



Q and A John and Sue Weeks :

Questions: **Peter Clarke**

Interview

Introducing members John and Sue Weeks of West Lakes who joined the club in 2023. John has a long history in motoring and particularly since retirement has purchased a superb collection of vehicles.

John is now 81 years young, a quietly spoken and modest gentleman who has agreed to share some of his life story and the cars which he cherishes.

Q & A

Peter: Thanks for agreeing to share your story and cars John. What was your first car?

John: It was a 1954 FJ Holden which I bought for 530 pounds. I was an apprentice mechanic with the RAA, a patrolman, and about 17 years old. Back then I only had to answer 10 questions correctly to get my licence. In fact, I only scored 9/10 but the police officer thought that was good enough!

Peter: Can you remember your first encounter with a Jaguar?

John: I was at the workshop of Ray Eastwood who used to own a Mercedes dealership. I saw an XKR and immediately wanted to buy it but it was "NOT FOR SALE". Later in May 2022 I saw one at Richmonds and bought it without driving it.

Peter: What is your motoring history?

John: Back in 1980 I was stony broke. The family went to live with my wife Sue's family and we had to start over. We were married in 1965 and this year is our 60th anniversary.

I opened a tyre store on Tapleys Hill Road, Seaton with \$7,200 having



2013 XFRS
Supercharged V8



VW Combi

Interview - John & Sue Weeks (cont)

worked part-time at a service station to raise funds. Later I moved to Port Road, Beverley, as Seaton Tyres which is still there, then sold that and started Statewide Tyres, a wholesale tyre business in about 1991. My wife, Sue, worked there over the years and also my daughter. I sold the business 6 years ago but my daughter still works there, managing in-coming freight, 30 year service!

Peter: So, retiring and selling the business has enabled you to indulge your passion for very collectable cars?

John: That's right.

Peter: What cars do you currently own?

John: Most of the cars are stored in a warehouse in Port Adelaide and all are immaculate, like brand new:

- ◇ XKR Coupe 2007, Silver over grey interior (stored on a hoist), driven 100k's since purchased
- ◇ XJ8 1999 3.2 litre, Blue, 79,000ks. Bought from Queensland sight unseen, magnificent car, driven it twice, needed a weather strip and went to see Ian Wilson at Triumph and Land Rover Spares in Lonsdale, AND saw sitting in the garage....
- ◇ XFRS 2013 5 Litre Supercharged, Jaguar Racing Red. This is one of only 4 "known" to be in Australia and makes a nice pair with....
- ◇ XFRS 2013 5 Litre Supercharged, Ultimate Black. I saw this one in the Unique Cars magazine in 2023, owned by an older gent located in Queensland. I learned how few were made and bought it sight unseen and had it transported in a covered truck. Never driven it.
- ◇ Bentley Continental V8, ~2015. Driven once. I always wanted to have a Rolls Royce and bought a 1989 one which was mechanically a lemon so I went to have a browse at Richmonds in July 2022 and there was the Bentley!
- ◇ VW Combi. I bought this some years ago, intending to restore it myself but had it restored by an expert. It has been taken for one picnic run.



1999, XJ 8 3.2 litre



2013 XFRS
Supercharged V8



2015 Bentley
Continental V8

Interview - John & Sue Weeks (cont)

This has now been moved from the storage warehouse to my daughter's home to make room for

- ◇ Mercedes C63 AMG Twin turbo V8 2017 30,000 k's, Matt Silver . Again, bought from Richmonds! (Peter: This is a hazardous place, John!)
- ◇ Mercedes C250. A recent purchase as a run-a-round as I have given the Commodore to my daughter
- ◇ Honda Jazz, our other run-a-round
- ◇ Jawa Speedbike which was an exchange with a dealer for a closed-in trailer
- ◇ Five Midgets. On Friday nights I used to go to Rowley Park Speedway which was closed in 1979. I was friends with Kym Bonython the owner.

1. Chevy 2 built by American Ted Bolander in Adelaide - Orange one "69"
2. TQ, only one in Australia with 1100cc Crossley engine (American) - Red one
3. Local car built by Bob Barnes, VW engine, brand new, never used - Blue one with Freudent logos
4. Locally built with grey Holden engine, triple carbs - White and Blue one, number 46
5. Curtis Kraft chassis with 110 cubic inch Offenhauser engine- owned and driven by Tony Bettenhausen in the movie The Big Wheel of 1949 starring Mickey Rooney. I saw this one for sale by the son of the late owner in Queensland 3 or 4 years ago. Read the history and had it trucked home - White with Red.

- ◇ I also have a magazine collection including Motorsport, a British publication, from 1957 to current, speedway magazines, Winston Churchill books and about 120 books on the Ford Motor Company. These are stored in the warehouse and I also have a 40-foot container at a property in Wingfield filled with a lot of "stuff".



Interview - John & Sue Weeks (cont)

Peter: Phew! Thanks John. Have you been a member of any other car club?

John: Yes, SA Classic Speedway Association, SA Vintage Speed Car Association and the Sporting Car Club for a couple of years. I attended a few meetings but it was not a fit for me.

Peter: Of all the vehicles you have owned and you could only have one returned, which car would you choose?

John: The Bentley is my favourite and the most expensive and I am not selling it!

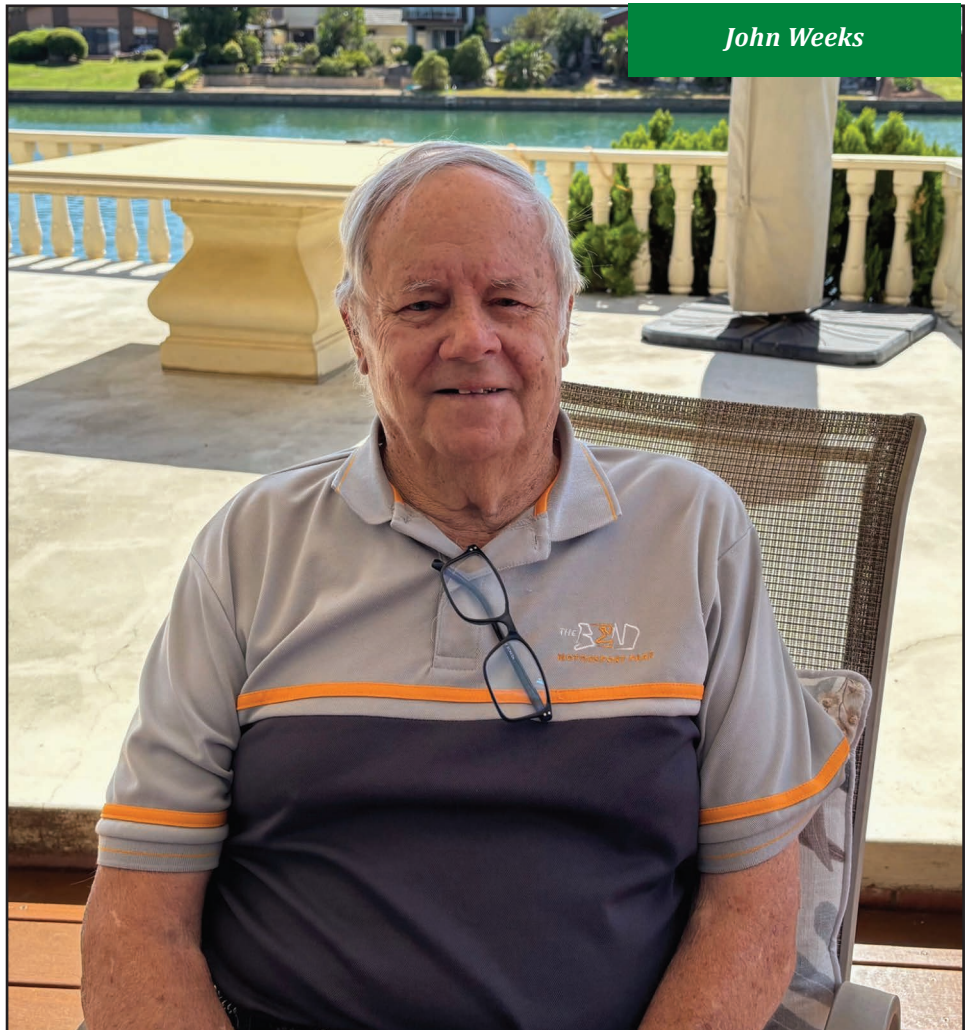
Peter: Anything else of interest which you would like to add?

John: As a "young fella" I was an assistant professional golfer in NZ where I lived for about a year. Just once I played with Sir Donald Bradman at the Grange Golf Club.

Peter: Thanks again John for sharing some of your very interesting history and your amazing collection of vehicles.

John simply enjoys keeping his cars in showroom condition; all have the rich smell of leather food and there is not a speck of dust on the gleaming polished paintwork.

Peter Clarke,
Member of the Multivalve Register.



John Weeks



500cc Jawa Speed bike