

# New Members Story - Peter Panagaris

**OCCUPATION:** Licensed Motor Dealer and Automotive Valuer.

I am a new member of the JDCSA and I am currently a member of the *Wanderer's Rock & Roll Car Club* which I formed back on the 22nd of September 2004. I saw the need for this sort of club as a Rock 'n' Roll music and car enthusiast, whose main aim was to promote the music and Classic Cars from the early 50's and 60's.

I am also a member of the *Adelaide Hot Rodders* as I own several Hot Rods. My main car is my 1934 Ford 3 window coupe.

The other club that I am a member of is not a car club interestingly enough, it is the *Golden Grove Lions Club*. I have been a member and Past District Governor of Lions International for 45 years and still going strong. I have enjoyed helping people less fortunate than myself over this period of time and it felt good serving the community, both at home and abroad.

My interest in cars started at a young age when I attended the Croydon Boys Technical High School. I commenced an automotive apprenticeship with State Motors Holden at Richmond. I then worked for AD Taylor in the crash repair industry at Thebarton before opening my used car yard at Hampstead Gardens.

The very first car that I bought was a 1952 FX Holden. I remember going to see the bank manager at age 16 with my mother for a 60 pound loan which was not given due to me not having any collateral. Still to this day, I do not understand how you can expect a 16 year old, to have any collateral when you don't own anything. Well today it's a different story.

Over the years I must have owned close to 100 classic cars ranging from a 1964 Mini Cooper to 1967 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow. The cars in between were Holden's Ford's, MG's, Monaro's, GT Falcon's, Mustang's, Corvette's, Camaro's, Pontiac Trans Am's, Cadillac's to name but a few.

I remember in my younger days owning a Morris 1100 which I was really fond of as it was with me for a few years. I had to change the gearbox and I didn't have any spare money to buy a Gasket Set so I used the wife's wedding gown box to make up a sump gasket which worked fairly well.



My love affair with Jaguars was when I first saw a Mark II at an auction. I really wanted that car but could not afford it. I ended up buying a Mark 1 several months later and I soon realised why the Mark 2 was so much more superior. My Mark 1 was only a 2.4 and was gutless. It didn't handle very well as all of the front end needed reconditioning.

Today, in my English line up I have a:

- ◇ 1963 Jaguar Mark 2, 2.4 Automatic;
- ◇ 1961 Jaguar Mark 2, 3.8 manual 5 speed;
- ◇ 1963 Jaguar Mark 10, Automatic;
- ◇ 1964 Daimler 2.5, V8 Automatic;
- ◇ 2002 X-Type 2.5 AWD;
- ◇ 2008 XF 4.2 V8 Automatic; and
- ◇ 2008 Mini Cooper S manual 6 speed.

I like a lot of different car brands and had the opportunity in owning most of them.

My only minor regret was selling my 1963 E-Type which was quite rusty. I sold it to buy another classic at that time.

The car that I really wanted back in the day was an immaculate 365 Ferrari, but again funds were not enough to secure it.

I have no real regrets, I have had a wonderful life in the automotive industry and enjoyed every minute of it, especially the wonderful people you meet along the way making it a major part of the journey.

**Peter Panagaris**