South East Radio Group

PO Box 1103
Mount Gambier. 5290

President: Nick Somerville. VK5NJS
Secretary: Col Huon. VK5HCF

2026 Hillclimb Report

This year, the event reverted to its original 3 day event, run from November 13 – 15th.
The portable TV hut was deployed once again making the set up much easier as it was pre-built before shipping to the Lakes. Another benefit was everything was shipped in one load, not having members carting everything manually. Also having our new Comms trailer on site for the storage of miscellaneous items, meant the TV hut was not as cluttered as previous years.
The permanently mounted equipment rack in the TV hut performed faultlessly, making Kate & Maxwell very happy. The 3 brand new TV monitors in Race Control made James's job much easier with clearer pictures. Also, thanks to Greg & Gabi, every camera performed perfectly.
We received an urgent call Race Control to assist with an issue of false timing triggers. Thanks to Maxwell, he was able to rig up a TV quad screen in the timing van which enabled the event to continue with accurate timing. This prevented multiple re-runs.
Thanks to Nick, his diesel generator powered all of our equipment for the entire event without issues. Having our own power meant not having to rely to SEAC generators, which have in the past occasionally created issues.
Thanks to James, a new commercial VHF repeater was used for the very first time. This allowed every point to clearly hear every other point, which has been an issue in the past.
This year saw the reinstatement of the UHF TV transmitter due to the "livestream" not being used. This provided "live" pictures to many competitors & spectators at the event.

Following the recent acquisition of approximately 1000m of Cat 5 cable, it was decided to deploy all of this to replace much of the aging cable. To minimise the wildlife damage to the new cable, much of it was elevated on posts for the first time. This proved very successful as we had no cable damage for the first time ever.
The weather was at times challenging, mostly for the drivers & some of our members, but most of our members are now under cover in their working positions, but fatigue is still an issue as we all are getting older.
Record numbers of SERG volunteers assisted this year, with the set up, & pack up, plus during the event itself. Thanks to all that were able to contribute in some way, especially those assisting for the first time, & those that aren't even SERG members. Our new hi-viz safety vests looked great showing off who we are.
A highlight during the trophy presentations at the end of the event was the awarding of Greg & Gabi to the Legends of the Lakes Hall of Fame for outstanding contribution to the event over many years.
Yet again, we at SERG have received heaps of praise from both SEAC & competitors for the way we manage & run the event. Everyone that was able to assist can hold their heads high knowing that you have contributed to the best Hillclimb of its type in Australia.
A debrief is planned for Friday November 20th beginning at 1800 hours, where you will be able to submit your thoughts, both positive & negative to make next year even better.
I'm so very proud of what SERG can achieve, with so little resources.

Peter VK5BE
SERG Motorsport Coordinator.