



#### RIDING AROUND THE GLOBE:

Travelling the world by motorbike might not be everyone's cup of Earl Grey, as Kev Browne puts it, but he and his wife Karen saved for 10 years and quit their day jobs to do just that. They rode into Gisborne yesterday on their eye-catching Moto Guzzi, heavily modified to truck them and their needs around the world . . . and how do you like that roof?

Picture by Rebecca Grunwell

## It's a bike under this globe-riding couple

by Sophie Rishworth

A COUPLE from the United Kingdom travelling the world on a modified motorbike were in Gisborne yesterday — driving more than 30,000 kilometres to get here.

Kev and Karen Browne quit their day jobs last May to begin their two to three year journey on a Moto Guzzi Spada motorbike that Mr Browne, 39, a former engineer with British Telecom, spent four years adapting for the trip.

"We have not kept a tab of what we have spent on it because we would probably

frighten ourselves," he said.

Fully loaded, the bike weighs 450 kilograms. Packed inside the carefully-positioned boxes are a teepee tent, sleeping bags, airbeds, stove, and enough food and water to be self-sufficient for almost a week.

Nine months into their once-in-a-lifetime adventure, New Zealand is the 20th country they have visited.

"Travelling here is easy because there are so many motor campsites and heaps of people chat to us and offer us places to stay. It has been a bit of a holiday here and we can

understand what you say," said Mrs Browne, 43.

The couple met in 2000 and said it was like they had known each other all their lives. They started saving six months after they met, for a trip Mr Browne had been dreaming about since he started riding motorbikes.

The canvas roof came after the couple fancied a bit of shade while motoring through the South of France.

An intercom system in their helmets means they can communicate while on the road.

"Karen has quite a repertoire of funny little

squeaks and eeks when she thinks we're going to fall off," said Mr Browne.

The GPS system and music can also be played through it.

So far, they have been featured in a magazine in Kazakhstan, been on TV in Azerbaijan and in a Russian car magazine.

People can follow their travels on [www.guzzioverland.co.uk](http://www.guzzioverland.co.uk). They plan to spend the next few months in the South Island before heading to Australia and South America.

"It's the not having to turn around and go back — that's the thing," said Mrs Browne.