

Country Drive through the Waikato



All the Jags on display

By Dennis Catchpole

We arrived in Cambridge to meet with the Group from other parts, expecting to find masses of Jaguars, alas only four. However we set off on a great country drive mapped out by John and Raewyn, and they had already driven this route. There is no question we are blessed with a beautiful country - very green and lush. We drove out of Cambridge and up into the Whitehall hills eventually arriving in the southern part of Morrinsville, and around to Walton back into Morrinsville town. One of the unusual sights in this country anyway was a whole lot of Cockatoos sitting on a rail in the hills of Te Miro.



Dennis Catchpole, John Bourke and Don Bowater

I was thrilled to be driving roads that I well remember when I was farming in this area, at the age of eighteen.

I have very fond memories of Morrinsville as not only did I start my farming career there but, I became a young farmer, played rugby for Kereone and Morrinsville, and most important of all brought my first car, a Mark 2 Ford Zephyr.



3 old Daimlers

We all remember our first car I am sure with fondness. Following a fine Lunch at Lockerbie Estate, - "Oak Eatery" - we hit the road for Auckland. Now I was driving a modern 550 hp F Type, but I have to tell you I had to hustle to keep up with Mr and Mrs Burke because that beautiful E type may be 50 years old but it can still go very well. We were warmly welcomed by Don Bowater, and settled into the Quest. Dinner was at Fisher House and even though we were only 10 we had a great deal of fun with lots of subjects been tossed around some not to be mentioned here for your tender eyes.



Alan Judd with his Porsche



Roger Clark with one of his Aston Martins

We had a wee toast to Blair Wingfield who has sadly left us, and for Don and Lynley it was particularly sad, as they had been friends for over 44 years.

Sunday dawned rather wet, but this did not stop a very large number of car people gathering at Lloyd Elsmore Park for the Annual Brits and Euro Classic Car show. What a display of all the different makes, some that were common in their day and

some today rather rare. Our club was well represented by Don's "The Mistress XK 150," and Johns "E-Type". June and I very cheekily were sent by the traffic people to the Jaguar site, we do not of course drive a classic.

I may be biased but the three sports cars lined up together were the prettiest cars on show in my view. Alan Judd had his Porsche on display, the one he used in the Targa Rally, and Roger Clark had brought one of his Aston Martin's which is a very special car as well. Peter has a photo, I am sure. On display were cars that I once owned a model of, and given that they are now classics, rather made me think that I too am a classic these days.

Dennis

A Chance Meeting at the Britz & Euro Car Show

