

Racing Driver John Bowe and his E-Type Jaguar

'Shannons Club' recently provided a feature on racing driver John Bowe and his 3.8 E-Type.

No one has raced more often and won more races in Australian motoring history than John Bowe. Growing up in Tasmania, his career took him to racetracks all over Australia where he began competing at just 15 years of age.

With a passion for fast European cars, none has taken his eye quite like his 1962 Jaguar E-Type Roadster.

"At the moment I have too many cars in my life, but my sweet favourite is a 1962 Jaguar 3.8 E-Type roadster - one of only about 800 produced before they updated almost everything."

"I always wanted one as a boy. I dreamed about them, in fact. It was one of the most beautifully shaped cars and still is, in my opinion".

As well as driving the E-Type on special occasions, JB reckons it's a blast to use on the open road, but he's not so sure about its credentials in modern traffic.

And he's a realist about the classic car ownership experience. "The E-Type had a lot of money spent on it before I bought it. But I'll tell you what, it's had a lot spent on it since then, too," he grins.

"These things cost money, even when they're just sitting there."



"Imagine this back in 1961! Holden had just given us the FB and Ford's first Falcon was on the market. The E-Type must have seemed like a vehicle from outer space by comparison."

"The gear ratios are delightful, but the change needs care and good feel to operate properly. Once mastered, though, it's easy."

"The 1964 update included a 4.2-litre engine and more cockpit room, with flatter, wider seats and an in-house all-syncro 'box, but in the world of significant collector cars, the 3.8-litre Series One was the ground breaker, the famous first-born, the rarest and the most valuable."

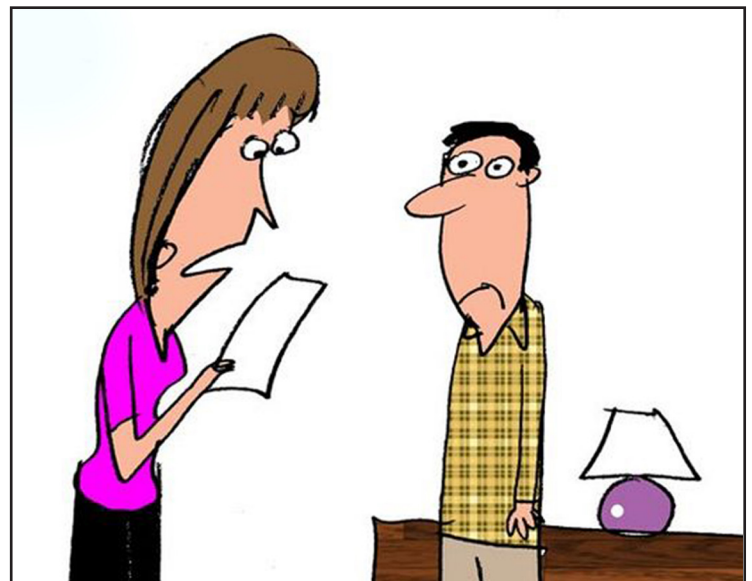
"This is my own car and I am very proud to be its custodian; it is amazing and mostly, I love it."

Career highlights: Won Bathurst 1000 in 1989 and 1994; won the 1995 Australian Touring Car Championship; chalked up a record 225 V8 Supercar race starts and was inducted into the V8 Supercar Hall of Fame in 2009.

To see Shannons video featuring JB go: to [Shannons-John Bowe 3.8 E-Type](#) ■



"Apparently the new guy didn't know that you don't park close to Phil's Jaguar"



"That Jaguar dealership has offered to pay for your counselling. Apparently, they saw you hugging and caressing one of their cars on the lot"