



OVER the HILL

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

Email: secretary@sdmahillclimb.com

March 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



A Good Start

One down – nine to go.

2021 got off to a good start on Sunday 7 February, with an enthusiastic field of competitors, good driving and strong spectator interest for our first event for the year. After the restrictions of 2020, it was great to be able to welcome the

public back to our sport and it was obvious that many people had missed being able to come out to our hillclimbs. We want to continue welcoming spectators without restrictions and to keep the spectator mound busy and buzzing.

We have another nine events scheduled (the next one is this Sunday) so hopefully we will be able to complete our calendar this year without disruptions.

We are fortunate that, in a COVID sense, we live in one of the safest areas of one of the safest countries in the world. But that can breed complacency, so I would ask everyone who comes to the track during the year, whether as a driver, official or spectator, to please follow all the COVID precautions and to be especially mindful of checking the ACT Government COVID website if you've travelled out of Canberra or southern NSW generally. And just a general reminder, everyone at the track has to be registered as being on-site, using either the *Check-In Cbr* app (we are a registered venue) or the paper sign-in sheets.

The new Event Administration Centre

Now that life is gradually returning to something that resembles what we understood normality to be before 2020, we will be pushing ahead with the improvements we have planned.

The first, and most visible, is the new Event Administration Centre next to the scrutineering bay. The footings have been put in place for the first 40 foot container (many thanks Geoff Bassingthwaighte, David Yates and Col Merz), which should be delivered sometime in the next few weeks. The plans for the interior fitout are being finalised so that work can start on inside of the first container soon after delivery.

We will need willing workers to help out with a range of jobs including moving the scrutineering carport and old scrutineering shed and helping with the fitout.

We will need support from members prepared to give their time at working bees which will be organised as the various tasks have to be done. Sometimes we may not be able to give much notice of the working bees (especially if the containers arrive without much warning) so please keep an eye out for e-mails or Facebook posts calling for people to help at working bees for this project. If you can make some time available, please try to do so.

We need officials (still!)

The last few events we have been fortunate to have had a good turnout of members to work as officials on the day. We've also been getting good attendances at working bees. Many, many thanks to everyone who has helped out at either.

The advantage of sharing the workload is obvious: the burden is less for everyone. Putting in half a day flagging, chocking, helping with set up or with packing up is easier than spending a full day, and gives officials the chance to watch the racing and to catch up with friends and club mates.

So the bigger the pool of officials we have, the easier it is for everyone. If you are interested in getting an officials' licence, go to the Motorsport Australia website: (www.motorsport.org.au).

Use the "Sign up" button at Get started/Officials or use the link <https://motorsport.org.au/membership/official>. *There's no charge for an Officials licence.*

John

DO YOU HAVE A MOTORSPORT AUSTRALIA OFFICIALS LICENCE (CURRENT OR EXPIRED)?

A number of club members have taken the time and effort to get Motorsport Australia Officials licences so that they can do the various jobs which need to be done every time we run an event. And SDMA thanks them very much for doing that because without accredited officials and volunteers we can't stage hillclimbs.

But at the moment we don't have a complete list of everyone who has an officials licence. This sometimes makes it difficult when we are planning an event.

If you have an Officials Licence, can you e-mail John Templeton (at president@sdmahillclimb.com) and tell him your Motorsport Australia ID, your type of licence and its expiry date.

We are going to request Motorsport Australia's assistance to verify the information relating to our members' officiating / licencing accreditations that we currently have, either with existing records relating to the accreditations or any new information that is provided to John, so that the club has the most accurate information on hand.

If you don't want the club attempting to verify any Motorsport Australia officiating / licencing accreditations (including competition licences) that you may hold with Motorsport Australia, can you let John know by 31 March 2021 (no reason is required) and we will make sure that you are not included in any request we make to Motorsport Australia.

Please note that this is an entirely voluntary process.



PLACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S HILLCLIMB

There are still places available for next Sunday's hillclimb.

As at midday on Monday 1 March, we had 45 entries which means 15 spots are still free. Entries close at 8.00 pm on Thursday night (4 March).

To enter, you must use the On-Line Entry system on the website (www.sdmahillclimb.com.au).

Entry is open to all club members unless

- You live in an area designated by the ACT Government as COVID affected. These are set out at <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/community/travel>

OR

- You have visited, or plan to visit, an ACT Government designated COVID affected area in the 14 days before the event.

If you have been in Victoria in the last 14 days, check if you have been to any of the six current public exposure sites. Please continue to check until 14 days have passed since you were in Victoria.

Spectators are welcome to the event but must check in on arrival at the circuit, using the Check In CBR app/ QR code or sign-in books at both entry points.



MOTORSPORT COSTS KEEP GOING UP

SDMA has always worked to keep costs to members as low as possible, both membership fees and event entry fees. The club is strongly committed to keeping motorsport as financially accessible as possible.

Unfortunately, a lot of the time we're swimming against the tide. The two latest examples of cost increases the club has to deal with are Motorsport Australia's decision to increase the fee they charge for their permit we need to run every event and the ACT Government's decision to increase the land valuation of Fairbairn Park, which means higher rate bills for the track.

MA has increased the cost of a permit for a normal club hillclimb from \$550 to \$700 and the cost of a permit for the State Championship round that we run has gone up to \$1200. We don't have any choice but to pay for a permit: without one we can't legally conduct an event and we are not insured for public liability or other risks inherent in competitive motorsport. Our MA track licence fees and affiliation fees had previously also increased.

The ACT Government's Unimproved Valuation (UV) of the Fairbairn Park motorsport precinct has increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, which means our rates this financial year will go up by around \$1920.

Other costs have risen in the last 12 to 24 months as well, including medical cover at events and a range of other operating costs, none of them showstoppers individually but, in total, they all add up. And with interest rates being so low on the term deposits we hold to pay for the next resealing of the track surface, we are now getting significantly reduced income from there.

The Committee will continue to try to absorb cost increases wherever possible but it's important that members are aware that the club faces continuing cost pressures.



EVENT REPORT – SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Let's hope it's a good sign for the rest of 2021: On Saturday, when the working bee was getting the track and Pit Stop Café ready for the next day, it poured with rain. On Sunday, when the weather really counts, it was fine and sunny, a beautiful Canberra day perfect for hillclimbing.

53 competitors lined up for a delayed start due to the absence of Motorsport Australia stewards, without whom we can't run. While that was being sorted out, Chris Hardy came to the rescue by getting in his car (still in his PJs!), driving out to the track and taking over as Clerk of Course, allowing Rohan Thatcher to become Steward so that the day could begin. Many thanks, Chris, from everyone.

When we got going, the day went smoothly, with five runs giving plenty of opportunities to shake off any cobwebs which may have settled since the last event in November.

Fastest Time of the Day was 45.14 seconds, set by Jeff Nichols in his Westfield SE Clubman in Type AWD/SV4 up to 1600cc.

Fastest Female Driver was McKelvy Reed who recorded 49.49 seconds in her Subaru WRX STi in Type AWD/SV3 over 3000cc.

Fastest Junior was Toby Wilson in his first event, setting 54.81 seconds in Todd's RX 7 in Type 3 2001-3000cc. Well done Toby and we look forward to seeing you on the track many more times.

Mark Wyatt pushed his Celica very purposefully in Type 4 1601-2000cc, and on his fastest run of the day recorded his best-ever second split of 11.98 seconds as part of an overall time of 47.29 seconds.

Kieran Morecombe showed that his class record in Type 3 2001-3000cc was no flash in the pan by getting within 1/100th of a second of it, with a time of 46.67 seconds.

There was a lot of interest in Colin Chandler's new GR Yaris AWD, a three cylinder 1.6 litre turbocharged pocket rocket previewed in last month's *Over The Hill*. Colin (and the GR) didn't disappoint, setting a new class record for Type AWD 1/2 2001-3000cc with a final run of the day of 49.41 seconds, a decisive improvement on the old mark of 50.58 seconds. Given that this was the car's first outing, there may well still be more to come, especially as Colin's son Iain also has a GR just delivered and we may well see both lining up in the future.

Many thanks to all the officials and volunteers, led by Rohan, who made the day possible, particularly our Pit Stop café crew of Julie Merz and Liz Hilhorst, ably supported by Kim Le Lievre when she wasn't COVID Checking. Special thanks to Mike O'Connor, who worked with Alex Hitch and Henry Hilhorst to finalise their qualification as Motorsport Australia licenced Fire and Recovery officials. Mike will be working with more SDMA members over coming months to get them licenced as Fire and Recovery officials as well, which will give the club an important in-house event support capacity.



COVID CONDITIONS OF ENTRY



When you enter the track, either at the competitors' gate or the spectator footpath, you'll now see this large sign setting out the conditions on which the club grants entry to the circuit.

It's pretty straight forward. Everyone coming into the venue must register, either using the Check-in CBR QR app or by writing their name and contact phone number in a hard copy sign-in sheet.

We are required by the ACT Government to keep a record of everyone who visits the hillclimb during an event. The easier way for most people, who've downloaded the app, is to use the QR code. For others, using the sign-in sheets will be better.

But regardless of which method you choose, please make sure you sign in. And make sure your friends, pit crew or visitors have signed in, too.

If you see someone walking in without checking in electronically or signing in, please ask them to check in straight away.

We can only have spectators if we manage our venue properly – and that means everyone has to follow the rules.

Please help us to ensure the club can keep running events. If you have any issues relating to this, or you think someone may have entered the venue without registering, please talk to Kim Le Lievre, the nominated COVID checker.

SDMA 2021 CALENDAR (as at 1 February 2021)

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

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).

SDMA 2020-2021 COMMITTEE

President:.....John Templeton

president@sdmahillclimb.com

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

Secretary:.....Dave Peisley

secretary@sdmahillclimb.com

Treasurer:.....Alex Hitch

treasurer@sdmahillclimb.com

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

Membership Secretary:.....Ross Samuelson

sdmamembership20@gmail.com

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

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.

For Sale - Toyota 86 and VW Golf 18" alloy wheels



Enkei rims, **5x100 +45** offset, **to suit Toyota 86 GT/GTS, black 7.5" PF01 rims**. Wheels are in excellent condition with only very minor marks. Will also fit some older Subarus. \$980 for the set. Email **Iain** on ic@work.netspeed.com.au.



Set of **replica 18" x 8" Audi RS rims, to suit VW/Audi** models, **5x112 +45** offset, colour silver. Wheels are still very usable but do have some scrapes and marks, hence the price. Would be great for your track day tyres for example, or if you wanted to go up in size from smaller rims. \$240: Call **Colin** on 0408 271 296

For Sale - Toyota 86/Subaru BRZ Assorted Performance Parts

4.56 ratio LSD differential, Cusco final drive. Differential completely rebuilt by Neal Bates Automotive and is in excellent condition. **\$1800**.

TRD front strut tower brace, carbon fibre and alloy. **\$50..**

TOMS full LED tail lights, comes with Valenti flasher relay. Very good condition. **\$350**.

For any of these, email **Iain** at ic@work.netspeed.com.au

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



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 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) |  |