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James with his charity fundraising Rover SD1.

PC
STAR
CAR

PHOTO: DAN MURPHY



1982 Rover SD1 Bastos TWR Touring Car Series replica

James Hallowell, Orange, New South Wales, Australia

Q Hi, James. Nice paint job - tell us all about it.

The SD1 was my entry for the 2012 Cancer Council 'S***box' Rally in Australia. To enter, cars had to cost less than A\$1000 (approx £654) and teams had to raise at least A\$4000 (approx £2615) for the charity. I'm a Rover fanatic and I've owned six SD1s - a 1964 Rover 2000, 1957 Land Rover Series One, and my daily driver is 1963 Land Rover Series II fitted with a Range Rover V8. I've also got a 1965 Morris 1100, a 1953 Austin A30, and a 1982 Holden WB Statesman running a 330bhp 5.8 V8 that I built myself.

Q So it had to be an SD1 for the rally then?

Yes, and this is actually our second entry in the car. I originally found it in a scrapyards for A\$50 (approx £20) and it had been off the road for 10 years. As I'm a mechanic, I soon got it running sweetly. We entered the 2010 event as British Leyland Racing, but I work for Caterpillar and it sponsored the Bastos paintjob for 2011. It's just like the SD1s that were campaigned by TWR in the European Touring Car series.

Q You must have kept the car after the 2011 event?

In 2011, we drove from Sydney to Alice Springs across the desert. We did approximately 3300km in seven days with no problems. All the cars were auctioned after the event to raise more money, but I'd become attached to the car and called it 'Grover', so I bought it back and had it shipped to Adelaide. A week later I flew there and drove it the 2000km home. It had used less than 300ml of oil during both trips! It had done so well that we entered it for the 2012 rally, too.

Q The rally looks like great fun. Has your car earned its keep?

Yes, the rally is brilliant, and, more importantly, we've raised loads of money for cancer charities - more than A\$1.2 million (approx £785,000) in total. The 2012 event was from Brisbane in Queensland to Darwin in the Northern Territories. It was a



The SD1 is at home with James's 1964 Rover P6.



Charity 'banger' rallies are easier in Europe - 300 miles between fuel stops anyone?

1000km trip for us just to get to the starting line, then a seven-day journey over 3800km. Part of the route was along the Savannah Way, which is Australia's most remote road. On the 2011 event I was made official mechanic, and I also had that honour in 2012. Once again, the cars were auctioned off after the rally, so I saved up and bought the car back once more.

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