

To Blyth/Burra and Back on a Truck

My Jaguar story so far by John Braams

The XJ6

I bought the XJ6 Series 2 about 16 years ago. It was out the front of the company's office building with a \$3500 ticket on the windscreen. The poor thing looked rather sad, dishevelled and unloved with a generous coating of dust and her teeth had not been cleaned for years. In the boot were the remnants of a bale of hay. I phoned Sovereign Motors and Geoff said he would look at it for me, so I took it to him and his verdict was, "Don't buy it, it's a dog!"

I went back to the owner armed with a little more knowledge, like a leaking head gasket and a sump full of water, offered \$1500 and was accepted. That was the beginning of The Love Story? Or had it already started long before that?

Interlude - The Mark II

On 16 October 1972 a little old lady, that I did some work for, took delivery of a

Mark 2 Jaguar. Alas it was not a belated birthday present for me. Unbelievable but true. By this time, I could see that time was no longer on my side. So I cheated and bought one for myself! I'm sharing this secret with members of the Jag Club in full confidence that it will not become common knowledge.

Back to the XJ6

The XJ6 responded well to a shower and a toothbrush. This was done on the lawn in front of the house all in plain view of passers-by, but the Jag never complained, which is just as well because an aggrieved Jaguar can be very nasty, I'm told. Over the years the XJ has had some of her organs replaced. Luckily, she was on the donor list. The organs went straight to the recyclers. Because it was all done very quickly, they never needed to be packed in ice. Also because of her age her pads suffered a very bad case of crow's feet which badly affected her stopping power, not to mention her otherwise good looks.

From about 2008 to 2012 my wife and I travelled the road to Burra on a regular basis and it had always been my wish to do that trip in the Jag. So, in 2020 I believed that the XJ6 was ready for a good country run. I had replaced the fluid coupling for the fan myself, but unbeknownst to me, there are two different types. One is for the metal blades, the other for plastic blades. I got it wrong.

Off to Gawler and Back

So with my step-son, Barry Sexton we set off and just as we reached the Gawler River there was a bad banging noise. Barry pulled over and we found the fan was rattling around and the coupling bearing was stuffed.

By this time everyone was at Sevenhills enjoying a refreshing break. Barry called Daphne to explain our situation and she said she would talk to Bob but Borys overheard the story and he offered to drive all the way back to pick us up without delay. My stepson, Barry



To Blyth/Burra and Back on a Truck (cont)

and I had been all set to go home in disappointment but with Borys coming to get us we felt better.

We called the RAA and a mechanic arrived pretty quickly but couldn't do anything so a truck was called to pick up the Jag. The Jag went onto the back of a truck to Williston. Full marks to the truck driver for staying with us until Borys arrived.

Just in Time for the Pictures

Barry and Borys have known each other for many years and had a great opportunity to catch up on the way to Blyth. We got there just in time for the start of the old movie "Court Jester." We are very grateful for the chance to join everyone and to enjoy the rest of the weekend. It was a lot of fun. Visiting Roger's place was a real bonus and eye-opener, I never thought one man could fit so much in his life! He was an excellent and generous host and makes great scones.



We would also like to thank Peter and Heather for the lift all the way home to Warradale. Everyone was very supportive.

Ready for the Next Trip

The car was eventually taken to the famous "Charlie" to repair the damage and check it all over. He replaced the fan coupler with the right one and it should be fine for some time to come – I hope.

Charlie is a great talker and we spent some time swapping stories.

Now we look forward to another attempt at a good run in the country. A big thank you for everyone's assistance and concern.

John Braams & Barry Sexton

Editor - Thank you John & Barry. Nothing like a happy ending.

