

Launch of the SS120 - Finch Restorations

Editor - Again, I am very pleased by the support I am receiving from club members, and again I have received two articles on the launch of the SS120. I didn't amalgamate the two stories and I have published each article as is. It is interesting to read the different take and emphasis that each writer has taken in preparing their articles.

LAUNCH OF THE SS120 by Steve Weeks

About a week ago I had a phone call from a Harbinda Finch (of Finch Restorations, Mount Barker) to tell me that they were launching their newly created car the SS120.

Basically it's being described as a "what if the Second World War had never happened" then this car could well have been the successor to the SS100 and predecessor to the XK120.

Finch Restorations were very keen to have an XK120 on display, and in the end we provided 3 beautiful XK120 Roadsters, the black car of Julian & Moira Lugg, the white car of Graeme & Fiona Shultz & the red (ex Fire Chief's car of Rob & Jason Loffler.

The 3 cars had pride of place parked either side of the red carpet, so all guest had to walk between the cars when entering.

The event itself was very good and a tribute to Finch Restorations. At the launch was the first SS120, a roadster commissioned by a Qld. customer. Many of our club members were present on the night and all gave a big compliment to the catering.

A special thank you to Graeme & Fiona, Julian & Moira & also to Jason Loffler's friends who undertook to drive Jason's car on the night (remembering that it was a 36 degree day).

Steve

LAUNCH OF THE SS120 by Bob Charmen

"Sir William Lyons (1901-1985) was the co-founder of the Swallow Sidecar Company which Became Jaguar Cars Limited after the Second World War. Prior to the interruption of the war, Lyons was developing the successful series of SS90 and SS100 sports cars.



What if SS100 production had not been interrupted and Lyons further developed the SS90/SS100 series? Perhaps Lyons might have evolved an SS120, eight years earlier than the classic XK120." This piece was printed on the information invitation to Finch Restorations for the launch of the SS120 commissioned by a Queensland buyer.

On the 31st of October, Daphne and I were invited by Peter & Harbinda Roberts to the launch of just such a car. Along with members Bob & Margaret Kretchmer, Julian & Moira Lugg, Steve Weeks and Stan Grafton, whose wonderful XK120's framed the entrance to the workshop, we were privileged to witness the unveiling of the SS120.

The catering for this event was first class and very much appreciated by the 175

people in attendance. Daphne and Steve ensured that they were first in line for the wonderful food provided, just as tasters, you understand!

Peter Roberts (Naval Architect and Engineer) founder of Finch Restorations accepted the challenge to create and build the SS120 sports car for the lucky new owner in Queensland.

In the photos you will see the result of several years' hard work by Finch's 20 employees, who put their love of vehicles and expertise into every last detail of the vehicle.

Our congratulations to Peter and his crew on this magnificent "Jaguar". (A world first).

Bob



Finch Restorations - SS120





Julian & Moira Lugg and Graeme & Fiona Shultz were just a few of the many guests present.



Photo L-R: Red XK120, ex Fire Chief's car of Rob & Jason Loffler, White XK120 of Graeme & Fiona Shultz and Black XK120 of Julian and Moira Lugg.