

A Seldom seen Jaguar

By Neville Barlow

One of our new members, Andy Bryant (you will have read his articles in our last 3 Magazines) has come across a seldom seen 1968 Jaguar 340. It has been on sale at \$50,000 but is now reduced to \$36,000 at Turners Auction in Hamilton.

Why is this 54- year- old car of interest? I believe there are very few in New Zealand as only 2804 only were made Worldwide in its 2- year production run compared with production figures from 1959 to 1967 of 74,659 for the Mark II it was about replace.

The 340 was an interim model to fill the gap until the introduction of the XJ6 in September. This brought to fruition a one-model policy which effectively swept away the 420 Sovereign, 420 G, the V8 250 and the 240/340 saloons.

Andy has researched and climbed all over this car. He has been told that at some stage it has been restored by Beacham's - the very famous outfit in Napier. One of the giveaway signs is that instead of the original Ambala upholstery it now has a genuine, probably, New Zealand interior. Incidentally the 340 was priced 20% lower in price than the Mark II it replaced so some short cuts were made but this vehicle looks as many of those have been replaced.

Many of us would find it difficult to distinguish outwardly the 340 from the Mark II. The major body work difference is front and rear bumpers which are slimmer and only have one "bar" instead of two. The wheels on this car - chrome spokes - which is another upgrade. Fog lamps were also an extra which can be seen on this car.

The automatic transmission was an upgrade to a Borg-Warner 35 dual drive range. Power Steering by Marles Varamatic meaning easier steering and less turns of the steering wheel, on the 340.

Twin SU carburettors are found on this vehicle, but a different intake manifold was available. Servicing intervals were increased 3,200 km to 4,800km. (haven't times changed). There is fully equipped Tool- box in the boot which is covered in a plush carpet. Plus, the car is adorned by a very interesting number plate: JAGUXR.

Is this a museum piece or an everyday motor car? This car has since been sold.

Neville

