

Aussie XK jaguar historian says NZ punches above its weight!

By Neville Barlow

Australian John Elmgreen from Sydney is known to some club members as the co-author (with Terry McGrath) of the book "The Jaguar XK in Australia" (long ago sold out) and "The Jaguar XK 120 in the Southern Hemisphere."

In working on his next book "The Jaguar XK 140 in the Southern Hemisphere", due out in 2021, John has compiled some rough estimates of the number of XK 120s, 140s, and 150s, that have ever been in NZ and has come up with the following figures.

XK 120	OTS	RHD	52	LHD	25	Total	77
	FHC		8		14		22
	DHC		9		9		18
XK 140	OTS		3		21		24
	FHC		15		23		38
	DHC		8		14		22
XK 150	OTS		4		22		26
	FHC		44		30		74
	DHC		15		14		29
			159		171		330

There has been more left hand XKs in NZ than right hand drive. Some left-hand drive cars have been converted to right hand drive. The most common XK has been the XK 120 Roadster (OTS) with 78 examples just pipping the XK 150 FHC, with 74.

But NZ punches above its weight when compared to Australia in terms of the number of XKs vs the total population of each country! Australia has had about 850 XKs for a population of 25 million, NZ has 330 XKs, for a population of 5 million.

This means that NZ has about twice as many XKs per head of population than Aussie. It is a tribute to the many fine craftsmen that populate the "shaky isles" and to great taste in motoring classics.

John is always keen to hear from NZ XK owners (as well as XK owners worldwide) and of course has been in touch with many in NZ over the years. His email address is:

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I very much appreciate John sending me these statics and wish him well for his upcoming new book.

Neville