

The Jaguar F Type (Part 4 of 4-October 2013.)

An F-Type in our Garage

By Neville Barlow

On the 8th of October 2013 the manager of Ebbett's Tauranga invited us to participate in a Jaguar Experience at Hampton Downs. We arrived early in the morning and were hustled into an auditorium where the days events were explained to us. We were introduced to the 5 expert drivers who included Emma Gilmour (New Zealand's most famous female rally driver) and Mitch Evan's brother, Simon Evans who is every bit as talented as Mitch. They explained what they expected of us and of course a run down on safety on the track, the expectation that we would follow immediately any instructions they issued. It all sounded quite daunting. We were issued with Helmets.



There was a range of Land Rovers and Jaguars. Our first task was a flat- out blast to one



cone, skid around and back up as fast as you could. Throwing an XF around like that was not in my common day's events! We then proceeded to the skid pan trying to slide out with no brakes. Next, we hit the track. Two people to a car each which had a phone connected to our leading instructor's car. We were told to keep 5 car lengths behind the car in front and listen to

comments on every corner. Each lap would be quicker than the last. It seemed so easy when you knew what to do but one guy over-shot a corner and that was that.

Ebbett's were lucky enough to be allotted one of the first F Types to be on the New Zealand market and there it was sitting very proudly under a separate awning. I must add that Jaguar often do things different than other auto manufactures. This car was a convertible. Most other companies usually make a Coupe first and then cut the top off for a convertible.

I noticed at lunch time it was driven very slowly up to the buildings and back to its parking space. Apparently' there was some rust showing on the brake disk. I asked why so slowly and was told that all Jaguars that are brought into the country are chipped to go no faster than 5ks.

Any way this car very quickly found a home in the Barlow's garage. Just one thing though- this car was earmarked to be on display at several North Island Jaguar outlets so we had to wait and wait a very long fortnight before it was back in Tauranga. It was a 3.0 litre V6 supercharged petrol engine motor car producing 380 BHP painted jet black.



The F-Type V6 we bought



It was a stunning car. On the nearly empty Coromandel roads it sometimes had a mind of its own and we thought the speedo must be faulty. However, the Traffic cop who stopped us said "these cars do sometimes surprize you I know but you need to behave a bit better" but it happened again, darn it.

In June 2017, we traded it on a brand- new F-Type 5.00 litre V8 supercharged 550 BHP coupe painted in Italian racing red with 20- inch black alloys and a panoramic roof. 0 to 100kmh 4.0 seconds. Maximum speed 300 km/h, economy never more than 10 litres per 100 kms and weighed 1730 kgs.



Our 2017 F-Type V8 coupe

This a long way the best car I have ever driven. We, absolutely love it and we try to keep in in show room condition. What a shame that there will never be the likes of this car after 2025 because Jaguar is said to be going all electric. I see there are 7 F-Types in our club. Welcome to many more.

Neville