

Brits at the Beach 2020 - Whangamata 13-16 February

By Stephen Ward



It was the eleventh Brits at the Beach this year, which began in Tairua before moving to Whangamata after a few years due to its success, but numbers seemed to be down this year. Not many members present, actually just us, perhaps due to lack of advertising. There were only a few Jags present for the whole weekend, we were in the V12 E, Dave & Josalyn Dunkley in a V12 XJS from Rotorua (possibly new members) and Richard Vialoux in a V12 XJS rag top from Papamoa (ex member), V12s are evidently getting more popular, and a few more attended on Saturday, the main day. There was the usual selection of models, Triumphs, MGs, BMCs, Fords, etc. and also a Bristol 401.

We skipped the Thursday event as it was reserved for whiskey tasting but Friday started as a get together on the old Kopu bridge in Thames. The bridge has seen its best days but there is a move ahead to restore it, best of luck. Did you know that there is a movable section in the middle to allow large boats through but no such provision in the later bridge, which is next door? People's choice went to a "V12 Jag", no not ours but Richard Vialoux's, the prize included a number of items, one being a new book on the assembly of Jaguars at Nelson in the seventies, I was jealous.

Lunch in Thames and then straight on to Whangamata as we passed on the trial as it went all the way around via Waihi! Found our Book-a-Batch accommodation and settled in for the weekend. We walked to town but we got miss-placed (we don't get lost) and had to ask a local who kindly let us through his back garden on to the right street.



Brits at the Beach Festival

4 hrs · 🌐

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BONNETS UP CAR SHOW WINNER
1973 - E TYPE JAGUAR
OWNER - STEPHEN WARD FROM KATIKATI

Our judge stated, One of the most original E-Type's on New Zealand roads. Congratulations Stephen, thanks for bringing her to Brits at the Beach 2020.

Saturday was for grouping at one park and convoying through town to another park. Here the Minis came to the fore as the largest club present and one of their number was voted People's Choice.

We met up with friends from the Auckland JDC in their XJ40, who came for the day and we joined them for the evening at the RSA for dinner and a serenade (!) by a Rolling Stones tribute band, very loud and we left part way through. The next day we gathered at the same park for an 'under bonnet' competition, which our E Type won! The prize included another copy of the Jaguar assembly book. Hooray. Who should turn up but the local who directed us through his garden the day before so I gave him a lift back to his home?

Then it was back to Katikati, stopping off at the lady who was the first owner of our XJ6 (for twenty-eight years!). Many thanks to the organisers for all their work. See you all next year.

Stephen