

# Members Car - Ray Smithers

## JAGUAR XJC MEMORIES.

I have admired the Jaguar XJC Coupé ever since its inception.

Back in the late 1970's I became aware that fellow club member Roland Short was considering sale of his desert sands coloured V12 example that had served him well especially on his fast interstate travels. It was believed to be the first XJC brought into South Australia, having been privately imported by a well known local musician.

It suffered minor damage to the drivers door early on due to an electrical fault, requiring repainting of the door.

When I acquired the car it had a full set of lambs wool seat covers but unfortunately as the owner was a very heavy smoker the covers reeked of smoke and required much beating on the clothes line while butts had to

be prised out of the ashtrays with a screwdriver.

The car was a pleasure to drive and served us well over many happy years with our then young family, eventually being sold to club members Ian and Di Williamson who again owned it for many years of enthusiastic driving.

Recently the car was sold to an interstate Jaguar enthusiast for a much updated price after being extensively mechanically refurbished at Classic Car Boutique.

My other venture into Jaguar XJ coupé's was purchasing a Daimler 6 cylinder model. This car was also privately imported from the UK but had been badly affected by the dreaded "Tin Worm" after years of driving on winter salt treated roads. This car was dark blue/purple in colour with

no vinyl roof, a "cheapy" but not a "goody". Bravely I immediately took it solo on a midnight to dawn club run with surprisingly no problems! This car I on sold to another club member who sold off the mechanicals but could only trash the body.

The XJC was a brilliant concept by Jaguar. I believe the company should have continued with the two door XJ coupé format.

Good examples are very collectable now with an ever growing enthusiast following.

RAY SMITHERS

