

New Members Story - Michael Gilbert

As background, I have an engineering degree, an MBA and I work in a management position at Flinders University. My children are 31/29/22yo and they are out of home so I have a bit of time for hobbies!

About a year ago, I was thrilled to acquire a Mk2 which had sat in a garage for 15 years.

Money had been spent on it, but there were lots to be re-assembled, lots that was wrong with it and after that long idle period, it needed recommissioning with new fluids, wear parts, tyres etc.

It is now on the road and I have even started a YouTube channel showing the various tasks I have done (Sleeping Beauty Jaguar 1964 Mk2).

When I was 16, I was desperate to be independent and saved up for a car – my first one was a 10-year-old Mini K. I learned the basics of keeping a car on the road and have always done as much fixing and servicing as I could.

I have had a few mundane Holdens, Fords and Toyotas through my vehicle odyssey, but have also had a Triumph 2000, 2500S, TR7, XJ6 Series 2, SAAB 900s convertible, BMW 735iL, BMW 735, Mercedes 280E (x2), Porsche 924, Audi 5E, 1972 Kombi, 1959 Beetle and even a Peugeot 604 and Renault 10! A couple of those were terrible, most were great - I learned to work on them all.

There have been numerous adventures – the most notable was my beautiful SAAB 900S spontaneously burning to the ground in the middle of the night. The police were quite interested to know if there was anyone that might be responsible, if I owed money on the car or if I had enemies... none of those applied - a battery short circuit or wiring fault were the most likely explanations.

I have finally nutted out that it is best to have a dull and reliable car for everyday use, and something interesting ("code" for potentially unreliable) as a hobby.

So, my daily car is an old Lexus GS300 which carries the number plate 1408; that is the number granted for my great grandfather's Model T in 1911, and I have a picture of every car it has been on since.

There are still many Mk2 jobs to be done, but I always wanted to join a

car club and now that I have time, it will be nice to go to some Jaguar events with like-minded people!

In previous times, RMK-222 has been a member of this club, so I hope to carry on its tradition.

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Editor: Yes, we know the car. It was owned by Nick Begakis who joined our club almost 40 years ago, and recently advised us that he had sold his car. I have watched some of your YouTube videos. They are very good. Well done.



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