

# DREAM MACHINE



Words & Pics: Peter Whitten

**R**ob Sherrard's Ford RS200 Evolution, the only one of its kind in Australia, has a unique history, although competition has only come late in life for the Group B dream car.

Number 153 of the 200 built, the car was purchased by a German enthusiast from Ford Motorsport when the car was

brand new. It remained in that owner's care until Brisbane's Rob Sherrard purchased the car in 2002.

The car was one of only two road registered Evolution versions of the RS200 ever made and sports the incredibly rare BDTE engine. The BDTE was an evolution of the BDT, which originally started life as the BDA

motor that powered Ford's Escort RS1800s. One inch longer in the block, the BDTE can use more turbo boost than normal (up to 3.25 bar).

"There were, in essence, three distinct variants of the RS200," Rob Sherrard says. "The road car which put out about 330bhp, the rally versions that were putting out around 450 to 550 depending on tune level, and the Evolution which put out about 550 to 600, although most were lifted to about 650."

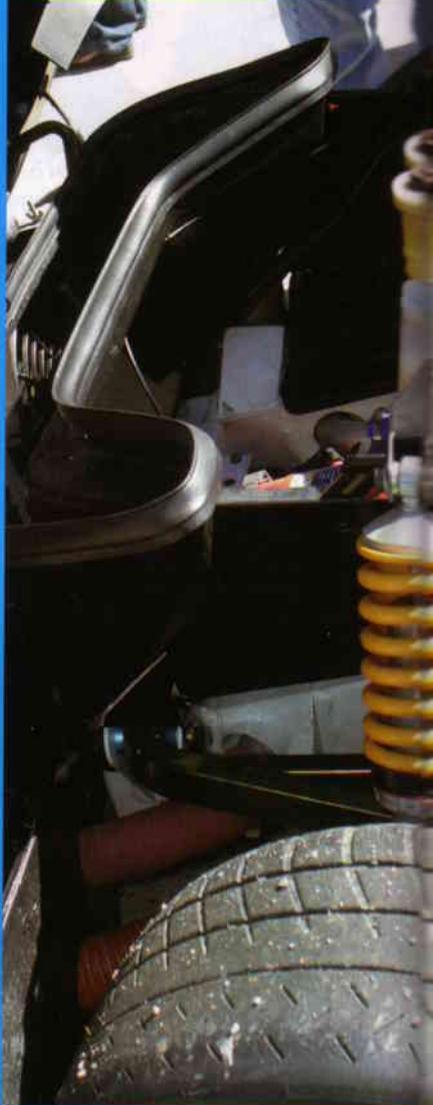
Using modern engine management software and turbo technology, this can quite easily be lifted to 750bhp using race fuel!

Only about 30 of the Evolution engines were ever built, and amazingly, Sherrard has two of those – one that came with the car, and one that he found via RS200 guru Jeff Page. That engine was brand new and still in its packing crate!

The RS200 Evolution's suspension and brakes are also substantially upgraded from standard car, and during the European Rally Cross Championship in the 1990s the cars were virtually unbeatable. However, this saw the demise of a number of the chassis' and engines. Even more tragically, the original Evolution engine casings were destroyed when they were accidentally thrown out in a rubbish clean-up.

In 2004 former World Rally Champion and Ford works driver, Stig Blomqvist, won the Pikes Peak Hillclimb in an

● With the engine mid-mounted, the front of the RS200 is fairly sparse.



● Twin dampers on each corner give the RS200 superior handling.