

Member Story - Con & Bec Saris

Hello, let me introduce myself and my wife. I am Con and my wife's name is Bec. We are new members of JDCSA. Bec and I are looking forward to participating in club events when South Australia's current health problems finally subside.

Unfortunately, where other industries suffered major drop offs in business, my current choice of work has exploded, along with the rise in people staying home to work. I am a blind, awning and security window screen and door fitter, while Bec is a Reception Teacher.

Project Car

We have a 1985 Jaguar XJ6 Series 3 Sovereign 4.2 litre, which I purchased as a project. At this stage I like to think of it as the RatJag. It's never going to win a prize for its looks. When we originally inspected the car, it was running ... just. What appealed the most was the lack of any real rust in the interior floors or any of the body panels. There is a little around the windows which as any of you with XJ6 S3s know can be pretty



As part of the upgrade, the interior is being changed with one in better condition



Con's latest project: 1985 Jaguar XJ6 4.2 Sovereign

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bad. I have repaired the rear window cill and still have the front to do. It was not particularly bad and I have repaired the car to allow for future paint.

I know from the paperwork, that came with the car, the front screen area had been repaired. But whether it was done properly is yet to be seen, although there are bubbles coming through again. The rest of the car has light surface rust in several places so a respray is in the future. It lived a good part of its life in Western Australia, which I think had helped to keep the rust at bay.

The car has a problem with actually running properly and I am spending a good chunk of any spare time I have, trying to sort that out. I continue to have problems which prevent me from venturing too far from home in the car.

Earlier Projects

My interest in Jaguars started a long time ago with E-types, what a beautiful car. I have always been more interested in English cars than other marques. I bought my first, an MGBL when I was 21

and then another in my early 30's. Both were great machines and I miss them both a lot. I still see them about the place and it's good to see that they are still being taken care of.

In the 90's I bought my first Jaguar. It was a 1981 Jaguar XJ6 Series 3 in a sort of mustard colour that I was told was Turmeric but could have been Cotswold Yellow. I loved this car. I did not have any trouble with it and we travelled to Victoria and NSW in it. When my first daughter came along, we really needed a car that was a little more family friendly so the XJ6 was traded for a Commodore (yuck). That gave way to a Mazda 3 that Bec drives, and my daily drive is my work van, a Toyota Hiace.

I recently saw my first Jag advertised for sale and cursed because I already had my current car. I would have re-purchased it in a heartbeat otherwise.

1949 Singer

In my late 30's, I decided to take on a restoration project when I purchased a 1949 Singer 9 Roadster. This car was

aluminium over a timber frame with a 9hp OHC motor. It still drove but needed a ground up restoration. I still remember the day we took the car to Angaston to visit some friends. Being overtaken by some of the trucks on the Main North Road was an experience I would like to forget. The car was so light it was pushed around like a feather in the slipstreams. That car was eventually finished and sold on.

My experience in car clubs has been varied. While I had the Singer, I was a member and was fortunate(?) to be Club President for a spell. This club was very small, mainly due to the small number of cars in South Australia. Like most Car Clubs, there were regular gatherings of all Singer Clubs in Australia, usually in different states. Some members even drove their cars very long distances to get there.

We both look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

Regards
Con & Bec



Con Saris 1949 Singer 9 Tourer. Con was a former President of the Singer Car Club.