

OVER THE HILL

NOVEMBER 2023



SDMA Christmas Party

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER, 12pm
at the Pit Stop Café.

Relax and celebrate another year of happy hillclimbs and congratulate the 2023 ACT Hill Climb Championship winners and the recipients of the club perpetual trophies.

• Open to all members and families.

Lunch served from 12.30. The club provides turkey breast roll, sliced leg ham, BBQ chicken and salads, along with Christmas pudding and custard for dessert.

BYO picnic gear (plates, cutlery, hats, sunscreen etc) and drinks.

RSVP to sdmamedia@gmail.com by COB Monday 27

November.

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





President's report

Another good year for SDMA draws to a close, with two events this month: the two lapper on Sunday 5 November and the last round of the 2023 ACT HillClimb Championship on Sunday 22 November.

The 2024 Event Calendar is in this OTH. There will be 11 in all: nine single-lap ACT HillClimb Championship events and two non-Championship two-lap events.

The first event is Sunday 4 February (a one lapper) and the last event is Sunday 24 November (also a one lapper).

From February to August events are on the first Sunday of the month but that changes for the rest of the year due to public holidays, Bathurst and the pressures of running two events in both September and November. Please read the important note on the following page in regards to the running of events.

Some cheery news: The Club Christmas Party and Championship Awards Presentation will be on Sunday 3 December at the Pit Stop Café. The committee looks forward to welcoming many club members and their families to a relaxing and enjoyable gathering to celebrate the end of another successful hillclimbing year.

-John



An important note from the President

We continue to have the very big pressure of perpetual, never ending need for officials and volunteers to run our events.

It takes nearly 20 people to stage an event, from submitting permit applications to Motorsport Australia, managing the entry process and then running the hillclimb on the day. That doesn't include the people who come out the track the day before and prepare everything.

All this is done so that competitors can have a great day's racing.

But the burden is falling on fewer and fewer people. And the brutal reality is that if we don't have enough officials and volunteers, we won't be able to run events.

As an example, of the more than 200 members in the club, fewer than five people turned up to help prepare the track and facilities on Saturday 18 November for the event the next day. This was despite emails being sent to ALL club members on Tuesday night. Everyone should now be aware there is ALWAYS track and facility preparation work to be done the day before a hillclimb.

This will become a crunch issue in the next few weeks. On Friday 1 December Motorsport Australia (MA) will inspect the track to renew the competition licence and it's possible MA will require us to make improvements and/or additions to meet new standards imposed since the track was last inspected many years ago. If we have to do work to get the licence renewed we will have to move quickly and that will require willing workers, possibly at short notice. So if you get an email and or see a Facebook post asking for people to come and help, please make the effort and come out ready to work.

If the track doesn't have an MA licence, we can't hold events: it's as simple as that. So it's in everyone's individual and collective interest to chip in.

-John

Event report

NON-CHAMPIONSHIP TWO LAP HILLCLIMB - SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Two lappers are always popular and this one filled up quickly after entries opened. On the day we had a full field of 40 competitors, although one withdrew before racing started.

The weather gods were kind and there were no on-track delays so five runs were available with the overwhelming majority of drivers (34 of 39) taking advantage of all five.

This was only the second two-lap event since the new class structure was adopted at the beginning of the year so a lot of new class records were established - 13 in all.

Given that the other two lap event was in wintery June, the warmer November weather no doubt helped the records tumble.

Without our club officials and volunteers, the day could not have happened. Many heartfelt thanks to everyone:

Clerk of Course: Chris Hardy

Motorsport Australia Stewards: Helen Nichols and Mick Nichols

Event Secretary: Celeste Oringo

Pre-Event Secretary: Dave Peisley

Scrutineers: Anthony Hyde/Ed Goncalves/ Brett Jorgensen

Fire and Recovery: Henry Hilhorst

Flag Marshals: Jen Shaw and Tom Blair/ Anita Jorritsma and Adam Jorritsma /
John Courtney

Timing: David Deaves and Gavin Longmuir

Chock: Geoff Bassingthwaighte/Col Merz/ Andrew Brown

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

Announcer: John Templeton

Event report

NON-CHAMPIONSHIP TWO LAP HILLCLIMB - SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Unfortunately we were robbed of a potentially fascinating duel throughout the day between Matthew Brown in the Audi RS4 wagon and Pedro Hietanen in his TBC 2CSupersport. After a close first run, with Matthew finishing 1.55 seconds ahead of Pedro, disaster struck the Supersport when the right ball joint broke as Pedro joined the main circuit at the beginning of his second run. The damage ended the Supersport's day, but Pedro's time of 77.55 seconds from his first and only run was still the second fastest time of the day. We look forward to the next round of this contest.

Matthew took Fastest Time of the Day on his fourth run with a time of 76.00 seconds, a new record for Class E Road - SV Over 3000cc by a significant margin, the previous mark being 81.54 seconds. Pedro's 77.55 seconds also set a record for his class, Class G Track - Sports Racing 1301 - 2000cc.

Brett Jorgensen was third fastest, taking his VW Golf R, running in Class D Road - AWD Over 3000cc, around in 79.52 seconds, setting a new class record to replace the old mark of 79.77 seconds.

The other new records were set by:

Andrew Ericson (Suzuki Swift) Class A Road - 2WD 0 - 1600cc 88.70 seconds
Brady Slaughter (Toyota 86) Class A Road - 2WD 1601 - 2000cc 87.24 seconds
David Deaves (HSV GenF GTS) Class A Road - 2WD Over 3000cc 82.42 secs
Nelson Hedt (Honda Civic) Class B Road - 2WD 1601 - 2000cc 84.67 seconds
Frank Fagnoli (Subaru BRZ) Class B Road - 2WD 2001 - 3000cc 85.95 seconds
Sean Martin (Mazda MX5) Class B Road - 2WD Over 3000cc 81.15 seconds
Barry Faux (Toyota Yaris) Class C Road - AWD 2001 - 3000cc 84.83 seconds
Warren Spires (Toyota Yaris) Class D Road - AWD 2001 - 3000cc 82.44
Donovan Suine (FSM NIKI) Class E Road - SV 1601 - 2000cc 85.77 seconds
Brodie Nicholls (BMW 320i) Class F Track - Sports Sedan 1601 - 2000cc 102.91s

The full list of class winners, including all competitors' times for all of their runs, is on the website at the Results page [Your paragraph text](#). Results shown are the official times for the event.

Event report

ROUND 9 -
SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

An great way to end the hillclimbing year, with the last round of the ACT Championship being run on a clear, hot and dry Canberra day.

We were competing against a lot of other local motorsport, in particular the ARC Rally of Canberra, so entry numbers were down.

Forty drivers lined up but in a variation of the old 'good news, bad news' routine the smaller field meant more runs for everyone – seven in all.

The day went smoothly, with no offs or serious incidents so there were four runs before lunch and three after. The hot weather (30 degrees plus) made the Pit Stop Café a popular place to congregate, cool down and compare notes so it was busy all day.

With this being the last event of 2023, we say special thanks to tireless Pit Stop crew who again fed and watered us all year – Julie Merz, Liz Hilhorst, Judy Hunt, Julie Yates, Pam Master and Pam McPherson. The Pit Stop keeps us going!!

Three new class records were set:

Steve French in his Mazda MX5 lowered the Class A Road - 2WD 1601 - 2000cc mark from 49.47 seconds to 49.40 seconds;

David Hussey, a returning visitor from the Wollongong Sporting Car Club, established the record for Class G Track - Sports Racing over 2000cc at 46.16 seconds in his Ford Tx3 turbo; and

Matthew Brown (yes, it's that man again!) set another new record for Class E Road - SV Over 3000cc in the magnificent red Audi RS4 wagon, cutting the old time of 43.53 seconds to 43.47 seconds.

Congratulations Steve, David and Matthew.

Matthew's drive (on his fourth run) gave him Fastest Time of the Day. Damien Lomax, also competing in Class E Road - SV Level 1 Over 3000cc in the BMW M3 was second outright with a time of 45.17 seconds and Paul Stringfellow, running his VW Golf R in Class D Road - AWD Over 3000cc was third fastest with a time of 45.28 seconds.

The full list of class winners, including all competitors' times for all of their runs, is on the website at the Results page. Results shown are the official times for the event.

The after-event presentations were again well attended, and it's great to see competitors, support crew and officials relaxing with a drink and cheese and nibbles while the certificates are awarded.

Event report

ROUND 9 - SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Throughout this year, as has been the case for every one of the 23 years SDMA has existed, we once again relied totally on our volunteer officials. We cannot run events without them and none of the great hillclimbs we have enjoyed since the first one on 26 November 2000 would have been possible without their dedication, commitments and hard work.

Thank you one and all.

The volunteer officials for this event were:

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 (Chief)/ Anthony Hyde/Brett Jorgensen

Fire and Recovery: Henry Hilhorst

Flag Marshals: Ross Kelly/ Mike O'Connor/ John Courtney

Timing: David Deaves and Gavin Longmuir

Chock: Col Merz/John Templeton, helped by Brock York, Sean Martin and Andrew Brown
between their runs

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

Announcer: Lyall Reid



Event photos

ROUND 9 - SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023

Unfortunately we don't have many photos to share of the past two hillclimbs. If you are at the track and taking photos, please share them with magazine editor Kim Le Lievre (kim-granger@hotmail.com) for all to enjoy. Even a single photo is appreciated.

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



StreetScene



StreetScene

2024 SDMA CALENDAR



MONTH	EVENT	TRACK PREP	COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY			Tuesday 30th
FEBRUARY	Sunday 4th	Saturday 3rd	
MARCH	Sunday 3rd	Saturday 2nd	Tuesday 12th
APRIL	Sunday 7th	Saturday 6th	Tuesday 9th
MAY	Sunday 5th	Saturday 4th	Tuesday 14th
JUNE	Sunday 2nd (two-lapper)	Saturday 1st	Tuesday 11th
JULY			Tuesday 9th
AUGUST	Sunday 4th	Saturday 3rd	Tuesday 13th
SEPTEMBER	Sunday 8th Sunday 29th	Saturday 7th Saturday 28th	Tuesday 10th
OCTOBER	Sunday 20th	Saturday 19th	Tuesday 8th
NOVEMBER	Sunday 10th (two-lapper) Sunday 24th	Saturday 9th Saturday 23rd	Tuesday 12th
DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024 - Sunday 8th		Tuesday 10th

TRACK WORKS

BY COL MERZ

Welcome to this edition of Track Works.

New toilet block

Two more milestones have been ticked off, firstly the fabrication and fitting of the extra wide 920mm doors. We chose to fabricate them rather than purchase external doors as the cost for the extra 100 mm width is roughly 3 times the cost of a standard door so we used sheets of formply, cut to size and reinforced to form a rugged and hopefully long lasting door that will cope with the westerly aspect. This work was completed on Saturday 11 November and our thanks go to David Yates.

The second milestone was the completion of the cladding on Saturday 18 November and again, our thanks go to Zac Le Lievre for his expertise and hard work. As can be seen from the pictures below, the design is certainly

outstanding with the "wings" on the front taking the boxiness off the structure while providing support for the overhanging roof. Basically, the toilet block is clad in corrugated zincalume steel sheeting to the standard height of 2.4 metres and then clad with a translucent polycarbonate to allow natural light in whilst still maintaining privacy. A clever design concept.



Right hand door hung, left hand door receiving David's expert attention to perfect the fit.

TRACK WORKS

BY COL MERZ



Cladding completed, flashing yet to be fitted.
Inset: Clever use of polycarbonate sheeting to allow natural light in.

Track inspection

We are due to have a track inspection by Motorsports Australia's inspectors on Friday 1st December. We had a working bee on Saturday 25 November to tidy up the tyre walls and back fill some of the track edges. I tracked down the special strapping material for the tyre bundles and our thanks go to HIPAC Packing Solutions in Thurrallilly Street, Queanbeyan. If you need packing material HIPAC is the place to go (we are registered in their system under SDMA)

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.



HELMET RULE CHANGE

Motorsport Australia (MA) has changed some of its helmet rules, which may affect SDMA members who also compete in circuit events.

From 1 January 2024, helmets with Snell SA2010 or SAH 2010 standards compliance stickers will not be accepted at MA sanctioned CIRCUIT events

They will still be OK at our hillclimbs.

Compliance stickers are found under the interior lining/padding, generally at the back of the helmet.

If you need more information about helmet standards, go to the technical appendix section of the MA website, Schedule D, [2023-schedule-d.pdf \(motorsport.org.au\)](https://www.motorsport.org.au/2023-schedule-d.pdf) .

Drones are a no-no at the track

The hillclimb is directly under the flight path for Canberra Airport and, by law, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulates flightpath airspace - from the ground up. CASA regulations ban drones from operating under the flight path, which means that drones are not permitted to fly at the track, even supposedly lightweight ones.

Please don't ask for permission to run your drone during an event: the club can't give it.

The matter is totally outside of our control.



SDMA MEMBERS FLY THE CLUB FLAG AT AUSTRALIAN HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP

The 77th Australian Hill Climb Championship was run at the Ringwood circuit near Newcastle over the weekend of 27-29 October.

SDMA members Matthew Brown, John Engisch, Sean Martin and Harry Katsanevas competed successfully, flying the SDMA flag high against 92 other enthusiastic drivers.

Matthew, competing in the 2A Sports Cars Open/Closed 4WD class, won his class, setting a new record of 39.08 seconds in the process.

Matthew also took out 'Fastest Tin Top' award for the championship.

John Engisch competed in 2B/2F Prod Sports 2001 - 3000cc and broke his own record for the class, which he set in 2018, dropping it from 44.42 seconds to 42.56 seconds.

Sean competed in 2A Sports Cars Open/Closed 2001 - 4000cc class, winning his class.

Harry competed in 2A Sports Cars Open/Closed 4WD before an unfortunate accident after crossing the finish line on his last run of the championship put paid to his car and the weekend.

Congratulations Matthew, John and Sean and commiserations Harry.

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).

WEAR OUR CLUB COLOURS

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!



CLASSIFIEDS

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 0411 101 649



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