

WSCC Huntley Hillclimb Club Day - Sunday Feb 19, 2023

Report by Michelle Johnston

Sunday the 19th of February saw WSCC racing the historic Huntley Hillclimb for the first time in 2023. After the spectacular storm of the evening before we were grateful that the rain did not continue into the following morning and also that all attendees got safely past the bovine speed humps on the way in via Avondale Road! The weather was humid and hot but participants were blessed with cloud cover and slight breeze, which keep the conditions fairly comfortable.

Throughout the day 29 cars posted times over a maximum of 6 runs and two new records were set. Riley MacQueen continued his epic run and broke the record he'd only just set in November 2022 with a 25.06 in Type 3 over 3000. Wayne Penrose and Phoenix broke his 2017 record in Type 4 3000-6000 by 0.08sec, to post a new record time of 23.79sec. Well done legends!

Greg Boyle's Nissan GTR Skyline Scary, fresh home from the Bathurst 12 hour, ripped up the hill on it's first run of the day, setting the fastest time in class and also ultimately the fastest time of the day at 23.47 secs.....only 0.3 secs off the record set in 2012. Later in the day a broken drive shaft shafted the rest of his runs but goal for next time Greg!

In Type 2 class, we all watched with interest the battle of wills between the Brown Family Racing Team with Ben and Cam competing for best time in their little Renault clio. Cam's 4th run of 29.04 put him in the lead and ultimately won the class, with Ben a close second on 29.25. I don't know whether to say well done Cam or commiserations Ben, so I'll say both.

Type 3 class saw another Renault Clio piloted by the family combo of Hayden and Anthony Cunningham battle it out, with Anthony taking the prize with a run of 30.92 compared to Hayden's 31.17. During the presentation the sledge of the day went to Anthony with the comment that "It just goes to prove that a dad can beat their son in a Renault Clio". It was great to see such healthy competition. Well done to both Renault Clio teams!

WSCC welcomed members from other clubs with Lizzy Ferme and Peter Ewing running for SKDAC in their modified MX5 monster. They had a cracking day with many sub 30 second runs and Lizzy posting her fastest run on the 6th and final with a 29.54, awarding her fastest lady of the day.

We had 5 juniors driving, Travis, Charlotte, Mitch, Lachlan and Jett, who posted ever improving times over the course of the day. Travis was having his first run at hillclimb in his Suzuki swift and improved his times from 55 seconds in the morning runs to 41.34 on his last and best run. Such an awesome improvement and showing a great increase in confidence towards the end of the day. Great work Travis! Lachlan Mineeff, also a first timer to hillclimb and also driving a Suzuki swift, took out fastest junior of the day with a time of 32.23 seconds. We can't wait to see what you do next club day Lachie.

A special mention to one of our WSCC juniors, Mitchy Brown for his 16th birthday. Warning warning....he will not be a junior for much longer and before we know it he will be kickin' it with us seniors in club point score! Happy Birthday from all of us Mitchy.

Other notable performances during the day the Hickey owned, self-staging, expertly-piloted, RS4 grocery getter, posting ever decreasing times over the day to finish off with a 23.92 secs, much to the satisfaction of its owner and the awe of the crowd. Said owner told me in the morning that he would be happy with a 25 sec run that day.....yeh right, I think not. Well done Jase! 😊

SV class saw a Subaru Shootout with our new member Klaus Clemens running his rally blue WRX to the top of the hill in 28.17 secs. Welcome to our club family Klaus!

Overall a great day was had by all. As always many thanks to all those officials, volunteers, club members, working bee attendees and behind the scenes workers who contributed to another successful run day. No one person makes or breaks an event like this. It is truly a team effort!

A very special thanks to our canteen organisers, Anna and Michelle, for always keeping us well hydrated and fed. Love your work ladies!

Good luck to those members competing in the Bathurst round in a couple of weeks. We will be cheering from afar and look forward to hearing your success stories.

Until next time, drive fast, drive safe and have fun peeps! 😊

Michelle.

+++++ Put a hill in front of a racecar and awesome things are bound to happen! +++++

