

Jeremy Adams - 1971 DS21 Pallas (BG)

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I thought it time to update the history of the Bronze Goddess a little, since some more accurate dates of purchase & original mileage have come to hand, as well as an update on the restoration of the interior.



Model: *DS 21 M Pallas (DJ)*

Transmission: *5 speed manual*

Colour: *Bronze (AC320)*

Trim: *Leather (Tabac)*

Chassis Number: *4506695*

Engine Number: *571003361 (DX 2)*

Left factory: 29/03/1971

First Registered in New Zealand: 20/11/72 (*Waru Pihema*)

Second Owner: *Chris Adams (04/03/75-21/08/08)*

Current Owner: *Jeremy Adams (since 21/10/08)*

The car was first purchased in Singapore by a New Zealand Army Officer, the late Waru Pihema in 1971 and was one of a number of DS's bought new by NZ Army personnel serving there in the late sixties and early seventies and subsequently shipped to New Zealand. Speaking to Waru Pihema's son in early 2003, he recalled traveling in convoy with a number of other Army families, all in DS's, throughout Singapore and Indonesia when the officers were on leave.

Waru shipped the car back here in November 1972 (it had done 13,600 miles) where he kept it until early 1975 when Chris Adams bought it in March of that year. It had done 39,175 miles.

In 1975 it was entered in the Concourse D'Elegance at that year's National Rally in Papatoetoe (hosted by Auckland) and came first in D Series class, winning the Shorters Cup. This was repeated in Hamilton in 1977. A custom made stainless steel muffler was fitted during the year to compliment the brass tailpipes which, when polished, often aroused interest. This same exhaust system is still giving good service today.

In August 1977 we completed a 3 week family holiday around the South Island. Prior to that (and since) there haven't been many places in the North Island that it has not traveled to - Wellington, Taranaki and the East Cape to name some. Many trips to Northland were made, especially Kerikeri and the Bay of Islands, over the notorious unsealed Waikere Road between Kawakawa and Russell. This was often with a boat in tow at Christmas, which was it's regular annual run to the family bach until the mid 1990's. There were of course plenty of holidays in between, not least of which was the trip to Waikaremoana being completed, as were many excursions in the 1980's, with the family camper behind.

In 1984 at approximately 120,000 miles it was treated to new pistons and barrels, camshaft, some valve gear and clutch as well as new carpet, headlining and roof seal. A Plaeides steering rack was fitted in 1991. She also received a coat of paint in the original colour in 2001.

When Chris first bought the car in 1975 he applied a liberal treatment of Fishoilene which was sprayed into every part of the car possible. It is this plus the regular care and maintenance it has received over the years that have contributed to its current condition despite the work it has done, especially in the first 25 years.

In March 2008, we encouraged Chris to take the plunge and get her re-upholstered in the original leather, reproduced by Citro-Pieces in Europe, which had been well-worn over the past 33 years. The leather was ordered via Western Hemispheres in California and arrived within 6 days. Also ordered from both Western Hemispheres and Dirk Sassen in Germany were new headlining, under bonnet insulation, boot lining, windscreen rubber, roof rubber, parcel shelf trim as well as various other bits of trim to tidy her up. This only left the carpet to decide on which was quite a challenge to combine quality, look and colour.

Unfortunately, a month later Chris suffered an injury to his finger which left him in poor health which - although things progressed with organising getting the above shipped to New Zealand for the car - became a naturally higher priority.

When he ended up in hospital in July the family asked me to get the car finished as soon as possible. Work then started in earnest, with the old interior being stripped and the car being taken to Auto France to have the roof removed to be repainted, a small area above the windscreen repaired, the roof and screen re-fitted with the new rubbers, and two or three other minor repairs were completed.

Chris fortunately saw photos of progress at this point and was kept up to date with what was going on. Sadly, 3 weeks later he passed away. My last phone call to him, 3 days beforehand was to let him know that his carpet had arrived from Wellington. It was a truly hilarious conversation.

The car was prepared for his funeral (sans interior!) as best as possible as much stainless trim had been removed for the project.

By the end of September the interior was completed and the following month new inertia-reel seatbelts were fitted front and rear (at Chris's request, so he could take the Grandchildren out in it)

Having resided in Warkworth since 1994 (now in Albany) and having done approximately 200,000 miles, it doesn't do quite the mileage that it used to (it had a metric speedometer fitted a few years ago anyway!), although in the past 5 years it has been to Wellington, Northland several times and Rotorua as well as regular visits to Auckland. It took part in the 2008 Back to D Future D-Tour around the Waikato and will be seen on many more.

In 2012 she completed a tour of the 6,200km of the South Island, with 5 on board plus an astounding amount of luggage. Later that year, she then went to the very top of the country and visited Cape Reinga. In 2013, the annual excursion continued, this time with a trip around the East Cape, returning via the Taranaki Bight. I think the only main road in the country she has not covered with me at the wheel is SH2 to Wellington. That is planned for 2015.

A couple of recent interior shots:



Jeremy Adams

July 2005/November 2008

PS: Bronze is a rare colour for a DS. It was available for the 1971 model year only. You can also view the car on <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/nuancierds>, a website dedicated to DS colours over the years. Click 'Entrer', Navigate through '1968-75' from the top of the screen to '1971', click 'Bronze' and see what you find!