## Ross Bros Muscle Car Garage From a new member's perspective

## By Eric West

I approached this event with a little trepidation, being the new owner of a relatively modest Jaguar and expecting the owners of "less modest" Jaguars to perhaps be a little stand-offish. I am pleased to say that I could not have been more wrong. I was expected, and welcomed very warmly by everyone, what a great bunch you are!

Four cars left Tauranga at 9.00, in more or less a convoy, which soon got broken up by quite heavy traffic, and after a trip over the Kaimais, picking up another couple of cars enroute and without anyone getting lost, we arrived safely at Hora Hora Domain, for a highly sociable cuppa with about 17 other Jaguars of all shapes and sizes and a lone Ford Mustang, which either wanted to be a Jaguar, or got the wrong memo!







I met several members with whom I had a lot in common, including, quite incredibly, one member who recognised me from my car washing days that I will mention in my profile. He had not seen me since 1964! I must have been a really ugly teenager!

At about 10.45 we headed off to Ross Brothers Muscle Garage, through backroads I had not driven before, so I drove along, hoping the guy in front knew where he was going and the guy behind was unaware that I didn't!







I am not going to even try to describe the museum except that it was quite stunning, a hidden gem I had never heard of. The cars are immaculate and range from a 1956 Beetle, through a beautiful 1972 Aston Martin DBS V8 and on to a Bonneville world record car and Scott Dixon's Target Indy Car. Memorabilia covers the walls, and 60's nostalgia decorates the ceilings.





But the thing that attracted most comment was spectacular earthmoving display of equipment, (that being what Ross Brothers do). The most talked about item was a huge bulldozer, literally the size of a small house, weighing in at 123 tonnes and sitting on gigantic tyres more than 3.2 metres diameter.

The tyres weigh 7 tonnes each and if you want to nip down to Tyremaster and pick up just one spare for it, take \$87,500 with you in pocket change!



Sadly, the museum is only open to groups, and you really need a full day to see it all so I would happily go again, but lunch called, and we headed to Podium Restaurant, at the rowing centre on Lake Karapiro, which I can highly recommend.

After lunch and good conversation, we all scattered to the four winds, having had an extremely interesting and enjoyable day.

To quote Arnie, "I'll be back"! Eric

(More photos on page 30)















