

OCTOBER 2023





President's report

It's been busy since the last issue of Over The Hill: a successful AGM, the first meeting of the new club Committee and two successive days on the track when we had Passenger Rides and Practice Sessions on Saturday 7 October, the day before the one lap championship event on Sunday 8.

There are reports on the AGM and the events on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 later in this Over The Hill, but in summary they all went very well. Thanks to everyone involved.

We have two hillclimbs next month to finish the year: a two lapper on Sunday 5 November and the final one lapper of 2023 on Sunday 19 November.

They're followed by the club Christmas Party on Sunday 3 December.

So still quite a lot to do.

The track will be inspected by Motorsport Australia (MA) on 1 December to confirm that it still meets MA requirements. It's been quite a few years since we've been checked, and we have to pass to be able keep running events. If MA decides we need to make changes or improvements there will be calls for club members to come to special working bees. These will be very much exercises in self-interest: if we don't do whatever may need to be done, we can't hold events next year. So if the call comes, please heed it.

Through Over The Hill, the club Facebook page and the club website we try to keep everyone informed about the results and the atmosphere of each event so that club members who weren't able to get there can still find out what happened. And recognising that one picture is worth a thousand words, we're always on the lookout for photos from events. So if you're both a keen driver or spectator and a keen photographer, can you think about sending your photos to Kim Le Lievre, who edits Over The Hill, so that the fun of the day can be shared more widely. Kim's e-mail is kim-granger@hotmail.com.

-John



Vale Haemesh Catterall

FOND FAREWELL TO A RESPECTED COMPETITOR

Haemesh Catterall, who competed at Canberra HillClimb for many years, passed away earlier this year.

Haemesh's family lost someone very near and dear to them and SDMA lost a respected member regarded widely as 'an all-round-great human being.'

Haemesh was a skilled driver and regular competitor at the track until late 2022, running his flash blue Honda S660 for the final time in the November one lapper. Unfortunately Haemesh wasn't able to compete this year as his medical situation deteriorated.

Haemesh was always helpful, friendly and quick to offer assistance to new competitors or to drivers experiencing some of motorsport's legendary bad luck.

Haemesh's family asked that instead of flowers for his funeral, donations be made RiseAbove, a long-established Canberra cancer support group (www.riseabovecbr.org.au). SDMA will make a donation in Haemesh's memory.

The club extends its condolences and sympathy to Haemesh's family and friends.

Event report

ROUND 7 - SATURDAY 7 AND SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

Saturday - Practice and Passenger Rides

It was a busy weekend, with the track in operation both Saturday and Sunday.

From midday to about 4.30pm on Saturday, we had practice runs for competitors in Sunday's event and we also had a significant first for the club when we ran passenger ride sessions.

During the afternoon there were eight alternating practice and passenger ride runs – four of each. Around 30 cars practiced and around 25 cars took part in the passenger ride runs.

The idea of the passenger rides was to give drivers the opportunity to take friends, relations, pit crew, loved ones, not-so-loved ones, for a lap of the track at three-quarter pace so the passengers could get to see what the fuss (and buzz) is all about.

All the passengers got out of the cars smiling (no-one was obviously shaking or trembling) and the feedback the club received has been very positive. As one passenger wrote: "Having been attending events for years as loyal pit crew, it was fantastic experiencing the thrill of the track for the first time." The passenger rides had to be managed carefully because there are obvious public liability and insurance implications in taking non-Motorsport Australia (MA) licence holders around a competition circuit at pace. We had to follow very tight MA regulations and special thanks to Clerk of Course Chris Hardy for running this part of the day so well and to Event Secretary Celeste Oringo for ensuring that all MA requirements were met with minimum fuss. Whether the club can run more passenger days, when and how many, will depend on a lot of factors, including whether noise credits are available and, overwhelmingly, whether we have enough volunteers and officials. To make this weekend work, quite a few people had to double up and work both days, which wasn't fair or reasonable. If we offer double headers again we will be serious about ensuring that no-one needs to work both days.

Event report

ROUND 7 - SATURDAY 7 AND SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

Sunday

A brisk morning, a clear and sunny spring day and a full field – what more could anyone desire? The good weather was a harbinger of a good day overall with five runs completed without incident.

Four new class records were set:

Andrew Ericson in his Suzuki Swift took the record for Class A Road - 2WD 0 - 1600cc from 50.76 seconds to 50.51 seconds. Setting records is becoming something of a habit for Andrew: in Sept four of his six runs undercut the old class record which he set in August!;

Stephen Pembrey in the Toyota Starlet cut the record for Class A Road - 2WD 2001 - 3000cc from 52.64 seconds to 52.24 seconds;

David Deaves in the HSV GenF GTS lowered the mark for Class A Road - 2WD 1 Over 3000cc from 47.55 seconds to 47.32 seconds; and

Zac Le Lievre in the immaculate Westfield Megabusa cut the record for Class G Track - Sports Racing 1301 - 2000cc from 42.01 second to 41.29 seconds and in doing that also set the Fastest Time of the Day.

Congratulations Andrew, Stephen, David and Zac (double congratulations to Zac for FTD).

The full list of class winners, including all competitors' times for all of their runs, is on the website at the Results page <https://www.sdmahillclimb.com.au/results>. Results shown are the official times for the event.

Event report

ROUND 7 - SATURDAY 7 AND SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

Officials

We couldn't have run either day without officials and, as mentioned earlier, quite a number of people had to double up and work on Saturday and Sunday. We chronically need more people to volunteer to be officials and help out – we cannot rely forever on the same few people turning up at every event and putting in long days for little appreciation.

To everyone who helped on either or both days, many thanks.

Saturday

Clerk of Course: Chris Hardy

Motorsport Australia Steward: Martin Holbertson

Event Secretary: Celeste Oringo

Pre-Event Secretary: Dave Peisley

Scrutineers: Anthony Hyde and Harry Katsanevas

Fire and Recovery: Henry Hilhorst

Chock : Geoff Bassingthwaighte

Grid Marshall: Col Merz and David Yates

Flag Marshals: Peter McDonald/Klaus Clemens/Thomas Blair/John Templeton

Timing: David Deaves /Gavin Longmuir/Lyall Reid

Sunday

Clerk of Course: Rohan Thatcher

Motorsport Australia Stewards: Helen Nichols and Mick Nichols

Event Secretary: Celeste Oringo

Pre-Event Secretary: Dave Peisley

Scrutineers: Ed Goncalves/Anthony Hyde

Fire and Recovery: Henry Hilhorst

Chock: Col Merz assisted by drivers Harry Katsanevas, Sean Martin, Andrew Brown and Adam Jorritsma

Pit Stop Café: Julie Merz/Liz Hilhorst/Judy Hunt/Pam McPherson

Timing: David Deaves/Gavin Longmuir/Lyall Reid

Flag Marshalls: Jen Shaw/John Templeton

Event photos

ROUND 7 - 7 AND 8 OCTOBER 2023



StreetScene

StreetScene



Thanks to StreetScene for coming out to take these great photos. (You can find them on Facebook) .



StreetScene

Event photos

ROUND 7 - 7 AND 8 OCTOBER 2023



Event report

ROUND 8 - SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER

A busy day for everyone, especially the kangaroos! Entry numbers were down on our usual full fields (only 36 starters) but the lack of competitors was more than made up for with an abundance of roos who turned up in force a number of times.

But even after Skippy delays, the smaller than normal field (probably the result of a large number of competing motorsport events on the day) was able to enjoy seven runs in fine and dry, if windy, conditions.

New class records were set by **Steven French** in his lovely red Mazda MX5, who cut the record for Class A Road - 2WD 1601 - 2000cc from 49.56 seconds to 49.47 seconds in his final (seventh!!) run for the day and **Donovan Siune** in the FSM NIKI, who lowered the mark for Class E Road - SV 1601 - 2000cc from 49.47 seconds to 48.65 seconds on his fifth run of the day. Congratulations Steven and Donovan.

Fastest Time of the Day was set by **Jeff Nichols** competing in Class G Track - Sports Racing 1301 - 2000cc. Jeff piloted the Westfield SE Clubman round the track in 44.20 seconds on his third run, edging out Pedro Hietanen in the TBC 2C Supersport in the same class, whose best time of 44.60 seconds on his third and sixth runs was second fastest for the day.

The full list of class winners, including all competitors' times for all of their runs, is on the website at the Results page <https://www.sdmahillclimb.com.au/results>. Results shown are the official times for the event.

Our officials and volunteers again ensured the day was another success. The club thanks every one.

Clerk of Course: Chris Hardy

Motorsport Australia Stewards: Helen Nichols and Mick Nichols

Event Secretary: Celeste Oringo

Pre-Event Secretary: Dave Peisley

Chief Scrutineer: Ed Goncalves

Fire and Recovery: Henry Hilhorst and Michael Mann

Flag Marshals: Col Merz/John Courtney

Timing: David Deaves and Gavin Longmuir

Chock: Geoff Bassingthwaighe, assisted by Adam Jorritsma who was driving

Pit Stop Café: Julie Merz/Liz Hilhorst/Pam Masters

Event photos

ROUND 8 - 22 OCTOBER 2023



Event photos

ROUND 8 - 22 OCTOBER 2023



Event photos

ROUND 8 - 22 OCTOBER 2023



2023 SDMA DATES



MONTH	TRACK PREP	RACE	COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER	Saturday 4th Saturday 18th	Sunday 5th (2-lapper) Sunday 19th	Tuesday 14th
DECEMBER	Friday 1st (Motorsport Australia track inspection) Sunday 3rd (Christmas party and awards presentation)		

BY COL MERZ

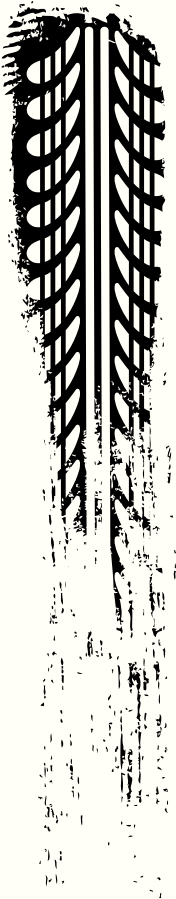
Welcome to this edition of Track Works.

New toilet block

Construction work is progressing according to the availability of key personnel with the required Knowledge and skills. The task of fitting and screw fixing the corrugated steel cladding was commenced on Sunday 24 October with the two side walls and the back wall being fix and screwed off before being called to the AGM Our thanks to Zac Le Lievre for his guidance and metal working skills that are producing a very professional result.



One of our hard working volunteers fixing the steel cladding.



Electrical Safety upgrades

The Fairbairn Park Control Council (FPCC) developed a program to encourage clubs to upgrade the electrical safety of their facilities. Stage two of our program is now complete. The focus was on the Pitstop Café with the installation of new conduit, cables and six new double power outlets in just the right location so appliances can be plugged straight in without the usual myriad of double adaptors or extension cords. Thanks to Phill McPherson for his expertise in managing these upgrades. As a point of interest, long time members of the SDMA would remember Phill competing many years ago in an Austin Healey Sprite and more recently in a Formula Ford.



Fitting off one of the new distribution boards

Track inspection

We are due to have a track inspection by Motorsports Australia's inspectors on Friday 1st December and we need to tidy up the tyre walls prior to that inspection. Some of the tyre walls just need to be straightened up but others will need to be dismantled and rebuilt using new tyre bundles so I'll be calling for assistance as soon as I can track down a roll of UV stabilized strapping.

Spectator car park: No further updates as it has been pushed lower on our task list.

Roller doors

We are still looking for a new home for our surplus roller doors. If any club member could use these doors, we would pass them on at no cost. They are 2650mm wide and the tracks are 2270mm long (or high as they would be installed).

Joe the plumber: Don't forget, if you need a plumber, contact Joe Merceica on 0415 788 850 or actdraincleaningandplumbing@gmail.com
If you contact Joe, don't forget to mention the SDMA.

-Col

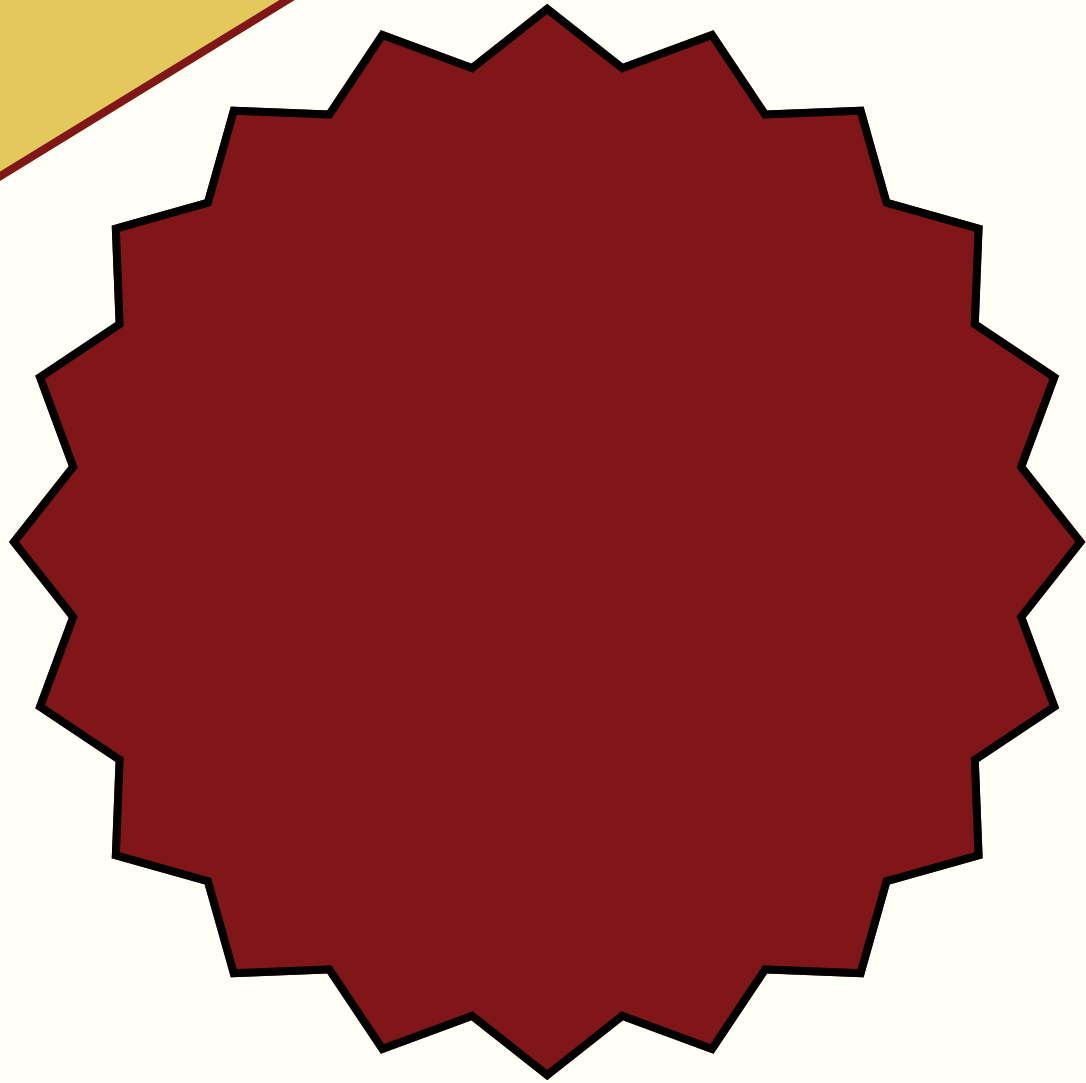
CAMERAS ON HELMETS

If you want to use a camera helmet, the helmet must be homologated to FIA Standards 8858, 8859, and 8860 and it must be approved by the Chief Scrutineer before your first run.

The event Supp Regs require cameras in or on cars to be approved by the Chief Scrutineer before competition starts. The same is true of cameras mounted in or on drivers' helmets.

Only helmets with cameras and accessories homologated to FIA Standards 8858, 8859, and 8860 are accepted by Motorsport Australia (and hence SDMA). The FIA homologation sticker is found inside the helmet padding. These are the only helmets that can be used with a camera installed. The technical requirements are on the Motorsport Australia website.

There are obvious implications for the structural integrity and strength of helmets with unapproved mounts and consequent safety risks for the driver. But even if you think you have an FIA homologated helmet, it must be shown to the Chief Scrutineer for approval before the event starts, regardless of whether your car is listed for scrutineering on the day.



ATTENTION: ALL ENTRANTS

You must be a current financial member of SDMA to compete.

If your membership has expired please contact the Membership Secretary, Ross Samuelson, at sdmamembership20@gmail.com. Membership is \$55 for individuals and \$75 for families.

- **You must have a current Motorsport Australia Speed licence to compete.**

- **You must use an approved safety helmet** ("Competitors' Information" section of the club website www.sdmahillclimb.com.au/competitors has details of approved types).

- **Your vehicle must be roadworthy and safe and meet the safety requirements**

(See "Competitors' Information" section www.sdmahillclimb.com.au/competitors for more info).

- **Drivers must wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts (made from a natural fibre such as cotton) and enclosed footwear.**

No shorts, no t-shirts. Any clothing, including footwear, made of flammable synthetic material (eg. nylon) is not acceptable.

- **If your car has a Motorsport Australia logbook you must have, and use, a compliant frontal head restraint (FHR)** (aka a HANS device).

- **Provide your own COVID personal protective equipment** such as hand sanitiser and face masks (if you want to wear one).

Let everyone know you're a proud SDMA member!

There is a range of clothing and merchandise with SDMA branding available from Redbubble, a print on demand website.

There are 35 items on offer, ranging from t-shirts, hoodies and sweaters to mugs, laptop sleeves, tote bags and aprons.

Visit www.redbubble.com/people/SDMA-Hillclimb

Click on 'Shop all products'.

The club receives a percentage of all purchases made, so if you head over to the site the next time you're looking to update your wardrobe or thinking about gifts, you'll also be supporting SDMA.

The jumpers and long sleeve shirts are suitable for motorsport use so help yourself and the club at the same time!



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.



For Sale - BREMBO Calipers - 4 piston

One pair, new and unused, radial mount style, pads fitted, suits a brake disc diameter of up to 357mm and 28mm thick. Pics are of the actual caliper. Seeking **\$1,600**.

Contact **Mark** on 0411101 649



SDMA 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM was held in the Pit Stop Café on Sunday 24 September, with 26 members attending. The principal items of business were:

Adopting the Minutes of the 2022 AGM, which were adopted unchanged;

Consideration of the President's Report, which was adopted and is included in this issue of Over the Hill;

Receiving the Audited Financial Statements for 2022-2023, prepared by the club's independent auditor. The Statements were adopted.

Considering the Treasurer's Report, which was adopted unchanged;

Agreeing to keep club membership fees the same as the previous year (\$55 for individuals, \$75 for families and free for Officials);

Election of the 2023-24 Committee, set out below; and

Agreeing that SDMA examine the costs and implications of becoming part of the ACT and NSW Concessional Registration Schemes.

The AGM thanked all members of the retiring Committee and elected the following new Committee:

President: John Templeton

Vice President: Geoff Bassingthwaighte

Secretary: Dave Peisley

Treasurer: Ed Goncalves

Membership Secretary: Ross Samuelson

Public Officer: Geoff Bassingthwaighte

General Members: Col Merz (facility manager) Henry Hillhorst, Zac Le Lievre, Matthew Brown, Celeste Oringo, Justin Marshall, Mark Wyatt, David Deaves, Anthony Hyde (FPCC Rep), David Yates (FPCC Rep), Kim Le Lievre (Over The Hill editor), Harry Katsanevas (NSW HillClimb Panel Rep), Rohan Thatcher. At its first meeting on Tuesday 10 October, the committee invited Bernie Wyatt to join. Justin Marshall and Bernie Wyatt are new committee members and Mark Wyatt returns to the Committee. The club welcomes them, along with the re-elected committee members, and thanks all committee members for their willingness to serve SDMA.

2023-24 CLUB COMMITTEE

President: John Templeton

president@sdmahillclimb.com

Vice-President and Public Officer: Geoff Bassingthwaighte

Secretary: Dave Peisley

secretary@sdmahillclimb.com

Treasurer: Ed Goncalves

treasurer@sdmahillclimb.com

Publicity/Media Officer: Geoff Bassingthwaighte

Membership Secretary: Ross Samuelson

sdmamembership20@gmail.com

General Members:

Col Merz (Facility Manager)

Henry Hillhorst

Zac Le Lievre

Matthew Brown

Celeste Oringo (social media)

Justin Marshall

Mark Wyatt

David Deaves

Anthony Hyde (FPCC Rep)

David Yates (FPCC Rep)

Kim Le Lievre (Over The Hill editor)

Harry Katsanevas (NSW HillClimb Panel Rep)

Rohan Thatcher

Bernie Wyatt