

TO THE RESCUE....SAVING AN XJ6



By Andrew Dovaston (Proof read by Gaylene Dovaston)

If you picture in your mind, the cast from 'The Last of the Summer Wine' on a mission to save an icon.... that will set the scene nicely!

No names were to be mentioned in the story, but those rules went out the window quickly when I thought most people would find out on the grapevine anyway... and the story comes with photos.

Roy Steiner became aware of a 1983 4.2ltr XJ6 that had to be removed from a property in Otorohanga within 7 days or its destiny was the crusher!

How could we let that happen.....word was spread around and Gary Bexley put his hand up to do the honourable thing and save it from certain death!

So with Roy's ute, a trailer hired in Matamata (the manager also a huge Jaguar fan... that's a story in itself), we departed for Otorohanga with all the tools and tie downs we might need to complete the rescue.

Before I carry on, the trailer was perfect, winch, tilt and fully long enough to carry the Jag away safely.

We arrived in Otorohanga around midday, after taking in some amazing Waikato roads (it was really nice to be a passenger for a change)





After inflating the tyres and a small towing manoeuvre we lined up the Jag with the trailer and it was quickly winched into place. I thought Gary and Roy would make great grinders on an Americas cup yacht. The car was strapped down, and after a quick lunch stop before we left town (the hanging baskets were awesome on the Main Street)....we were on our way. We did have a brief stop on the

way, for a chat with a nice young woman... she was dressed all in blue, and had a whirly light on the top of her car... she was very helpful in letting Roy know his Registration was a little over due....(so we're not mentioning the speeding ticket then??) before she sent us on our way.

The car's destination was a very nice and spacious shed in Orini, courtesy of another Jaguar enthusiast Gary knew. We made a quick diversion to Horsham Downs to pick up some parts for another of Gary's projects. What a great stop that turned out to be, we were shown an amazing number of restored Dodge vehicles from years gone by. Derek, the owner an engineer, also made art work from old pieces of



anything around the place.

Including a horse's head, that was incredible. He had so much to show us, unfortunately our time was limited, and we had to get back on the road.



By 4 pm the Golden Jaguar was all tucked away and safe from the crusher, spared from becoming a Great Wall or something worse!

So the three of us Clegg, Foggy & Compo, AKA Gary, Roy & Andrew, headed back to Matamata for a cup of tea. Adventure renamed to 'Last of the Gold XJ6....NOT', it will live to drive another day!

What a trip, we had a great day, and a good deed done.

Andrew