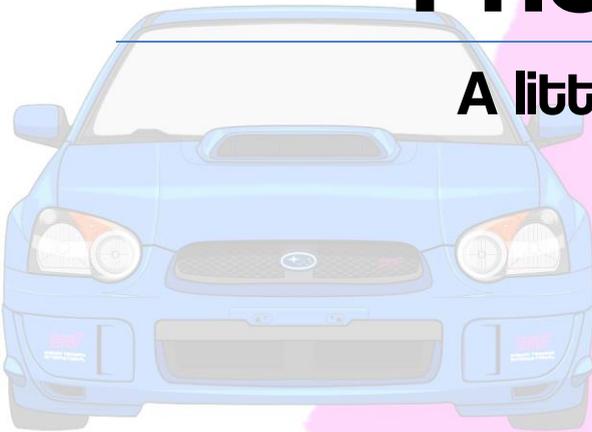




# Subaru Generations Photoshoot

A little info and more



7/16/2016



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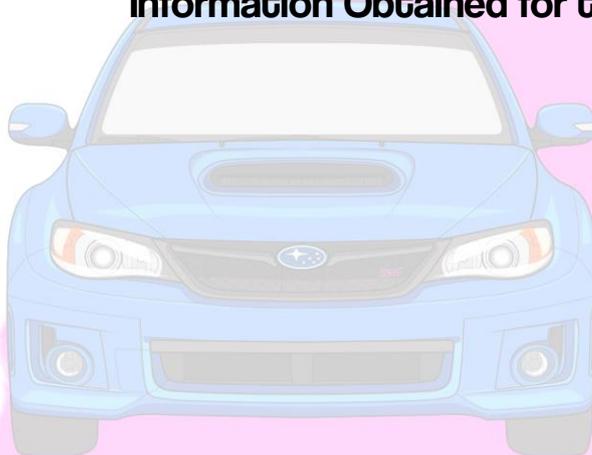
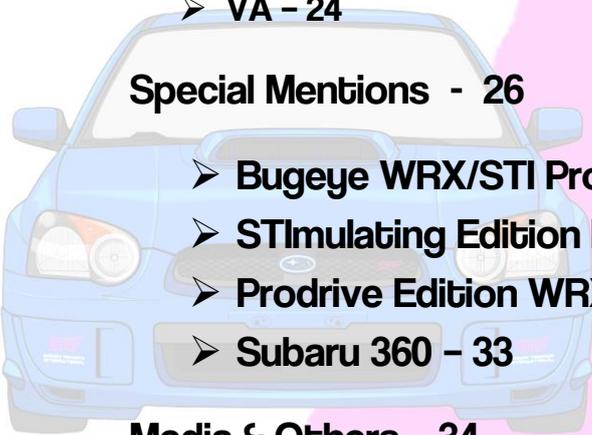
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## How the Photoshoot came to be

The Subaru Generations Photoshoot is the result of 2 South African Subaru Enthusiasts with the idea of capturing close to factory spec Impreza models like the WRX and STi models ranging from those first released in the country to those recently released, to show the transformation that has taken place.



Assembling the team

The reasons for planning this photoshoot were (1) the passion for the Subaru brand, (2) the love of the WRX and STi models and (3) where these cars originated. It was also realised that “stock” models are becoming scarce in the country let alone the world and

**thought this would be a good opportunity to bring them all together as it might not be possible to do so in the next 5 years.**



**Number Plate Cover Preparation**

**The search began for the iconic World Rally Blue STi for each generation, but unfortunately only 6 World Rally Blue STi's were able to be found within the Gauteng region. The rest of the cars included various colour STi's and WRX's.**

**The showroom floor feel for each car needed to be captured, as well as adding trim specific number plate covers.**

**Each car had been cleaned and detailed to perfection by the enthusiastic owners, and the beautiful South African landscapes made the cars stand out so much more.**



#### Group Shot Setup

**Various Subaru centres, clubs and communities around the country were contacted to find these models and had owners from all over Johannesburg and Pretoria join us. We even had a few owners who travelled from Secunda, Mpumalanga and Durban, KwaZulu Natal to be a part of this shoot. Subaru South Africa provided a great deal of assistance and support, and none of this would have been possible if Silverstar Casino had not provided their venue for the Photoshoot.**

**Tshirts and Number Plate Covers were made as well as a raffle to win an STI Performance Jacket were some of the key highlights for the event.**



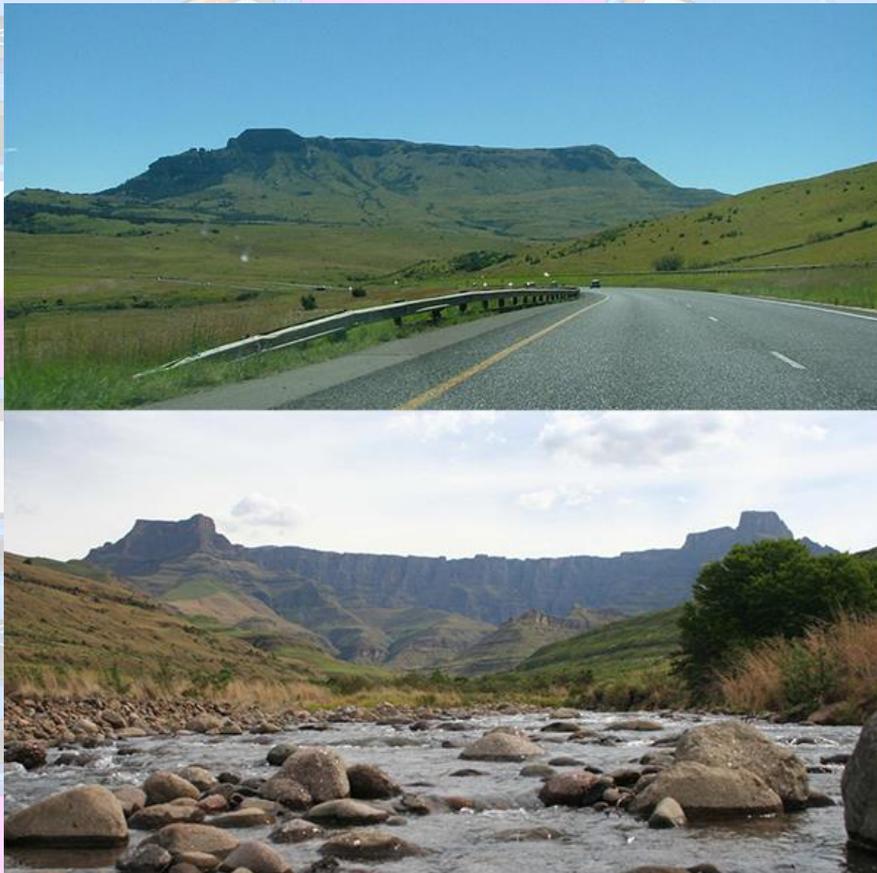
Custom made Tshirts.

**With that said. The photoshoot turned out to be a success!**

## The South African Subaru Culture

South Africa is a country with a vast car culture. You have bakkies(Trucks/Pickups) that build the nation, commuter cars that transport the nation builders, and performance cars to salivate over. Car modification, be it cosmetic or performance makes its way onto our roads and various racetracks, especially with the newly renovated and legendary Kyalami Racetrack.

South Africa is also known for its rolling hills and rocky terrain, which makes for some interesting roads as well as memorable scenery. There's everything that makes a drive, not just a commute, but more of an experience. In Gauteng you can feel classy going through the bustling hub of Sandton or take a spirited drive through the outbacks.



Van Reenen's Pass, N3 between Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal (Top)

Drakensburg Amphitheatre (Bottom) - Pictures from Wikipedia



**Sandton Central - Picture from Wikipedia**



**Sani Pass within 100m of the South Africa/Lesotho Border. Gravel Road One of the many mountain passes you'll find in South Africa. Picture from Wikipedia.**



**This is where the love started. It's a rare sight to see an Impreza GT.**

**The Forester has been seen to be one of the best-selling Subaru models to date in South Africa. Its space and practicality has made it popular among families.**

**Limited numbers of Importation and registration of imported vehicles such as the GC STI Impreza's were done by Subaru South Africa and personal importations by some owners were done. Importation and registration today is now a difficult process, but some enthusiasts find a way.**

**Modification of Subaru's in South Africa is extensive. From the standard practice exhaust to emphasise the characteristic Subaru burble, blow off valves and ECU upgrades at a performance tuning company to wake up the might of the horizontally opposed engine.**

**Motorsport wise, the Impreza has shown its prowess in the national rally and circuit racing scene.**



**Sasol Racing Impreza STI - Picture from [wheels24.co.za](http://wheels24.co.za)**

**Impreza GT Rally Car - Picture from [italianpb.co.za](http://italianpb.co.za)**

**That's just a little bit of what you'll tend to see when looking at Subaru's from a South African Perspective.**

## Models Models Models

In this section, we'll talk about models and a little bit on how they were integrated into the South African Automotive scene.

### **GC Chassis**

History began with the GC8, along with the crowning of the WRX and STI names respectively. In November 1992, the Impreza WRX was created with a mission to compete in the World Rally Championship.

The compact lightweight for its class body was paired with Subaru's class leading All Wheel Drive System and EJ20 turbo engine pushing out 236bhp.

In January 1994, the WRX went through further development and thus the STI variant was born. A performance model merging the WRX with specially developed such as forged pistons and strut tower bars.



1992 Impreza WRX (JDM) - Subaru Brochure



1994 Impreza WRX STI (JDM) Subaru Brochure

Over the years, the Impreza WRX/STI received many improvements and variants. Cosmetically it went through at least 2 facelifts but the body shape evolved without changes. Then in September 1999, the STI VI was the final STI based on the GC platform with cosmetic changes such as a front under spoiler, a change in the rear spoiler cross section and redesigned 16 inch wheels.





**1998 Impreza WRX/STI Coupe Type R (JDM) – Subaru Brochure**

**In South Africa, the Impreza GT was the performance car available. It's equivalent to that of an Impreza WRX. It came in both sedan and wagon versions. It is estimated that 12 Impreza WRX/STI models were officially imported and registered in South Africa by Subaru South Africa. Others however were personal imports.**

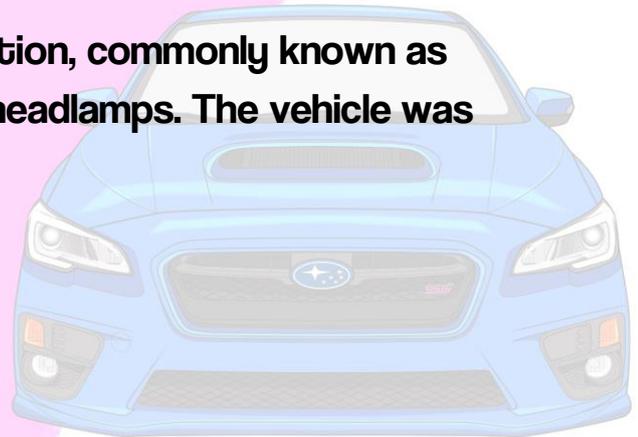
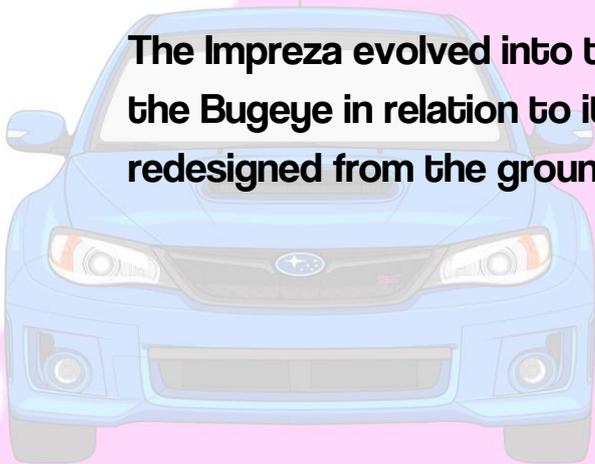
**In this photoshoot, we made use of a white UK Spec Impreza WRX (Imported by Subaru South Africa) and 2 Japanese Market Impreza Coupe STI's (Personal Imports). It's a rare sight to see an Impreza GT let alone a close to factory spec one in Gauteng, they are out there however.**



## **GD (Bugeye, Blobeye, Hawkeye)**

### **GD – Bugeye Style**

**The Impreza evolved into the 2nd Generation, commonly known as the Bugeye in relation to its redesigned headlamps. The vehicle was redesigned from the ground up.**

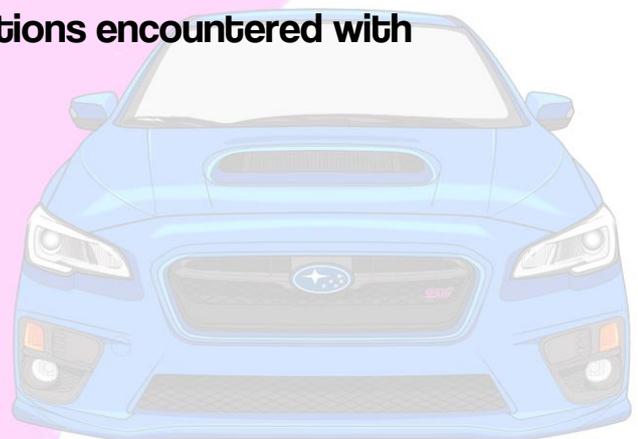




WRX/STI (JDM) - Subaru Japan Brochure

The engine was the tried and trusted EJ20 turbo engine. In the STI it pushed out 276bhp and was mated to a 6 speed manual gearbox built in house. Handling included a Brembo brake system and inverted struts for all four wheels with quick response steering.

The Bugeye overcame many of the limitations encountered with the GC.





官能という性能へ。

## Pride of Sports

新世紀へ向かって、新しい時代を見据えたスポーツとは何か。  
その答えを私達はNEW WRXに託した。  
結果からいえば、絶対的な数値を追い求めた性能から、官能という性能への進化である。  
それはドライビングという人間の行為の研究から生まれた。  
スロットルペダルを踏み込むドライバーとクルマの動きがどんなときも気持ちよくシンクロする。  
車を這うように静かに沈みこむ自然なロールにコーナリングの楽しさを感じる。  
ノイズやバイブレーションではなく心地よいサウンドと振動に身体をつつむ。  
走りの基本性能の高さをベースにドライバーとして喜びを感じる。  
そんな感覚的な性能を徹底的に磨き上げたのだ。  
もちろん安全と環境性能を合わせて追求していることはいままでもない。  
NEW WRX。それは、走りの感動を21世紀に継ぐもの。  
SUBARUの走りへのプライドが、ここにある。

New Age IMPREZA  
**WRX**

WRX (JDM) - Subaru Japan Brochure

South Africa was met with the introduction of the WRX and STI monikers into the South African market, scrapping the Impreza GT name. South Africans saw Prodrive 'spec'd' Impreza Bugeyes with a plethora of Prodrive add-on's, officially supported by Subaru South Africa.

In this Photoshoot, a Prodrive Style Japan Spec WRX/STI was sourced as well as a WRX/STI and WRX Prodrive edition.



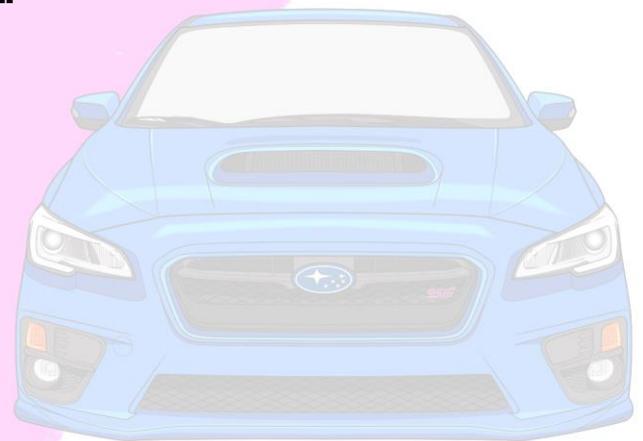
### **GD – Blobeye Style**

The Bugeye Impreza received a redesign in favour of teardrop headlights or more commonly known as the 'Blobeye'. In joint development with the Subaru World Rally Team, the new expertise utilized the redesign with better aerodynamic properties. It also improved on some characteristics of the Bugeye such as in June 2004, larger tyres were introduced. Some manual gearbox models came with Driver Controlled Centre Differential (DCCD) which adjusted the distribution of torque to the front & rear of the centre differential. This could also be done automatically.



**WRX/STI (JDM) - Subaru Japan Brochure**

**Interestingly enough, the Blobeye WRX/STI in Japan came with an equal length exhaust manifold which changed the characteristic Subaru Rumble which the Impreza is commonly known for. However in other markets, including the South African market, this car came with an Unequal Length Exhaust manifold.**





**WRX (JDM) – Subaru Japan Brochure**

**The Impreza was then considered as a high performance model representative of Japan, of which it was respected around the world. It also enjoyed popularity in South Africa with the revered STI model, WRX and even the non-turbo 2.5RS model. A special edition 15 car count “STImulating” edition was destined for the South African market – these models featured “a Prodrive performance exhaust system and an engine ECM software upgrade.” It also included a few suspension upgrades, and Prodrive lowering springs – let’s not forget the “STImulating” specific badging.**

**Information gathered - CAR Magazine**

**In this photoshoot. A WRX, WRX/STI model and “STImulating” edition cars were used.**



The Blobeye style was the last Impreza for both the WRX and STI to use the EJ20 motor in South Africa. From 2006 onwards with the Hawkeye style, all the STI's and WRX's were fitted with the EJ25 turbo motors.

### **GD - Hawkeye style**

The final facelift of the GD generation, commonly known as the 'Hawkeye' saw a design language looking back to Fuji Heavy Industries aircraft period. The front grille of the Hawkeye is representative of an aircraft with its wings spread. Refinements were made in the interior and engine performance. The Hawkeye at the time of its release and special edition models was one of the finest sports cars to date.



**WRX (USDM)- Subaru USA Brochure**



**WRX/STI - Subaru Japan Brochure**

**In this vehicle, the EJ25 turbo engine was used for both the WRX and STI in South Africa.**

The Hawkeye was class-leading. In South Africa the Hawkeye saw some popularity in its time here. There 's even a Prodrive edition with several Prodrive add-on's such as wheels, a wing and exhaust. Today though they're starting to become rare.

In this photoshoot, 2 STIs and a WRX were used.



### **GE, GH, GR, GV Chassis- Eagle Eye**

In 2007, the GH chassis was a new design from the ground up and saw the introduction of the Hatchback style Impreza as opposed to the well know Wagon format. At first there was only a Hatchback WRX and STI. The STI being aggressively styled with special dedicated body panels whilst the WRX was more subtle.



2010 WRX Hatch – Subaru USA Brochure



2010 WRX/STI hatch – Subaru USA Brochure

In 2010 however, due to popular demand, the 4 door Impreza WRX and STI models made a return, a legend in its own right. The performance of this generation was further proven at the North Loop of the Nurburgring of which was a testing ground for all the Impreza generations.



#### 4 door sedan and WRX Widebody – Subaru USA Brochure

A further facelift of this Impreza Generation saw widebody styles for both the WRX and STI models.

In South Africa, the hatchback Impreza WRX is now a rare sight with the STI version even rarer as the hatchback style wasn't offered in South Africa anymore after the introduction of the 4door styles. The 4 door WRXs and STIs were well received. All these cars made use of the EJ25 Turbo engine.

In this photoshoot, a hatch WRX , Hatch WRX/STI , 2 4Door STIs and a widebody WRX were used.



### **VA (New Age) Chassis**

In 2014, the VA chassis was released. Again this was a complete redesign and this generation now sees a whole new engine, The FA series of engines. The FA20 turbo is used in the new WRX whilst the WRX STI makes use of the venerable EJ25 turbo engine. The Impreza name was scrapped from this generation but the WRX and STI names remain. This generation distanced itself more from the Impreza range.

# WRX



Proud of **BOXER**

### Subaru South Africa Brochure

One thing to note about the FA series engine is that because of the use of a Twin Scroll turbocharger, the exhaust manifold must be of Equal length, thus the characteristic Subaru burble is changed.

WRX		Power	Torque	Height 1475mm	Width 1795mm
		<b>197kW</b>	<b>350Nm</b>		
2.0 Turbocharged Sports Lineartronic CVT					4595mm
STI		Power	Torque	Height 1475mm	Width 1795mm
		<b>221kW</b>	<b>407Nm</b>		
2.5 High-boost Turbocharged Petrol MT					4595mm

Visit [www.subaru.co.za](http://www.subaru.co.za) for detailed specifications

LIGHTNING RED PEARL  
 CRYSTAL WHITE PEARL  
 ICE SILVER METALLIC  
 WORLD RALLY BLUE PEARL  
 GALAXY BLUE PEARL  
 DARK GREY METALLIC  
 CRYSTAL BLACK SILICA

Subaru Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd. reserves the right to change and modify equipment or specifications at any time without prior notice. The availability of specifications listed in this brochure will differ from model to model. Some models are shown for illustration purposes only and might differ from those available in Southern Africa. Subject to error. For precise information, please contact your dealership.

www.subaru.co.za

A sound tube from the induction kit of the car channels specific sounds from the induction pipe and turbocharger into the vehicle's cabin.

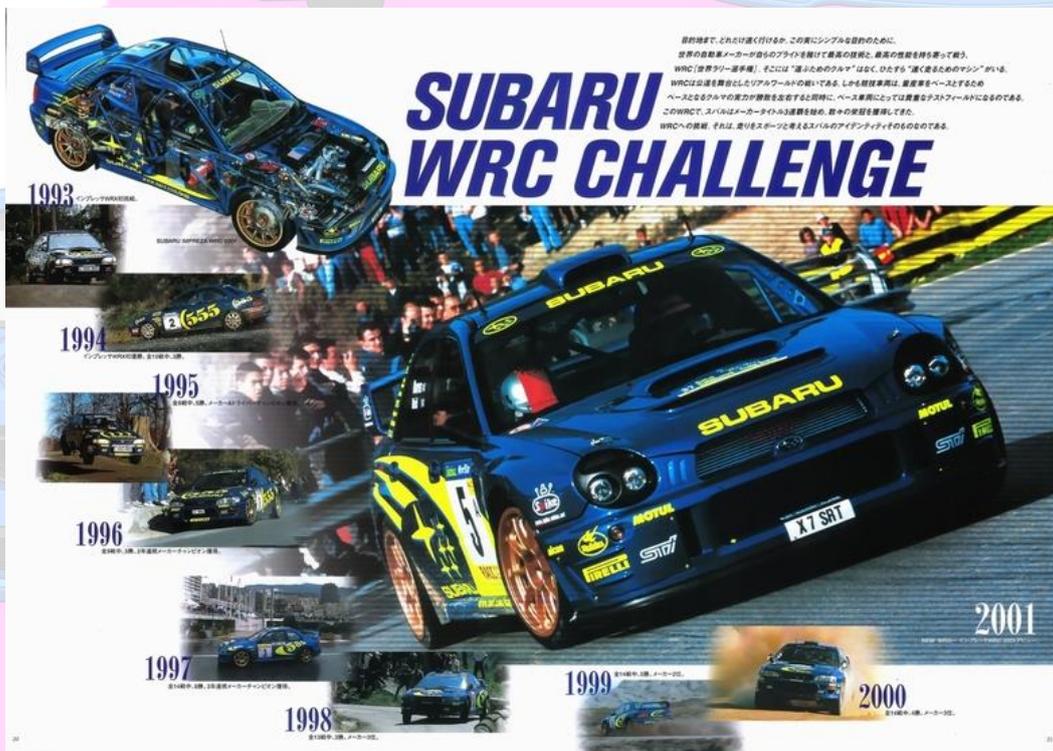
Driving Dynamics was a great focus of the VA generation.

## Special Mentions

In this Photoshoot, plenty of unique models came to the party and it was eye-opening to see such incredible machines. Some readers may not be aware of some models that they may see here in this Photoshoot so in this section some time will be taken to elaborate on some models.

### **Bugeye WRX/STI Prodrive Style Japanese Spec.**

Prodrive is one of the staples when it comes to clean modifications to Subaru vehicles. Hence the heritage it shares with the preparations performed on the Subaru World Rally Team vehicles and even recently with Mark Higgin's Isle of Man run.



Subaru Japan Brochure

Such preparation was also performed on road vehicles as well . One car that comes to mind is the Prodrive style Impreza WRX/STI. Reminiscent of the 2001 Impreza Rally Car and popular in video games such as Gran Turismo, this vehicle is another collector's item.



**This car was a special Impreza outfitted with an aerodynamic bodykit tuned by Prodrive. The one pictured here in this photoshoot is a JDM Type model distinguishable from the Type UK with its roof vent which came standard on the Japanese market.**



**Rally ready looks, rally ready performance.**



## **STimulating Edition Impreza.**

**This is what happens when Subaru South Africa gives a special treatment to 15 blobeye Impreza WRX/STI's , the Impreza WRX/STI STimulating Edition comes to life. STimulating , a play on words on the STI title as well as the effect the car leaves on its driver.**



**The Blobeye WRX/STI was a steller vehicle in factory fascia but Subaru South Africa decided to take that further with minor engine modifications and a handling package to perfect the WRX/STI even further.**



**Power modifications include a Prodrive exhaust system and most importantly, a locally developed tune for the ECU.**

**Handling modifications include Prodrive lowering springs, stiffer dampers and each individual vehicle has a personal wheel alignment.**





**Cosmetics are tastefully limited to Stimulating badges.**

**The best of all is that the car was covered by the standard Subaru warranty. What more, you ask.**

### **Prodrive Edition WRX**

**Prodrive add-on's also find their way onto the WRXs From the Bugeye all the way to the Hawkeye. These included wheels, cosmetic parts and performance parts were offered by Subaru South Africa when the cars were at the dealerships. In this instance a Bugeye Prodrive edition was sourced, the add-on's include:**

- **Prodrive badges**
- **Clear fender reflectors**
- **Blue Silicone Prodrive Pipes**
- **Prodrive Cosmetic Parts**
- **Full Prodrive Exhaust System**
- **Prodrive Suspension**





**You can't go wrong with Prodrive add-on's.**

### **Subaru 360**

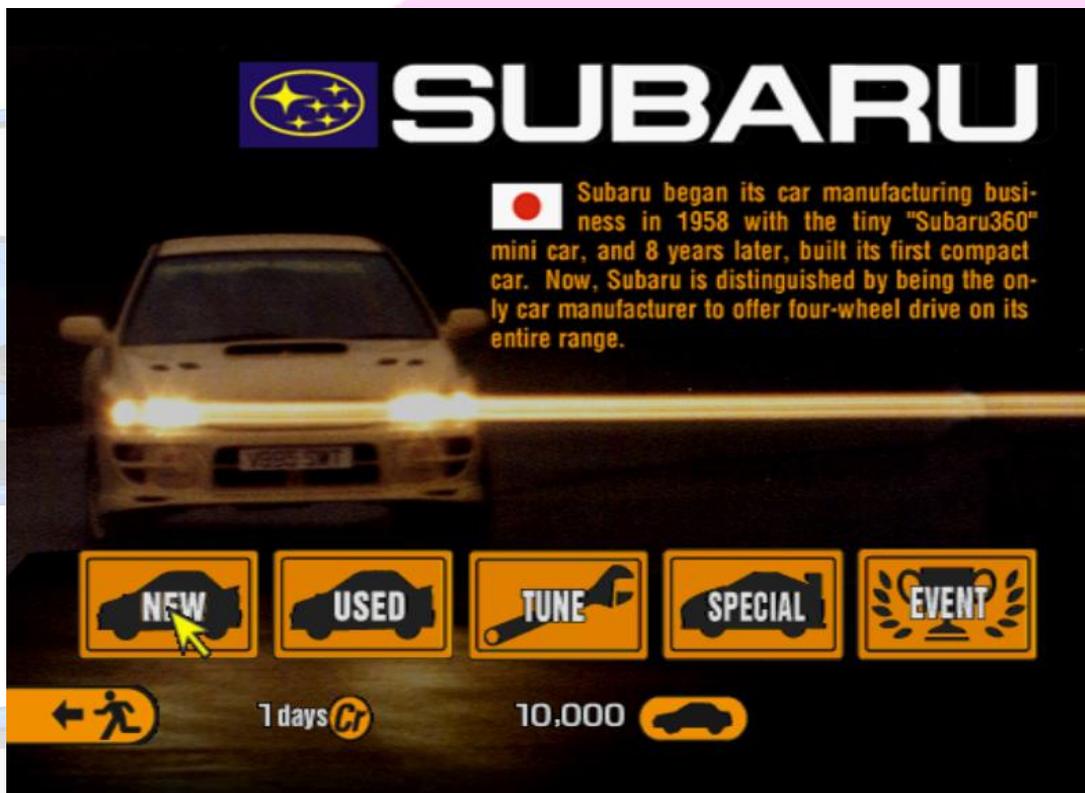
**A Subaru 360 also made its way to the Photoshoot courtesy of Subaru Centurion . This is indeed a rare sight, where it all started from 1958, Subaru's first automobile. This car is currently being restored and has been painted in World Rally Blue**



## Media & Others

With the advent of The Internet and growing social media platforms, more and more people are learning and discovering more about Subaru , The Impreza and WRX/STIs new and old.

Video games for many have also been an avenue to experience the cars visually, audibly and to some extent physically with video game controllers evolving to bridge the virtual divide between reality and the virtual world



Subaru Dealership in Gran Turismo 2 for the Playstation 1 released in 1999



(Above) 1996 Impreza WRX pictured in Gran Turismo for the Playstation 1 released in 1997



Impreza WRX/STI Spec C pictured in Gran Turismo 6 for the Playstation 3-Released 2013

**Youtube has also been a great platform to share videos worldwide. One recent example is the 2016 Record Breaking Isle of Man Run by Mark Higgins.**



**2016 Subaru WRX STI Isle of Man TT – Flat Out**

**Subaru**  
Subaru  
Subscribed 112,484

**728,467 views**

+ Add to Share More

5,524 45

**The video title speaks for itself.**

**Media in South Africa is ever growing now with Internet Access getting better than ever especially with Fibre rolling out by our various internet companies . People now being exposed to information much easier than it was in the older days. Now great content creators are showing off their skills to the world and brands exposure is bigger than before.**

## **Final Words**

**It has been a pleasure working on the Subaru Generations Photoshoot, to see the history over the years, to the cars improving themselves and to see the Subaru Brand thrive in South**

**Africa. What is more amazing is the culture behind the brand and the enthusiastic owners. The help, assistance and extra effort put in by everyone has made this event all the more memorable.**

**Thank you to everyone involved in this Photoshoot. Be sure to check out the photos in the Google Drive Link here:**

**<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BxJaXxoycW2dRIFSVUdvWwQyRGc&usp=sharing>**

**With that said, let this photoshoot be something for the history books. . .**

**For Generations to come,**

**Fin.**

**Gareth Schröder**

**&**

**Tayedza Mbiri.**

## **Information Obtained for this write-up:**

Gran Turismo 6 released 2013. Vehicle Information

Pictures referenced accordingly.

Pictures of the actual cars used in the photoshoot photographed by:

- DC Hype Photography
- The Kar Girl Photography
- VictorQ Photography
- Quan-Chai Photography
- TayeedzSA

Websites Included:

<http://www.cartorque.co.za/0054.htm>

[http://www.carmag.co.za/news\\_post/new-stimulant-from-subaru/](http://www.carmag.co.za/news_post/new-stimulant-from-subaru/)

[http://www.carenthusiast.com/20011128\\_news\\_subaruimprezawrxsti\\_sod.html](http://www.carenthusiast.com/20011128_news_subaruimprezawrxsti_sod.html)

Wikipedia for VA Chassis Impreza.

All accessed on 21 July 2016