacturing and design, which according to Bill Deralis, MD of Royal Flair, is a great way to pass the time.

Bill states, "trying to stay ahead of the market and design and build a quality van that will impress clients is very important to us as a company. The Promenade is a new range of vans that are very flash, with only 11 floor plans to choose from and ranging in size from 17ft to 23ft.

"These vans are going to hit the mid-to-top end of vans and cater for people who enjoy touring with all the mod cons from home. The idea behind the Promenade is to have a range of vans with minimal changes, so what you see is what you get. The only changes on offer are the type of air-conditioning, the stove and interior colours. Having said that, these vans are jam-packed full of gear to go, so they won't fall short in any department."

Sit back and read on as we explore the new, hot off the factory floor Promenade, out on the banks of the picturesque Lake Nagambie in Central Victoria.

### ON THE OUTSIDE

I have come to expect big things when it comes to the Royal Flair brand. Over the years the small things that weren't quite right have been addressed and the team has put together a neat product.

It was therefore with surprise and a shake of my head that I found a couple of issues under the body and pointed

them out to Bill. Bill raised his hands and smiled sorrowfully. He explained that the van had still been getting put together that morning, and as it was the first van built, there were still a few teething problems and the van hadn't been through any quality-control checking.

The Promenade is built on a 4in by 2in SupaGal chassis with 4in raiser. Suspension is handled via a tandem load-sharing system complete with seven-leaf springs on each corner, plus a shocker for each corner to help neutralise harsh vibrations while on-road.

Braking is handled via 10in electrical brakes, a cable handbrake and a Series 500 brake controller in case the van uncouples for any reason. Keeping the van rolling along are 14in alloy rims shod with Maxmiller LT radials.

Components bolted to the underneath of the chassis include twin 95L water tanks, each with its own gauge inside the cabin, and drop-down, wind-down stabilising legs. Around the chassis are twin 4.5kg gas bottles mounted on the A-frame along with an AL-KO 50mm ball coupling, Manutec 200mm jockey wheel, mains pressure fitting and an external tap. At the rear is a loop-style bumper mounted with a spare tyre.

The body of the Promenade comprises a Meranti timber frame insulated and clad with aluminium and Camec tinted acrylic windows. At the front is a neat padded boot, while up on the roof is a Cormorant air-conditioning unit and Winegard antennas. On the side is an A&E 8300 awning with centre arm support, triple-lock door, door light and a couple of awning lights.



The dinette seats two easily



The bedroom is bright



The exterior of the Promenade is neat and tidy, with no real issues I could spot aside from the couple I mentioned previously.

### ON THE INSIDE

The interior of the Promenade is flash. From the full ensuite at the rear of the van to the neat bedroom at the front, there is no shortage of comfort for two people.

Let's start with the bedroom, which is at the front of the van and features a full-size queen bed, island style, off the front wall. There are wardrobes either side and the usual overhead cupboards.

On each divider wall from the bedroom to the rest of the van, there are corner cupboards with the cupboard on the driver's side of the van floor to ceiling and the one opposite is half-sized. A 15in LCD TV is mounted on a swivel bracket above this cupboard, so it can be viewed from the bedroom or swivelled to be watched from the lounge dining area.

This room has three windows, plus a Midi Hatch above the bed for extra ventilation and light making the bedroom bright and airy with a warm feel. A concertina door divides this room off if required.

The entrance to the van is in the middle between the kitchen on the right and the bedroom on the left. Opposite the door is a cosy club-style lounge. This space is well-utilised and offers enough space for two people comfortably. There are cupboards with leadlight doors overhead and some storage space underneath the seats. The battery and charging system is mounted under the seat closest to the bed.

Parked neatly between the dining seats and the ensuite at the rear of the van is a Dometic fridge. In the overhead cupboard above the fridge are the water tank gauge and various controls for power and a DNA radio unit.





Opposite the fridge is the very practical kitchen area. Directly opposite the fridge is the angled corner sink with flick mixer. Along the bench closer to the door sits the stove and oven/grill.

There's a raft of storage space mounted along the kitchen roof line and below the bench top, with slide-out pantry pot drawers and the like. Above the lounge dining/seats and the fridge are more cupboards for practical storage. Light beams in through windows in both walls, as well as another Midi hatch in the roof in the middle of the kitchen area.

The ensuite is at the rear of the van and includes a fully moulded shower with light fan and hatch. There's a Thetford toilet and on the back wall is a huge array of cupboards and storage areas. Next to the sink under the benchtop is a lift-up door that exposes a Lemair washing machine. Royal Flair has gone all-out to utilise every bit of space possible inside the Promenade.

Other interior goodies include 12V lighting throughout, venetian blinds, water filter, full splashbacks in the kitchen, vinyl floor and plenty of timber and ply to create a neat, warm-looking package.

I really liked the interior feel of the Promenade, which is almost too jam-packed with goodies. Considering the overall size, Royal Flair has done a very neat job of fitting it all in, especially in such a practical application. If this is just the first Promenade, I can't wait to see what the others look like.

## WRAP-UP

I believe I might have mentioned a few times already that there's more in this van than meets the eye. I liked the overall build quality and the feel of the interior. For the dollars, \$53,990 plus on-roads, it's well worth considering the Promenade as a great touring package! —

## RATINGS

ON THE OUTSIDE:	7.5/10
ON THE INSIDE:	8/10
IN THE KITCHEN:	8/10
AT THE DINETTE:	8/10
IN THE BEDROOM:	8/10
KEEPING CLEAN:	8/10

## SPECIFICATIONS

MANUFACTURER:	Royal Flair
MODEL:	Promenade PM38 20ft x 7ft 9in
INTERNAL LENGTH:	6.1m (20ft)
EXTERNAL LENGTH:	8.4m (27ft 6in)
INTERNAL WIDTH:	2.40m (7ft 9in)
EXTERNAL WIDTH:	2.43m (7ft 9.7in)
HEIGHT:	2.8m (9ft 2in)
TARE WEIGHT:	1896kg
<b>PRICE:</b>	<b>From \$53,990</b>

## CONTACT

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## THANKS

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## KEY

- 1 Bed
- 2 Storage
- 3 Dinette seat
- 4 Dinette table
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Bathroom

