

100 YEARS OF JAGUAR - CAR DISPLAY

By Tony Johnson

After a wet week, our new President Dennis arranged a glorious spring Saturday 24th September to celebrate all things Jaguar. Thank you to all our members who polished their fine machines and brought them along to share. Everyone mingled and mixed with 75 pristine Jaguars of all types to celebrate 100 years of the Jaguar marque. There was a palpable level of excitement as more and more sparkling Jaguars appeared at the gate. Cars came from Gisborne, Whakatane, Waikato, Auckland and BOP, with many surprises driving in the gate.

The cars were roughly ordered in decades from John Endean's 1927 Royal Enfield motorbike with a 1931 Swallow Sidecar attached, through to the 2022 iPace supplied by local dealer Ebbitt Prestige. Host Classic Flyers provided a very suitable venue with hardstand for the cars and an intimate experience for the public to get up close to some wonderful pieces of automotive engineering. E-type owners would say "art on wheels". Personally, I like the refined curves of the earlier XK's (I am



biased, I know) whereas the new F-types have broadened at the back. Still stunning but maybe that happens to us all with age, we spread out a bit, a bit more relaxed, but still have a twinkle in our eyes that only Jaguar owners know. Dream on.

William Lyons was known for his flair and design skills, and this was apparent in Bill Harding's 1935 SS1 Tourer, a very rare car with only a small number surviving worldwide, out of 148 built. This had pride of place at the hangar entrance (close enough to get inside if it rained). Bruce Hutchinson from Te Puke had his 1936 SS 2 ½ -litre saloon, a Mark V saloon travelled from Taupo, Richard Waugh drove his imposing Mark VIIM from 1954 down from Auckland, and there were 4 XK140s on show illustrating the 3 body styles – 2

Fixed Head Coupes, 1 Drop Head Coupe and Tony's Open Two Seater, and Rex Bentham's XK150. The list goes on with many Jaguar models represented. A large "prowl" of E-types attracted a lot of attention, a stunning D-type racing replica, Mark 1, several Mark 2s, XK8, XJ-S, many XJ saloons, XK/XKR, an S-type, XF and a number of fearsome F-types. The Jaguar lines were very apparent as one wandered the rows of beautiful cars.



A small official ceremony was held where Andrew Gormlie welcomed us all the Classic Flyers, now in its 18th year. Ebbett Prestige MD Lee Small touched on the future of Jaguar, and our President Dennis Shepherd welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

Having 75 cars attend was acknowledged as a fantastic success and the Waikato and Auckland contingents were recognised. Richard Waugh launched the book "Classic Jaguars in New Zealand".

He acknowledged a number of contributors to the book and spoke of Jaguar being about style, pace, and value for money.

The book was entirely a voluntary effort and about 65 copies were sold on the day. Over 250 people attended, and with more than 100 owners and partners present it made for a busy, fitting day to celebrate Jaguar cars.

The fun is in meeting new people, and old friends, and enjoying a shared experience.

As Noel said, "It is a really great group and it's not all about cars - it's about people having a great time and building good friendships." So, get out there and enjoy life in your Jaguar with the club. *Tony*

