



# OVER *the* HILL



Southern District Motorsports Association, PO Box 1484, QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

Email: [secretary@sdmahillclimb.com](mailto:secretary@sdmahillclimb.com)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Finally, 2020 comes to an end... what a year it has been! In the overall scheme of things, the difficulties our hillclimb club has experienced probably don't loom large. But for us they have been significant and I would like to thank all club members for their patience, understanding and support throughout the year. The Committees have greatly appreciated your backing and positive messages.

We started the year with a calendar of 10 events: Despite the bushfires and COVID, we were able to finish the year with seven events held, a success rate which many motorsport clubs would have been very, very pleased to share.

Six of those events were run in the four months from August to November, a major achievement considering the constantly changing COVID rules imposed on us by the ACT Government, Motorsport Australia and the NSW Government. The last event, the 20th Anniversary HillClimb on 22 November, was a great success, attracting a big turnout of current and former members and current and former ACT Hill Climb Champions (nine in all).

Getting each of those events up and running involved a lot of work by many people, including our Clerks of Course and event officials and volunteers, who turned out in good weather and bad so that competitors could take part in the sport they enjoy so much.

## December 2020

To all our officials and helpers, a very big **Thank You**. There are too many to name individually here but each Event Report has listed the people who made that event possible.

However, there's one person who must be singled out for special thanks for his tremendous efforts: our Event Secretary Dave Peisley. Not many people realise the amount of work which goes into preparing for each event and the Event Secretary carries the brunt of that effort. Dave has done a magnificent job in managing the requirements that the club has to meet and in keeping competitors informed and up to date. The success of the events we've held has been due in significant part to Dave's commitment to the club.

This *Over The Hill* includes the club calendar for next year. We're planning 10 events again, starting with a single lapper on 7 February, and for two double lappers, one in June and the other, hopefully the Heart Kids HillClimb, in November. The question mark over Heart Kids is whether the impact of COVID will still be so significant as to create medical difficulties for the youngsters who get such a thrill from the day.

As COVID restrictions ease, we will ramp up our program of improvements to the track and facilities. We have been limited in what we could do this year by government restrictions on gathering sizes but next year should see us able successfully to hold regular working bees, starting with ones which will be necessary over Christmas and New Year to keep the grass mown and pit and track areas clear. Can I again ask as many members as possible who can get to a working bee to come along and help out, even if only

for an hour or two? The work isn't onerous and the company and companionship makes it worthwhile. Please keep an eye out for e-mail notifications and Facebook posts.

Sunday 13 December is a big day for SDMA: the club Christmas Party starting at around 12 for 12.30. It would be wonderful to see a big roll up of members and their families come along to relax and get into the festive spirit and to watch the ACT Hill Climb Championship awards presented, both class results and overall winners. The details are in this *Over The Hill* so come along if you can: it's always a very relaxing and enjoyable time. Please don't forget to RSVP by Tuesday 8 December.

Finally I would like to thank every member of the club committee throughout the year. SDMA is very fortunate to have always had committees which work together well and which are focussed solely on building the club. The committees in 2020 have been no exception. On behalf of the club, sincere thanks to every 2020 committee member.

To all SDMA members, have an enjoyable, relaxing and safe Christmas and New Year. See you in 2021.

John

## OFFICIALS FOR CLUB EVENTS NEXT YEAR

We need more club members to volunteer to be an officials at events which the club will run in the future.

Please remember:

1. without enough officials we can't run an event; it's that simple; and
2. if we have enough people willing to work as an official the load can be shared and the amount of time each official has to contribute can be reduced.

Working as a flaggie, on the chock, as a grid marshal or as a general official helping keep the event running is an enjoyable way of being part of the hillclimb day and to keep in touch with friends and fellow club members.

It's not onerous, it's pretty enjoyable and can be fun. So if you feel you can help out for a day or half a day or a few hours, please contact Rohan Thatcher at [rohantatcher@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rohantatcher@yahoo.com.au).

And if you want to help out, can you also go to the Motorsport Australia website ([www.motorsport.org.au](http://www.motorsport.org.au)) to get an Official's Licence. Use the "Sign up" button at Get started/Officials or use the link <https://motorsport.org.au/membership/official>.

**Officials licences are free of charge!**

## SDMA CHRISTMAS PARTY - SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

Christmas will come to the track on Sunday 13 December, from **around 12 o'clock**, so that SDMA members and their families can celebrate the festive season among friends and mark the end of an incredible year.

It will be a time to relax and to reflect on what the club was able to do in 2020, despite considerable difficulties, and to **congratulate the winners in the ACT Hill Climb Championship**.

The club provides a sumptuous feast of turkey breast roll, sliced leg ham, BBQ chicken and salads, along with Christmas pudding and custard for dessert.

We asked that members and their guests **bring their own picnic gear, plates, cutlery etc, and their own drinks**.

To keep COVID safe, we will be spread out more than last year so it will be a good idea to **bring hats and sunscreen** as some of the tables may not be able to be in shaded areas.

To help with catering, **please e-mail [sdmamedia@gmail.com](mailto:sdmamedia@gmail.com) to let us know who is coming**. We need the member's name and the number of people who will be coming with them.

### **We need that information by Tuesday 8 December.**

Santa and his helpers (also known as the club committee) look forward to welcoming lots of club members and their families.



## SDMA Social Media Update

Communication and promotion through social media have become very popular in recent years. Since late 2019, SDMA has been working hard to grow our online presence and visibility on social media platforms. We are also redoing our website, as you may have seen in previous editions of *Over the Hill*.

Keeping our members up to date is one of our highest priorities, and we strive for continuous improvement in that area.

If you are on Facebook or Instagram, consider following us for regular photos, updates and motorsport content.

If you already follow the page, I hope you enjoy the content we post. If you have any feedback or suggestions, we would love to hear from you if you would like to message the page on Facebook or send us an email at [sdmamedia@gmail.com](mailto:sdmamedia@gmail.com).

Since October 2019, our Facebook and Instagram communities have grown by 230 people, and our photos reach approximately 530 people every time we post now. This growth has all been organic - which means we have not spent any of the club's money to increase exposure.

For those who enjoy a good visual diagram, here are some that represent our growth and the demographics of our followers:



| Country                  | Your Followers | City                      | Your Followers | Language                   | Your Followers |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Australia                | 1,563          | Canberra, ACT, Australia  | 1,014          | English (US)               | 1,030          |
| United States of America | 8              | Sydney, NSW, Australia    | 233            | English (UK)               | 553            |
| United Kingdom           | 4              | Wollongong, NSW, Aus...   | 33             | Spanish                    | 3              |
| New Zealand              | 3              | Brisbane, QLD, Australia  | 30             | Portuguese (Brazil)        | 2              |
| Bangladesh               | 2              | Melbourne, VIC, Australia | 26             | Thai                       | 2              |
| France                   | 2              | Adelaide, SA, Australia   | 23             | French (France)            | 2              |
| South Africa             | 2              | Newcastle, NSW, Austr...  | 18             | Simplified Chinese (Chi... | 2              |
| Philippines              | 2              | Cooma, NSW, Australia     | 15             | Bengali                    | 1              |
| Bulgaria                 | 1              | Goulburn, NSW, Australia  | 14             | Greek                      | 1              |
| Hungary                  | 1              | Queanbeyan, NSW, Au...    | 12             | Cebuano                    | 1              |



## New event administration centre

Over the next few months and throughout 2021, a new event administration centre will take shape around the current scrutineering bay.

Two 40 foot containers will be positioned on both sides of, and parallel to, the scrutineering slab. The containers will be staggered and the overlapping sections covered by a new roof.

Work has already begun on the project with the removal of the old caravan which was used for storage.

The remaining work will be done in stages, starting with the first container being put in place on the track side of the scrutineering pad and the contents of the scrutineering shed being moved into it.

The scrutineering shed will then be demolished and the second container put in place.

The trusses for a new roof will then be prepared and the scrutineering carport removed and the new roof installed over the two containers.

Fitout of the containers will occur throughout the project as resources become available.

The containers will have doors and windows installed and be set up to provide space for Scrutineers, the Event Secretary, the Clerk of Course, a small workshop and extra secure storage.

It's a big project which will significantly improve the way we run events. Our equipment will be better and more securely stored and key functions such as the Event Secretary, the Clerk of Course and Scrutineering will be co-located and have their own office space and storage.

The project which will require a lot of support from members prepared to give their time at working bees which will be organised as the various tasks need to be done.

If we can get plenty of enthusiastic workers, the load will be shared and the project will be completed more quickly.

Working bees will be notified on Facebook and by e-mail messages. We will try to give as much as notice of them as possible to give people the chance to come along and help out.

3D illustration below: Iain Chandler, tricpics.net







## EVENT REPORT: CLUB ONE LAP HILL CLIMB, SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Two thousandths (0.002) of a second! That's all that separated Reece McIntosh's final two runs as he pushed his Audi TTRS to both Fastest Time of the Day (FTD) and a new class record for Type AWD 1/2 over 3000cc. It was an outstanding demonstration of consistent and skilful driving and also of the very high level of accuracy and sophistication of the club's timing capability, developed over many years by our Head Timekeeper, Dave King.

Initially Reece's times for runs 4 and 5 were identical, showing up as 44.16 seconds. Closer interrogation of the system showed that Reece's time in run 4 was 44.165 seconds and that he was two thousandths slower on run 5, coming in at 44.167 seconds. By any standards, they were both very impressive runs and cemented Reece's grip on FTD and the class win.

A slightly smaller than usual field of 48 cars lined up for the event, which meant six runs were offered, with most drivers taking advantage of the extra run to get more track time.

Competition was keen all day, with Jeff Nichols in the Westfield SE Clubman coming second overall, with a time of 45.07 seconds to lead the Type AWD/SV4 up to 1600cc class. Jeff just edged out Paul Welch in the Porsche GT3, who put in a time of 45.32 seconds, setting a new class record for Type 1/2 over 3000cc, beating the previous mark of 45.46 seconds.





Tom Ballard and Martin Crombie made the Type 1/2 up to 1600cc competition exciting, swapping the lead several times during the day, by a few hundredths of a second each time. Martin eventually prevailed with 51.91 seconds, just .03 seconds quicker than Tom's 51.94. Tom was heard to be praying for rain when he was (marginally!) in the lead, but the powers that be apparently weren't listening. The results set up an exciting finish for the class in the Championship, with both Tom and Martin definite starters for the final event of the year on 22 November.

The Fastest Female Driver was McKelvy Reed in her Subaru WRX STi with a time of 48.81 seconds and the Fastest Junior Driver was Tom Donohue in the Mitsubishi Evo X, with a time of 45.43 seconds, which gave him fourth outright and the class win in Type AWD/SV3 Over 3000cc.

The hard luck story of the day belonged to Matthew Brown who piloted his Audi RS4 around the circuit in 45.52 seconds, under the old record for Type AWD 1/2 over 3000cc but unfortunately behind Reece's new class record. On another day... who knows?

Thanks to our officials who made the day run smoothly and efficiently, headed by Clerk of Course Rohan Thatcher, supported by Event Secretary Dave Peisley and assistant Event Secretary, Celeste Oringo and Chief Scrutineer Anthony Hyde.

Particular thanks to flag marshals John Courtney, Henry Hilhorst and Morris Lonnie and the chock and grid marshalling team of Geoff Basingthwaighte, Zac Le Lievre , Ross Samuelson, Rory Diacono, Alex Eapen, Chris Polglase and Kieran Morcombe. Special thanks also to the Pit Stop Café team led by Julie Merz.

Many thanks to Dave Deaves and Gavin Longmuir for allowing the use of several of the photographs in this article..







## EVENT REPORT: 20th ANNIVERSARY HILLCLIMB, SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020

Twenty years to the day from SDMA's first hillclimb, a full field of 60 cars lined up to celebrate the club's milestone. And just to prove that motorsport is nothing if not variable, the day was eventful, exciting and predictable ... all at the same time.

The field included nine ACT Hill Climb Champions, who between them accounted for 12 of the 18 championships since 2000. This impressive array of talent was joined by an enthusiastic cohort of drivers each wanting to make their contribution to the day's celebrations.

They were joined by the largest crowd of pit crew, family members and invited guests that the club has been able to host since COVID hit, and it was really pleasing to see the pits and the Pit Stop Café bustling again.

For the first time since February we were able to have presentations after the event, which provided a welcome opportunity to relax with friends and club members over a drink and refreshments.

The forecast had said showers and possible storms late in the afternoon but unfortunately no-one gave this timetable to the weather gods. Mid-morning the rain arrived, making an already slippery track even more challenging for drivers.







The track surface was difficult as a result of Col Merz's lovely Scorpion Formula Vee deciding to spit its oil filter and most of the engine oil onto the track on Run One. The resulting delay while the track was cleaned gave the clouds plenty of time to gather and for a while the day was looking decidedly dodgy in terms of how many runs would be possible.

But fortune favours the brave and the skies cleared, the sun returned and in the end there were five runs, although a number of competitors still decided to cut the day short.

The format for the day had been changed to give drivers in a greater range of classes the chance to take home the main prize, which was the 20th Anniversary Hill Climb Trophy.

Instead of the top award being Fastest Time of the Day, which favours modified classes over Types 1, 2 and 3 classes, the special anniversary trophy was for the driver who performed best compared with the record for their class. Times were compared with class records as a percentage and the driver who broke, or was closest to, their class record took home the trophy.

Well, the more things change... the more they stay the same.





After five runs, the winner of the 20th Anniversary Hill Climb Trophy was Malcolm Oastler in the Ninjamobil Dart, whose time of 44.49 seconds was 99.73 per cent of the Type 6 751-1300 cc record of 44.37 seconds.

Runner up was Bohun Martin in the BMR Genesis-R, whose time of 46.24 seconds was 99.35 per cent of the Type 5 1301-2000 cc record of 45.94 seconds.

Third was Kieran Morecombe in the Mazda RX-7, whose time of 47.19 seconds was 98.88 per cent of the Type 3 2001-3000cc record of 46.66 seconds. Kieran is having something of a purple patch since coming back to hillclimbing, having set the class record only six weeks ago.

The Fastest Female Driver of the Day was McKelvy Reed, whose time of 49.52 seconds in the Subaru WRX STi was 88.33 per cent of the Type AWD/SV3 over 3000cc record of 43.74 seconds.

Fastest Junior Driver of the Day was Tom Donohue, with a time of 45.62 seconds in the Mitsubishi Evo X, 95.88 per cent of the Type AWD/SV3 over 3000cc record of 43.74 seconds.

For the traditionalists, the outright Fastest Time of Day (but with no cigar unfortunately) went to Zac Le Lievre, who piloted the Westfield Megabus around the track in 42.44 seconds (97.67 per cent of the Type AWD/SV4 up to 1600cc record of 41.45 seconds).

Fittingly for the last event of 2020, a galaxy of officials was on hand to keep the event running smoothly. Rohan Thatcher and Chris Hardy were Clerks of Course, Dave Peisley and Celeste Oringo were Event Secretary and assistant Event Secretary and Anthony Hyde was Chief Scrutineer.

Morris Lonnie, Henry Hilhorst and Alex Hitch were flaggies, Dave King was Timekeeper, Terry Bennett was announcer and Brett Jorgensen, Lucas Anderson, Chris Polglase, Rob Wall and John Engisch made up a very efficient team of chocks and grid marshals to keep the drivers up to the mark (literally).

Special thanks also to the Pit Stop Café team of Julie Merz, Julie Yates and Liz Hilhorst, who made sure there were plenty of life's essentials – egg and bacon rolls, sausage sandwiches and Freddo Frogs! ..

Many thanks to *Toby Wilson* for allowing the use of several of his photographs in this article..





## SDMA 2021 CALENDAR (as at 28 November 2020)

| EVENTS  | TRACK MAINTENANCE   | TRACK BOOKINGS                              | NOTES  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>January: NO EVENT</b>  |   |   | Committee meeting: Tuesday 12 January  |
| <b>February:<br/>SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY</b>  | Saturday 6 February   |   | Committee meeting: Tuesday 9 February  |
| <b>March<br/>SUNDAY 7 MARCH</b>   | Saturday 6 March  | Stay Upright: Sunday 14 March (half day)    | Committee meeting: Tuesday 9 March<br>Canberra Day: Monday 8 March   |
| <b>April<br/>SUNDAY 11 APRIL</b>  | Saturday 10 April   |   | Committee meeting: Tuesday 13 April<br>Easter: 2-5 April<br>ANZAC Day: 25 April                                    |
| <b>May<br/>SUNDAY 2 MAY</b>   | Saturday 1 May  |   | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 11 May<br>Reconciliation Day : 31 May   |
| <b>June<br/>SUNDAY 6 JUNE (TWO LAPS)</b>  | Saturday 5 June   |   | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 8 June<br>Queen's Birthday: Monday 14 June  |
| <b>July: NO EVENT</b>   |   |   | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 13 July   |
| <b>August<br/>SUNDAY 1 AUGUST</b>   | Saturday 31 July  | Stay Upright: Sunday 22 August (half day)   | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 10 August   |
| <b>September<br/>SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER</b>   | Saturday 4 September  |   | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 14 September  |
| <b>October<br/>Round 9: NSW Hill Climb Championship<br/>SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER<br/>(Practice: Noon- 4 pm)<br/>SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER<br/>(Competition)<br/><br/>Club Hill Climb<br/>SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER</b> | Friday 1 October<br><br>Saturday 2 October<br><br>Saturday 16 October |   | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 12 October<br><br>Labour Day: Monday 4 October<br><br>Bathurst 1000 : Sunday XX October |
| <b>November<br/>HEARTKIDS HILL CLIMB<br/>(TWO LAPS)<br/>Saturday 6 November<br/>(Practice: Noon- 4pm)<br/>Sunday 7 November<br/>(Competition)</b>   | Saturday 6 November   | Stay Upright: Sunday 14 November (half day) | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 9 November  |
| <b>December<br/>SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER<br/>Christmas Party</b>  |   |   | Committee Meeting: Tuesday 14 December   |

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SDMA CALENDAR FOR 2021

The 2021 calendar has 10 events, starting in February and finishing in November. It includes two lap events in June and November and a round of the NSW Hill Climb Championship in October. Most events are early in the month.

The calendar still has to be approved by the ACT Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which regulates the use of noise credits at Fairbairn Park. We hope to get that approval fairly soon. If anything changes we will notify everyone using the club Facebook page and e-mail.

The NSW Hill Climb Championship Round is scheduled for Sunday 3 October (the long weekend) with practice on Saturday 2 October. That's the date given to us by the NSW Hill Climb Panel, but it may change because the championship calendar has yet to be approved by Motorsport Australia.

Entry fees for 2021 will be the same as for 2020: \$85 for a single lap event (\$50 for juniors) and \$105 for a two lap event (\$50 for juniors).



## For Sale

### Tilt Trailer

Tandem Axle, Tilt Bed Trailer  
Custom 2 ton car/bike trailer/frame/steel, safety chain  
15" Holden stud pattern rims, mechanical brakes and bearings,  
LED tail lights and wiring, front and side clearance lights,  
Registration to Nov 2020,  
2 TON leaf suspension, 40mm 97" axles,  
Tow hitch 2 TON slide mechanical, handbrake cable and adjuster.

Floor size is 4850x1900

**\$5800**

Please email [kent.donally@gmail.com](mailto:kent.donally@gmail.com)



## For Sale

### BRAND NEW RPM Mondial driving suit

Current FIA approval (8856-2000), never been worn. It is marked

'medium' but it is too big for me (174cm/74kg) so I think it is more like a 'large' size and it probably has the wrong tag sewn on it. It cost me \$625 but prepared to cut my losses and sell it for **\$500**. Give me a call if we can do a deal.

Contact: Col Merz on 0412 316 275



## For Sale

### Maxxis tyre (235/55 R18 100V) on CSA Savana rim.

Purchased to use as spare on 2010 Holden Captiva, but never used. Complete with wheel nuts: **\$200**

Contact Henry 0421 677 951 or in the pits.



## SDMA 2020-2021 COMMITTEE

**President:**.....John Templeton

[president@sdmahillclimb.com](mailto:president@sdmahillclimb.com)

**Vice-President and Public Officer:**.....Geoff Bassingthwaighte

**Secretary:**.....Dave Peisley

[secretary@sdmahillclimb.com](mailto:secretary@sdmahillclimb.com)

**Treasurer:**.....Alex Hitch

[treasurer@sdmahillclimb.com](mailto:treasurer@sdmahillclimb.com)

**Pre-Event Secretary:**.....Daniel Cummins

**Membership Secretary:**.....Ross Samuelson

[sdmamembership20@gmail.com](mailto:sdmamembership20@gmail.com)

**Editor** *Over The Hill:*.....Colin Chandler

[sdma.newsletter@tricipics.net](mailto:sdma.newsletter@tricipics.net)

### General Members

- Colin Merz,
- Henry Hillhorst,
- David Yates,
- Celeste Oringo,
- Anthony Hyde,
- Zac Le Lievre,
- Kim Le Lievre,
- John Stewart,
- Morrie Lonnie,
- Warren Spires,
- Rohan Thatcher,
- Harry Katsanevas



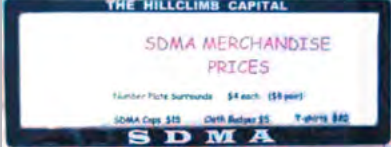
### Some general committee members have specific roles:

- Col Merz is the Facility Manager for the track;
- Celeste Oringo and Kim LeLievre are the social media team;
- Anthony Hyde and David Yates are SDMA representatives on the Fairbairn Park Control Council;
- Harry Katsanevas is the SDMA representative on the *Motorsport Australia* NSW Hill Climb Panel.



## SDMA MERCHANDISE

To order any merchandise, contact a committee member or visit the Pit Stop Café on event days.

|                        |               |   |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| Hats (peak and bucket) | \$15.00       |  |
| SDMA cloth patches     | \$5.00        |  |
| Number plate frames    | \$8.00 (pair) |  |