



Interview

Q and A Ivan & Janine Cooke

**50 Year & Life Members
(No. 292)**

Questions: Graham Franklin

Let's start with an easy question - what was your first car?

My first car was a 1956 FJ Holden which my parents gave me when they purchased a new 6 cylinder Toyota Crown Deluxe.

My second car was a 1968 MGB Mk2 with overdrive. This was probably the beginning of having great respect for British automobiles.

During my Jaguar journey, and at the same time as when I had a series 2 E-Type, I also had a plus 8 Morgan. This was a great car to drive and I do miss it. The previous owner purchased it back.

Can you remember your first encounter with a Jaguar?

My first knowledge about Jaguar cars was as a young boy when I would go past a Jaguar dealership called Southern Cross Motors on Cross Road Clarence Gardens.

My first encounter with a Jaguar was a shocking experience. A tram travelling across South Road at Glandore hit a Mk1 or Mk2 Jaguar which rolled several times. The car suffered damage, but the driver was not injured. I thought that would be a safe car to own.

My second experience was when a friend of mine purchased a 3.8 litre manual overdrive Mk2. This car felt great as a passenger and was very impressive to drive. From that moment on I knew that I had to own a Jaguar.

My mind was set on purchasing a XJ6 and I found the perfect one, in the form of a one owner series 1 1970 black XJ6, which I still own.



Ivan & Janine's 1970 Black 4.2 litre XJ6 Series 1

Interview - Ivan & Janine Cooke

Perhaps some history of the Jaguars you have owned and work undertaken?

I have found that Jaguars of various models have their own personalities and as a result we have owned 19 Jaguars ranging from various XJ6, XJ12, XJS, MK10, 3.8 S Type, 420, X308, XKR, XK8 X150 and a series 2 E- Type.

We currently own six of these Jaguars. The first eleven Jaguars were owned by myself and my late wife Josie, who was also an active member of the JDC of SA and supported me and the club in every way.

When I purchased a vehicle, I always made sure that it was in good condition and only required preparation and TLC to bring it up to my expectations.

As a consequence, I have never totally restored a Jaguar, but I do most of my own work including mechanical work, electrical work and interior. I have resprayed several cars and even changed the colour of XJ6's from white to black when I used these cars for my wedding and chauffeur vehicle business in the mid to late 1990's. Over the years there were many happy couples impressed by these vehicles for their special day.

Perhaps a little more about your lovely Series 1 XJ6?

After purchasing the black XJ6 I entered several JDC of SA Concours D'Elegance and events with Jaguar Clubs interstate.



1984 Blue 5.3 litre V12 XJS HE - 2010 SA Jag Day

The car was very successful winning many trophies including outright winner in 1978 at the Albury- Wodonga Jaguar Clubs of Australia National Concours. It also won the Bryson Trophy for the most desirable car and the inaugural trophy for the aggregate points scored in the Concours judging and the Sporting event.

Your first wife, Josie and yourself both helped on the executive of the club - is that correct?

Yes, both Josie and I held positions on the executive at different times. Josie held the positions of Social

Secretary and Sporting Secretary for a few consecutive years, and I held the position of Assistant Secretary and Sporting Secretary also.

We were both on committees organising National Concours, with a major contribution to helping organise the 1977 Mildura event, which coincided with the release of the XJS. That was another occasion when the thought went through my mind that I must have one of these vehicles.

Do you recall those first few years of the club? Any specific memories?

In those early years the JDC of SA we worked closely with the Jaguar Drivers Club of Victoria and members from both clubs would often attend each club's functions. A fantastic time would be guaranteed.

During the 1970s and 1980s we were able to hold motorkhanas as close to the city as Golden Grove in a club member's paddock. The noise and dust did not present any problems. Josie and I would enter our cars in these events which I think enhanced our driving skills. Josie won the Sports Woman of the year trophy seven times, and I did similar for the Sport Man's trophy.

Josie and I would attend every function organised by the Club. We always looked forward to the National Concours. Other memorable events were those held when Lofty England came to visit. It was great to listen as he talked of his experiences and told his tales.



Ivan & Janine's 1984 Blue 5.3 litre V12 XJS HE

Interview - Ivan & Janine Cooke

It was a pleasure to be able to talk to him and chauffeur him from place to place. He was very impressed with the black XJ6 and commented it was a special car, a cryptic complement that he did not expand upon, which has always left me wondering.

The standard question that I ask. Of the Jaguars you have owned, which was your favourite?

Of the Jaguars which we have owned it is hard to pick a favourite because they all have their own character.

The XJ6 is certainly at the top. I recently drove the car on the XJ, MK10, 420G Register Mt Mary run, and it still was a great drive.

The X308 which I had was extremely smooth and quiet, as is the XJS HE, while the XKR and the XK8 X150 are also fantastic and give a different driving experience.

At the present time we have a 1970 XJ6 4.2 Auto, 1973 XJ12 5.3 Auto, 1977 XJ12 Auto, 1984 XJ-S HE, 2001 XKR 4.0 litre and a 2007 XK8 (X150) 4.2 Auto.

Over the past 50 years of the club do you have any particular memories or happenings?

Becoming a member of the JDC of SA has been an important part of my life having made many friends and experienced the best in motoring. I have also gained many skills over the past 50 years by associating with fellow club members. Members are always willing to help and share their knowledge.



Ivan & Janine's Silver XK (X150)

I have had much pleasure maintaining my cars and being able to put the skills obtained to good use.

Any interesting or special Club or family experience?

The most recent highlight of being an active member of the club was attending the 50th Anniversary Dinner on July 29th last year. This was extremely well organised, prepared and a pleasure to attend.

The Anniversary Dinner prompted my son David to join the Club as a family member. When David finds suitable garaging, he will then have the XJ6 and hopefully his son Maxwell will continue to care for the car for a further generation.

Many members would remember David attending every function with Josie and I. David attended his first function of the Club with us while he slept in his bassinet placed on the rear seat in the XJ6.

Unfortunately, as you mentioned, Josie is no longer with us.

When Josie passed away in 1996 there were two other members of the JDC of SA, Brad Hendy and Janine Hendy who had been members for a longtime. Unfortunately, Brad passed away a few years after Josie.

Eventually Janine and I became good friends and we married. An unforeseen advantage of being a member of the Jaguar Drivers Club of South Australia Inc.

There begins the story of another 50-year club member.

Janine was Sporting Secretary from 1999 to 2001 and XJ6; MK10; 420G Register Secretary from 1997 to 1999.

Janine was Sports Woman of the year for seven years driving her XJS, XJ12 Series2 and a Triumph TR7.

Thank you, Ivan and Janine, very much for sharing your experiences of being continuous family members of the JDCSA for the past 50 years. ■



Ivan & Janine's 1977 XJ12 Series 2 5.3 litre V12 Sedan