

Members Story - Don and Gillian Pritchard

1951 Mk VII Story by Don and Gillian Pritchard

In the late eighties, when money was no object, I was looking at restoring an "old" car. I had owned English cars in my younger days, (a mini and a couple of MGs) and Land Rovers later in life.

Through an employee, I found a 1951 Mk 7 Jaguar in a garage at Watervale. It had been a home for several rodents for what seemed many years. The body was in reasonable condition; however, the interior needed some serious work. The car was for sale at \$5,000 which was far more than it was worth, but had "sentimental value", or so I was told.

I was informed that its history went back to 1952 when the Wendts family (Wendts Jewellers), imported it from the UK and then later sold it to the grandfather of the current owner in 1964. It had been in two families for nearly 40 years.

(continued page 7))



Members Story - Don and Gillian Pritchard

I contacted a friend, Graham Goode (Goode Restoration) in Clare, who offered to bring it to Clare on a car trailer and then the fun started. Totally stripped back to bare metal, the chassis was powder coated and every nut and bolt etc was pulled apart and brought back to new.

The motor went to Gawler, the interior (Connelly leather) was done locally, the bodywork was completed in Clare and the woodwork went to a guy in Flagstaff Hill and so on.

The only “non-original” parts include a stereo in the right glove box (CD stacker in the boot) and a plug for the Engel Fridge in the boot, after all, one must have cold champers when out in the Jag!. By 1994 we had the car on the road and its maiden voyage was a trip to Echuca to catch up with Victorian friends, back in the days when we were allowed to socialise with Victorians!

Very little work has been necessary since until recently when a good friend (and JDCSA member), Peter Cox here in Crystal Brook made sure that the old girl stopped as well as it went! Many days were spent rebuilding the brakes ensured this.

Some new tyres and it should be ready for many more enjoyable outings. Gillian and I look forward to meeting JDCSA members and talking Jags!

**Cheers
Don & Gillian**

Editor. What an immaculate looking car. Thank you Don and Gillian for a great and timely story .

