

OVER THE HILL

FEBRUARY 2024





President's report

It's been a while since the last issue of Over The Hill, for which I apologise. The reasons are varied but OTH is back now.

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas/New Year/summer break and is well into the swing of hillclimbing in 2024.

The first event of the year on 4 February was very successful and there is a full event report later in this edition. Our good luck with the weather continued (long may that last) so I hope the portents for 2024 are good. It was really pleasing to see so many competitors, pit crew and officials stay on for the presentations after the racing finished. The club provides beer, wine and nibbles at the presentations to encourage a relaxed end to the day so I hope that at future events even more people will give themselves the chance to unwind with family, friends and fellow club members.

continued...

We have a good calendar for the year: nine one lap ACT HillClimb Championship rounds (one done already) and two non-championship two lappers. The two lappers don't count for the championship because the entry limit for a two lap event is significantly lower – 40 to 43 as against 60 to 65 for a one lapper. This makes it difficult to ensure that everyone has an equal chance of successfully submitting an entry, which is important when our Championships are regularly being decided by only a few points.

I hope this year more members will take a greater interest in the 'off-track' side of the club, not just as volunteers and officials on event days and working bees but also 'corporate' occasions such as the Annual General Meeting and the Christmas Party/awards presentations. We are a club which runs good motorsport events but we are also a community of people with a shared interest which can be enjoyed socially. It would be good to see more members taking part in the social side.

We will inevitably need more officials and volunteers this year, both at events and at working bees beforehand. Can I end the first President's Report for the year with another plea for people to respond positively to e-mails asking for help at events and working bees? You don't have to commit to an entire day: just a few hours helping out will make a difference and ease the load for others. We all enjoy the benefits of the facilities we've built and the events we run so please try to find time to contribute.

-John

Event report

ROUND 1, ACT HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024

The first hillclimb of the year and 48 competitors lined up to ring in the 2024 championship in style, after two last minute (i.e. on the morning) withdrawals due to sickness.

The weather was fine and hot (33 degrees!) with occasional gusty winds but, all in all, a good day to shake off the cobwebs after the Christmas/summer break.

Five runs were completed and two new Class Records set. Reece McIntosh in his Audi RS3 lowered the Class C Road - AWD - Over 3000cc record from 45.90 seconds to 44.43 seconds, giving him second place outright for the day and Bohun Martin in the BMR Genesis-R dropped the record for Class H Track - Open Wheeler 1301 - 2000cc from 45.40 seconds to 44.94 seconds, making Bohun third outright for the day.

Congratulations Reece and Bohun.

Outright first for the day was Pedro Hietanen in his patriotic TBC 2CSupersport (the blue and white colour scheme reflects Pedro's Finnish heritage) who set the Fastest Time for the Day with a lap of 44.40 seconds. A great start to the year for Pedro. The club's quickest junior, Andrew Ericson, retained his crown by winning Class A Road - 2WD - 0 - 1600c with a time of 50.67 seconds on his fourth run of the day. Well done Andrew.

Fourteen classes were contested, with half the classes having four or more competitors. The most popular was Class B Road - 2WD - Over 3000cc, with eleven drivers battling it out.

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

Event report

ROUND 1, ACT HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024

The presentation after the event was well attended, as mentioned in the President's Report.

Our officials once again turned out to make the event happen and we thank them very much for their commitment and support. Particular thanks to Rohan Thatcher for taking over as Clerk of Course when Chris Hardy had to withdraw because of health issues and it was really good to see (or, more accurately, hear) Terry Bennett return as course announcer. Terry has been a stalwart of SDMA since day one and his knowledge of vehicles, drivers and records is second to none.

The volunteers and officials for the event were:

Clerk of Course: Rohan Thatcher

Motorsport Australia Stewards: Helen and Mick Nichols

Event Secretary and Pre-Event Secretary: Dave Peisley

Scrutineers: Anthony Hyde and Ed Goncalves

Fire and Recovery: Henry Hilhorst

Flag Marshals: Col Merz, Damian Lomax, Mike O'Connor and John Courtney

Timing: David Deaves and Gavin Longmuir

Chock: Col Merz, Damian Lomax and Mike O'Connor

Pit Stop Café: Julie Merz, Liz Hilhorst, Pam Master, Julie Yates and Geoff Lamb

Announcer: Terry Bennett

Event photos

ROUND 1 - SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024
WITH SINCERE THANKS TO STREET SCENE FOR THESE PHOTOS



StreetScene



StreetScene





StreetScene



StreetScene



StreetScene



StreetScene

Event photos

ROUND 1 - SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024



StreetScene



StreetScene



StreetScene



StreetScene

Event photos

ROUND 1 - SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024
WITH SINCERE THANKS TO CUTBACK AUTO FOR THESE PHOTOS



A WRAP ON 2023

Congratulations to all our 2023 Championship and perpetual trophy winners. The 2023 Championship awards and presentations of the club's perpetual trophies happened at the Christmas party in December. Unfortunately Over The Hill has been delayed since then, so this is our first opportunity officially congratulate the winners.



2023 ACT Hill Climb Championship

The 2023 ACT Hill Climb Champion was David Deaves, who accrued 93 points across the year in the HSV GenF GTS running in Class A road - 2WD over 3000cc. Runner-up was Sean Martin in his beautiful Mazda MX5, who accumulated 91 points and third was Andrew Ericson who collected 90 points across the year driving the Suzuki Swift and was Best Junior Driver for 2023.

David and Sean and competed in every championship round and won their class at every round: an impressive result.

Congratulations David, Sean and Andrew!!

2023 Fastest Junior Driver

As well as coming third in the overall Championship with 90 points and winning Class A road - 2WD 0 - 1600cc, Andrew took out the Fastest Junior Driver for 2023 award, piloting his Suzuki Swift around the track with great precision and great aplomb. Andrew competed in every round and won his class at all but one of them, being beaten on that occasion by his father. He set the initial class record at the February 2023 event and then lowered it on many subsequent occasions throughout the year. It was a succession of significant achievements.

Congratulations again Andrew!!

Individual Championship Class winners for 2023

Class A road - 2WD	0 - 1600cc	Andrew Ericson	Suzuki Swift
Class A road - 2WD	1601 - 2000cc	Steven French	Mazda MX5
Class A road - 2WD	over 3000cc	David Deaves	HSV GenF GTS
Class B road - 2WD	0 - 1600cc	Mark Suine	Fiat X1/9
Class B road - 2WD	1601 - 2000cc	Alex Eapen	Mitsubishi Lancer
Class B road - 2WD	2001 - 3000cc	Toby Wilson	Mazda RX7
Class B road - 2WD	over 3000cc	Sean Martin	Mazda MX5
Class C road - AWD	2001 - 3000cc	Colin Chandler	Toyota Yaris
Class C road - AWD	over 3000cc	Brett Jorgensen	VW Golf R
Class D road - AWD	2001 - 3000cc	Iain Chandler	Toyota Yaris
Class D road - AWD	over 3000cc	Paul Stringfellow	VW Golf R
Class E Road - SV	1601 - 2000cc	Donovan Suine	FSM NIKI
Class E Road - SV	over 3000cc	Matthew Brown	Audi RS4
Class G Track - Sports Racing	1301 - 2000cc Clubman	Jeffery Nichols	Westfield SE
Class H Track - Open wheel	0 - 751cc CR500	Glen McMahon	BRM Honda
Class H Track - Open wheel	1301-2000cc	Bohun Martin	BMR Genesis-R

The full final 2023 Championship point scores for every competitor across the year are on the club website under the 'Results' tab.

2023 TROPHIES

Each year the club awards three perpetual trophies to mark specific achievement on and off the track.

SDMA Club Member of the Year

The award for 2023 went jointly to the team that operates and maintains our timekeeping system and ensures we can produce certificates on the day and keep up to date results records on line: David Deaves, Gavin Longmuir, Lyall Reid and Colin Chandler. David, Gavin, Lyall and Colin took over the critical timekeeping measuring and recording function (after all, lap time is the sole measure of success in hillclimbing) in 2023 from our legendary timekeeper of the ages, Dave King, who decided to step back after many decades of fantastic service. Dave K's shoes were very large but David, Gavin, Lyall and Colin took on the task with enthusiasm, skill, dedication and professionalism and have maintained the very high timekeeping standards for which SDMA is renowned. The club is enormously fortunate to have such a committed team of highly capable and cheerful members doing this vital task for us and ensuring after every event we have results to cheer us and certificates to present. Thank you so much David, Gavin, Lyall and Colin.

2023 Beb Fox Memorial Award for Engineering Excellence

Beb Fox was a founding member of SDMA and chief scrutineer for many years. He was a great competitor and a constant supporter of new members. The 2023 award went to Mathew Brown's red Audi RS4 wagon, a crowd favourite. Engine capacity is only 2.9 litres, but the V6 twin-turbo engine produces 363 kW and 790 Nm of torque. Combined with all-wheel drive, this produced a 20-metre launch time (the first split) of 1.9 seconds. Mathew has converted the fuel system to E85 and added trick injectors and a high flow pump and to keep the engine in place, the hydraulic mounts have been swapped for hard rubber mounts. The standard RS4 intercooler is water-cooled, but Matt has added a secondary air intercooler. The hydraulic suspension has been upgraded to Ohlins street / track dampers and springs. The original carbon ceramic brakes have been replaced with smaller steel rotors allowing a 19" wheel option and greater tyre choice.



2023 TROPHIES

2023 John Philip Memorial Award for Best Presented Vehicle

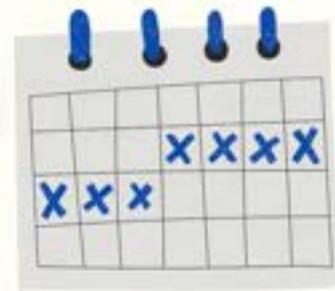
John Philip was an enthusiastic SDMA member who drove an always immaculately presented Jaguar with significant success. This award was another with joint winners, in this case the BMW Car Club Canberra (BMWCCC). Throughout the year BMWCCC members were regular competitors at SDMA hillclimbs and their cluster of immaculately presented vehicles (complete with flags and gazebo) was always bright spot in the pits.

BMWCCC President Luke Wise accepted the award. Luke is a long time SDMA member and he has encouraged BMWCCC members to become part of the hillclimb fraternity and SDMA is very happy to welcome them.

The range of cars they brought to the track was quite eclectic and added to the variety of competition vehicles which spectators could watch and compare. The cars were always immaculately presented and as a group fully met the criteria to be worth recipients of the John Philip award.



2024 SDMA CALENDAR



MONTH	EVENT	TRACK PREP	COMMITTEE MEETING
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			Tuesday 10th

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024 - Sunday 8th

BUTT OUT

The whole hillclimb track precinct is a Non-Smoking area, which includes vaping. No Smoking signs have been installed around the main parts of the facility.

The only exception is the designated smoking area at the beginning of the spectator footpath from the Spectator Car Park to the PitStop Café, spectator mound and pits. The designated smoking area has green signs which say, with great originality, Smoking Area. And just to make the point again, smoking includes vaping.

The club appreciates everyone's co-operation on this.

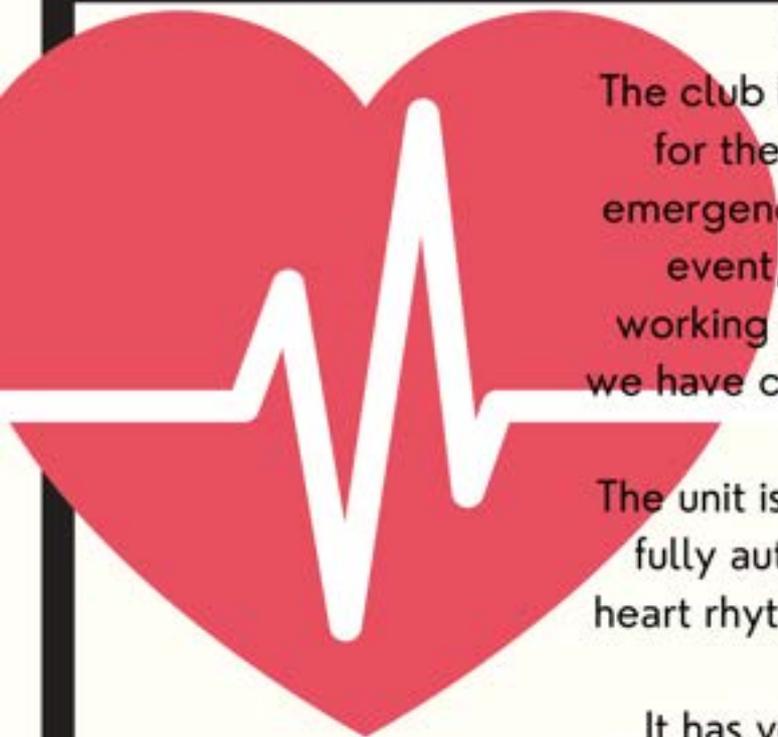


Emergency defibrillator

The club has bought an automated defibrillator for the track. While we have professional emergency medical services present during an event, there are many occasions such as working bees or track preparation days when we have club members on site without specialist first aid people present.

The unit is a Heart Sine Samaritan 360P which is fully automatic with the capacity to analyse heart rhythms and deliver electrical impulses to restore normal rhythm.

It has voice prompts to guide the process. The defibrillator is located in the Pit Stop Café on days when we don't have professional medical services on duty.





Stop! Stop! Stop!

Cars coming off the track must stop before the pedestrian crossing on the exit road. Two stop signs have been installed and a white stop line painted on the exit road surface.

The reason is obvious: pedestrian safety. The path from the spectator car park to the central Pit Stop Café and viewing mound crosses the exit road and there is pedestrian traffic to and from the spectator car park all day during an event.

Many spectators come in family groups, often with small children. For safety - and to reinforce that SDMA takes spectator safety seriously - vehicles leaving the track must now come to a complete stop at the pedestrian crossing.

After stopping cars must travel into the pits at walking pace. This reinforces the existing rule that all vehicles in the pit area must move at walking pace only.

The new requirement is in the event Supp Regs and the Drivers' E-Briefing sent to competitors before an event.

It will also be repeated at the Drivers' Briefing at events.

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.



MOTORSPORT AUSTRALIA TRACK SAFETY INSPECTION

In December, Motorsport Australia (MA) inspected the track to make sure it was safe and met all relevant MA requirements. MA conducts these inspections every three to five years and without a current MA licence we cannot run events. The inspection was positive and our licence was renewed. The Track Inspector's report said the circuit and information required were presented in a professional manner; the circuit is suitable for category C competition; and the facility documentation (including Standard Operating Procedures) is concise and professional.

Many, many thanks to Anthony Hyde, Geoff Bassingthwaighe, Col Merz and Henry Hilhorst for huge amount of work they put into making sure that everything was right at the track and that our documentation was updated and presented so clearly and concisely. The track inspector, Stephen Preece, was very positive about our preparation and the way SDMA demonstrated it is on top of the issues we need to focus on.

The main outcome for the club is that we have to start a program of tidying up the tyre walls and, in some cases, re-packing tyre bundles. The tyre walls are essential safety features and it's our responsibility to maintain them to required MA standards. We're OK now, but there are areas which we need to improve and we are preparing a program for the work.

There will be further information in future issues of Over The Hill about when working bees will be organised to get the tyre bundles up to speed.

Please come along and help out.

SELF-EXTRACTION: CAN YOU EXIT YOUR CAR IN 15 SECS?

Motorsport Australia has announced new 'self-extraction' standards which came into effect at the beginning of the year.

Basically 'self-extraction' is how quickly you can get out of your car after an incident or accident: How quickly you can unbuckle your belt(s) and be out the door.

The standard for 2024 is 15 seconds, which will drop to 10 seconds in 2025. Both standards apply to all MA sanctioned events, including our hillclimbs.

Most SDMA members compete in road registered cars, where it's unlikely the new time limits will be an issue. Getting out is a matter of releasing the seat belt, opening the driver's door and getting clear. In a serious incident, you may have to deal with the remains of any airbag(s) which may have activated.

For members with log-booked cars, it's more complicated. If your car is log-booked, you must use a Frontal Head Restraint (FHR); you will also generally be using multi-strap harnesses; and if a roll cage is installed, side intrusion protection bars are potential impediments to a quick exit. Taken together, these features, which have been included to improve safety, may make an exit slower.

Self-extraction tests are now to be included in scrutineering checks and by spot checks in the pits. So regardless of whether your car is road registered or log-booked, it's worth thinking about the issue and doing some timed practice exits at home.

The MA links to the self-extraction requirements are:

<https://motorsport.org.au/media/news/detail/2023/12/06/ensuring-safety-new-self-extraction-requirements-in-2024-2025> ;

https://motorsport.org.au/docs/default-source/policy-guidelines/self-extraction-policy.pdf?sfvrsn=ea3ae1f3_8 ;

If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to raise them with our scrutineers, Anthony Hyde and Ed Goncalves.

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).

SCRUTINEERING REMINDERS

SDMA has a managed scrutineering approach which means that between 10 and 20 per cent of vehicles entered for an event are scrutineered at that event. This is a reminder of the key points.

When you arrive at the track you should have with you your signed SDMA Statement of Vehicle Compliance which will have been sent to you electronically after your entry has been accepted.

Please give this to the reception team at the gate.

The reception team will give you your competition number(s) for the day and tell you whether you are to be scrutineered.

Before the event

1. Any vehicle entered for the first time is scrutineered. This applies even if the driver has competed previously at the hillclimb.
2. Any driver competing for the first time must take their vehicle for scrutineering. This applies even if the vehicle has competed at the hillclimb before.

After entries close, the Event Secretary and Chief Scrutineer will identify the drivers and vehicles to be scrutineered under (i) and (ii).

3. In addition to vehicles checked under (i) and (ii), a further 10 per cent of total entries will be scrutineered. The aim is that every regularly entered car will be physically scrutineered at least once a year.

Before an event, the Chief Scrutineer decides the vehicles to be scrutineered under (iii).

At scrutineering, drivers are responsible for opening doors, bonnets, boots etc. Scrutineering starts at 7.45 am and closes at 8.40am. The Driver's Briefing Update by the Clerk of Course, which all drivers must attend and sign an attendance sheet, then begins on the starting pad.

During the event

Any vehicle which activates the noise meter must be physically scrutineered before being allowed to compete again.

The Clerk of Course or the Chief Scrutineer (or the Chief Scrutineer's delegate) can require any vehicle to be physically scrutineered.

Random checks of driver apparel (particularly helmets, shirt sleeves and footwear) can be done at any time.

Returning vehicles

Competition vehicles which have left the circuit with the permission of the Clerk of Course must, on return to the event, be presented to the Chief Scrutineer for re-scrutiny immediately and well before the vehicle's next scheduled run.

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.

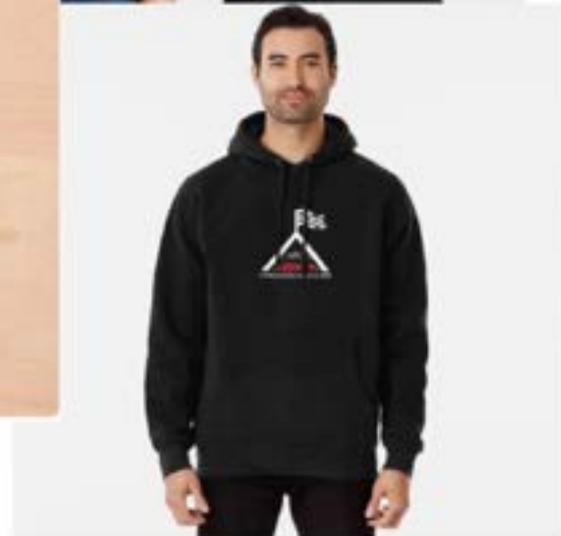
There are 35 items on offer, ranging from t-shirts, hoodies and sweaters to mugs, laptop sleeves, tote bags and aprons.

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



REVIEW OF SDMA CONSTITUTION

SDMA is an incorporated association registered with the ACT Government under the relevant ACT legislation, the Associations Incorporation Act 1991. Being an incorporated association is good for members and office holders. The association and its members are legally separate which means SDMA is a standalone legal entity with the benefits of limited liability for members and office holders. It can own property, enter into contracts and sue and be sued. Under normal circumstances, it provides protection to the executive committee from personal liability for the actions of the incorporated association, provided they are carried out in good faith and after due diligence.

But those benefits involve obligations to run the association in line with general principles and requirements set out in Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.

During 2022-2023 the ACT Government reviewed the Model Rules and has updated them. We now have to make sure our governance arrangements, particularly the Constitution, are consistent with the revised Model Rules, which came into force on 1 February 2024.

Our current constitution was last revised in 2006 so over the next few months the Executive will review it and present suggested changes to members for review and comment. At the end of that process, a final version of any proposed changes will be circulated before the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) so that the AGM can consider the recommendations and vote on them.

Vice President Geoff Bassingthwaite is the club's Public Officer, which means he is the link to the ACT Government Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) which oversees incorporated associations. Geoff will lead the Executive review and will update members on its progress through Over The Hill.

The current constitution is available on the club website under the 'About' tab.

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