

IN THE BEGINNING - THE JAGUAR ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB (BAY OF PLENTY) SHORT HISTORY

By Tony Johnson

The Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club celebrated its 30th birthday in 2018 and wound up in 2019. The majority of active club members then joined the Jaguar Drivers Club. Dennis Catchpole suggested a short history of the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club be included in our club magazine.

The Jaguar Enthusiasts Club originated after a number of foundation members attended the first Classic and Sports car show at Tauranga's historic village. The need was recognised to form a club in which to foster the interest of Jaguar owners in the Bay of Plenty. Ken Allcott, who operated the Car Clinic, placed an advertisement in the Bay of



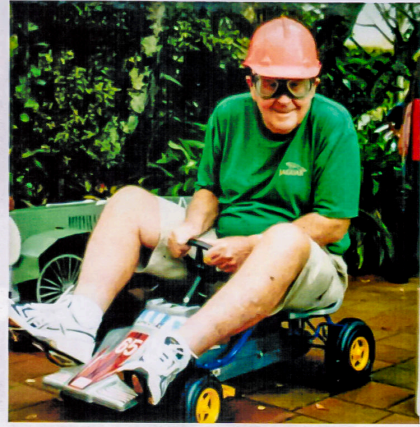
Plenty Times inviting anyone interested to the first meeting. This meeting was held on 21st June 1988 at Tauranga's Aero Club rooms. At this well attended meeting it was decided to proceed further and a second meeting was held at the board room of the Tauranga historic village where the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club (Bay of Plenty) was formed. This was 12th July 1988. The attendees elected a committee and organised a calendar of events, the first being a visit to the Katikati Bird Gardens on 31st September. This was the era of the William Lyons designed cars so the vehicles present included the classic Mark I & II, S-types, one XJ6, Mark V's and E-types. 9 Jaguars in all.

A BOP Times reporter was on hand so the event received good publicity and heightened public awareness and attracted a few more members.

Ken Allcott was the first President, his XJ6 had the rego "PURRIN". The initial subscription was \$20 and the club was underway. Eric and Kay Nicie and Robyn Standish are the only four remaining from the register of 24 individual members.



Ralph Riseley the kamikaze pilot in his SS Swallow



Truby Hollister-Jones – demon go carter

Club events were far ranging from social occasions to competitions and contests. Many were held at members' homes around swimming pools, pajamas parties, members parading in sleep-wear, casino evenings and roulette in gowns and bow-ties down to fish and chips held in parks and members' gardens. The competitive events ranged from driving at the long-gone Bay Park, gymkhanas in members paddocks, supermarket carparks and road time-trials. As the club matured, and members average crept up, the competitive events gave way to more social outings and car runs.





Tony Johnson's XK 140

from the start of the club with coverage of club events, editorials, Jaguar and motoring articles. Russell Standish and Peter Sparrow were the first editors. Initially in black and white the move to colour added to the enjoyment club members received from it. The last year of the club saw the change to digital distribution and an e-magazine.

The member records show that early years had many families and family-oriented events. Over 300 members joined the club over the years but the maximum at any one time was 64 in 2009.

The Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club continued to attend the historic village Car Shows and often were winners of the best club display. Regular attendance at the premier Eilerslie Car Show included club displays, with varying success. One strong thread that held the club together was the magazine. This was issued monthly right

A view from the past – a combined Jaguar - Daimler Club picnic Main Beach Mount Maunganui. The now demolished Oceanside hotel at the rear.



The club celebrated its 10th anniversary with 57 Jaguars present, 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th anniversaries, the latter with 48 Jaguars attending including 15 XK's which celebrated the 70th anniversary of the launch of the XK120 in 1948 at Earls Court Motor Show in the UK. All the anniversaries were held in style with these larger events open to other clubs. They included car displays typically on The Strand, car runs and gala dinners. During recent years events have become more restrained with reserved country drives or social dinner. We acknowledge the wonderful contribution of the foundation members - the Patrons, Russell (deceased 2019) and Robyn Standish, and long-serving members Kay and Eric Nicie, who devoted their energies to the club over a long period. Over the past 30 years the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club (Bay of Plenty), despite declining members and many other competitive organisations, continued to successfully meet and enjoy sharing friendships and passion for the Jaguar marque.

We look forward to continuing this in the Jaguar Drivers Club (Bay of Plenty).

Tony