

# Auckland Brits and Euro Car Show Weekend

*By Dennis Shepherd*

Jenny and I left Tauranga Friday afternoon for a leisurely drive to Auckland to check into the Quest Highbrook Apartments in East Tamaki. This whole weekend was organised by Don and Lynley Bowater who are members of our Club but live in Auckland. It was great to see Christine and Randal Warner who drove their E Type all the way from Masterton for the event. Twenty-two of us met at the Fisher House Restaurant for dinner, a 3-minute walk from our apartments. This was once Sir Wolf Fisher's (Fisher & Paykel fame) personal home.

The next morning at 9am we assembled in the car park adjacent to the hotel with 12 cars departing on a lovely calm sunny Saturday Auckland morning. Travelling north on the Northern Motorway was an entertaining experience, watching the weaving, ducking, and diving of some of the locals, imagining this strategy would get them to their destination more quickly. Attempting to stay in some sort of convoy was impossible but we all arrived safely at the BP and Wild Bean Café just before the toll road in time for a morning coffee. Also, to let Roger and Collen Clark fill up their V8 Aston Martin, which for this day we described as "Born an Aston Martin- Now identifying as a Jaguar". Two more member's cars joined us to boost our convoy to 14 cars.

From there we headed along a variety of meandering roads past farms, lifestyle properties, native bush, and commercial pine forest, and some areas were completely cleared in the northwest of Auckland in the Riverhead and Dairy Flat districts. We saw the evidence of the recent storm damage, with trees down and slips in many places. Don and Lynley had driven the route three times to ensure the roads were still open.

Well above and beyond the call but hugely appreciated by our group.

There were some spectacular views towards Auckland City before arriving at the "Hunting Lodge" Café for a very nice lunch outside under sun umbrellas.





Most of us trickled away early afternoon with the afternoon free to go shopping, an extended drive or visit friends and family until we met for dinner at 6pm. This time an even closer restaurant which we had all to ourselves. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.

Sunday morning was an early start, leaving at 8am for the Brits and Euro Car Show. Not all our members had their car on show, but we counted 65 Jaguars in the show. The morning was a little overcast and cooler which was great for wandering around the 1200 cars from 60 different clubs and organisations. This event was driven by Richard Waugh (100 Years of Jaguar in NZ author) and his Auckland organising committee, promoted as being the largest Brits and Euro Car Show in the Southern Hemisphere. Between the car exhibitors and the helpers, 2,000 people were involved in making this happen. Entry for the public was free and thousands of people wandered around admiring the cars on display. A Warbirds Fly over included a Spitfire and added a nice spectacle to the occasion.

Although the turnout from our club was smaller than we hoped for, we all really enjoyed the weekend with great comradery amongst the group. A huge thank you again to Don and Lynley Bowater for their work in putting together this excellent weekend.

*Dennis*

