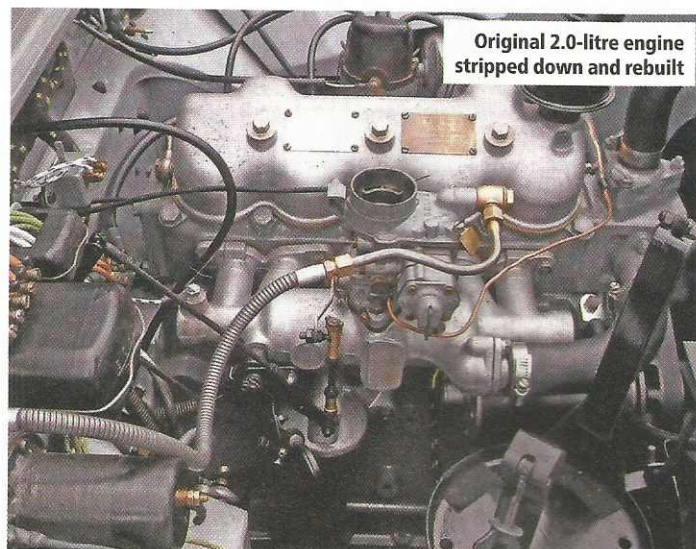




Family farm name on the doors is a fitting final touch



Original 2.0-litre engine stripped down and rebuilt



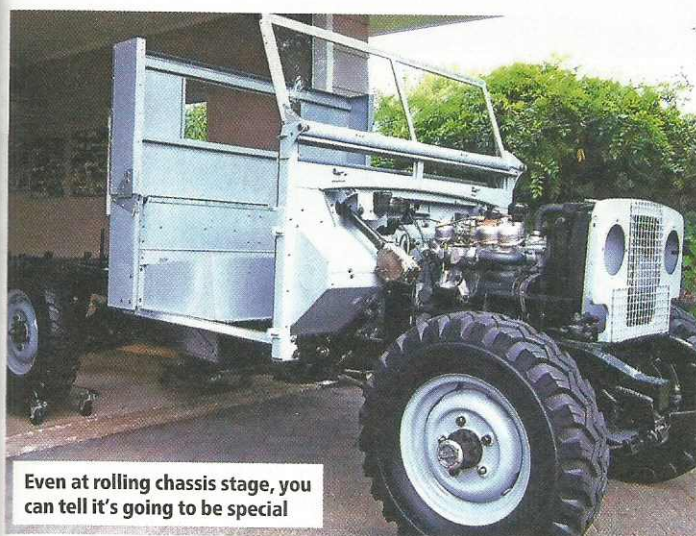
Let battle commence: body dismantling is under way at the start of the rebuild project in 2005



Well, it wouldn't be an old Series Land Rover without a rotten footwell, would it?



Chassis outriggers were all past saving, but the main body of the chassis had survived pretty well



Even at rolling chassis stage, you can tell it's going to be special



Some seriously good joinery work here

tray with low sides. But on that daily trip between the two farms, the dogs would go along too. To accommodate them, the specialist made two bespoke 'dog boxes', one on each side below the wooden deck. Essentially wooden cages, they ensured the dogs could be transported safely in the otherwise open vehicle.

'I've long thought about the amazing coincidence of choosing that very spot to take a breather'

And it was those dog boxes that meant I recognised dad's old Land Rover standing derelict in a paddock decades later. He sold it in 1993 when I took over the farm at Huiroa, at which point it disappeared from my life.

Then, while practising in 2002 for the Round Lake Taupo cycle race, I stopped for a rest and there, behind a gate, I saw it. I've long thought about the amazing coincidence of choosing that very spot to take a breather.

Anyway, there was no way I could just pedal off and leave it there. I did a deal with the owner there and then, and returned with a trailer to bring the Land Rover back home.

Restoration began in 2005, starting with a complete stripdown. The chassis outriggers were shot, but the main members were solid. Bodge had kept the vehicle going over the years, and these would have to be rectified. The wooden back body was, sadly, past its best.

New parts came from the UK, located through the Series One Club. I even found the correct grey 'elephant hide' material for the seats. The chassis was repaired, the engine was rebuilt to as-new condition, and slowly the 109 was built back up to the way it would have been when new.

Just the back body remained to be done, so I recruited a friend

with joinery skills. The body was remanufactured in rimu wood (formerly known as red pine, this is from a tree indigenous to New Zealand), and I added some beautiful lining-out. As a personal finishing touch, I painted the name of the family farm on the doors.

Last year, I retired from farming, and now live at Lake Taupo. Of course, I've brought my collection of Land Rovers, which includes a 1949 80in that needs to be brought up to scratch. And just to keep my hand in after a hip replacement operation last year, I built a Series I Toylander for my grandchildren. Well, it's important to pass the message on to the next generation, isn't it?