

When Cars Were Fun - Heinz Schendzielorz

Editor: My old friend from Victoria, Heinz Schendzielorz, reflects on the days when we were a bit less precious about our cars and didn't mind getting them covered in mud.

When Cars Were Fun

We used to have a lot of fun with our Jaguars in the days when 40 or 50 years ago they were our daily drivers - used for work and holiday trips alike, as well as club outings with the Jaguar Car Club of Victoria, and some of the other Jaguar groups around Australia.

Favourite events in these old days were the Autokhanas, which involved concours and speed trials and were part of the National Rallies, which celebrated their 50th year in 2019. In those days, the most coveted award was for the highest aggregate score for the concours and speed event combined.

At club level here in Victoria, the event was often a family affair with a picnic at locations such as a grassy area on a farm, in a park, or at an airstrip

Mk 2s were the car of choice because they were small and compact, at least by Australian standards, and had great performance.

Of course, Mark Vs and Mark VII were also popular and some of the best drivers honed their skills on these great Jaguar saloons.



Photo caption: Never mind the dust- just get that flag into the barrel!

A Car For All Seasons

Some of the events involved the traditional slalom course, with reverse slalom and parking in a "garage" made up of traffic cones.

A particular popular event was the "flag and barrel", where your passenger leaned out of the window, picked up a flag from one barrel and placed it another barrel. Sadly, with all the health and safety regulations we have today, I doubt such events could be run now.

I thought it appropriate to include some photos showing the fun we used to have with Mk 2s and E-Types. Today, many of them have become victims of cheque book restorations and are too valuable to use in dusty paddocks for a bit of slip-sliding fun.

My Mk 2 had an Arctic Car air-conditioner in the boot which took up a fair bit of space, yet I still managed to fit in the stuff I needed, including a tool box and the spares I'd want for a long trip.

My kids often ask me how we managed to go on long driving holidays in the Mk 2 with two children plus all that luggage. Today, they all drive SUVs and still struggle to accommodate everything they need, even for a just a few days away.

A Life Centred Around Jaguars

Looking back over my many years of Jaguar ownership, my membership of the Club of Victoria and, of course, the JDC, it has been a fantastic and enjoyable time and the source of lifelong friendship - what more could one ask for?

Heinz Schendzielorz



Heinz was a regular participant in his Mark 1

When Cars Were Fun (cont)



Heinz Schendzielorz at the Adelaide International Raceway in his Mk 2. The concrete was unforgiving.



Dave Burton doing the reverse garage test. Motorkhanas were fun in the days when our Jaguars doubled as daily driver and fun cars.