

# AVON DESCENT

## 2017 EVENT GUIDE

[avondescent.com.au](http://avondescent.com.au)

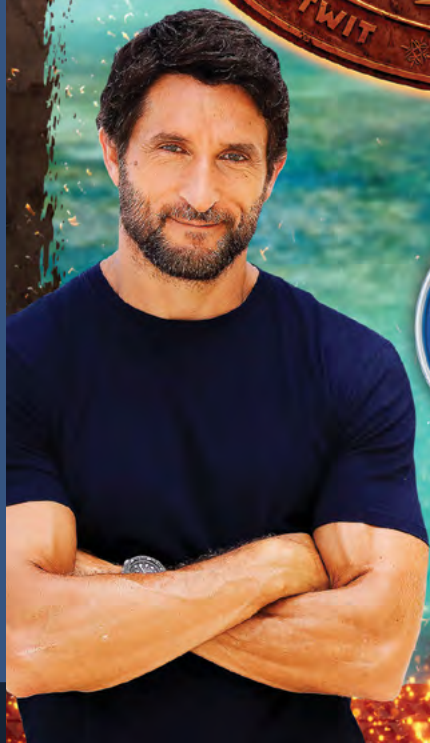


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# WELCOME

The Avon Descent race will take you on an exciting two day trial, over 124 gruelling kilometres. The race offers competitors conditions ranging from long stretches of flat water that can test the endurance of the fittest athletes, rapids, thick ti trees, rocky drops to all the other challenges of a changing, wild river environment.

The Avon Descent travels through some of Western Australia's most picturesque country, and as you descend, you'll pass through the farming regions of historic Northam and Toodyay, forested national parks, steep gorges, the Swan Valley vineyard region and eventually, into the tidal waters of the upper Swan River. Competitors challenge the Avon and Swan Rivers in a variety of power dinghies and paddle craft including single, double and triple kayaks and single or double surf skis. Relay teams of two and four can also compete. Competitors are supported by family and friends as support crews and thousands of spectators line the banks to cheer them on.

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# OUR TEAM

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Kim Epton
Vice Chairman	Michael Orr
Director, Sport	Greg Kaeding
Director, Marketing	Chris Hunt
Director, Logistics	Gary Waldock
Power Boat Delegate	Jay Branson
Kayak Delegate	Darryl Long
Skis Delegate	John King
Local Government Authority Delegate	Wendy Harris
ADSU Manager	Simon Lalor

## OFFICERS

Treasurer	George Lagrange
Secretary	Breanna Holmes
Chief Marshal	Tad Sieczka
Avon Challenge Coordinator	Peter Martin

## RACE CONTROL TEAM

Race Director	John King
Deputy Race Director (Kayaks)	Jerry Alderson
Deputy Race Director (Surf Skis)	John King
Deputy Race Director (Power Boats)	Brett Waldock
Deputy Race Director (Rescue & Recovery)	Simon Lalor

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

**0447 199 851**

[info@avondescent.com.au](mailto:info@avondescent.com.au)

[www.avondescent.com.au](http://www.avondescent.com.au)

PO Box 120 Bayswater, WA 6933





## AVON DESCENT LEGENDS

In 2012, the 40th Anniversary of the Avon Descent, the NADA Board sanctioned the creation of a special recognition for individuals to be known as the Avon Descent Legends.

- Rex Adams
- John King
- Jim Smith
- Kevin Harrison
- Kim Epton
- Darryl Long
- Ian Williamson (deceased)
- Terry Bolland
- Greg Kaeding
- Neil Long

## FREEMEN OF THE AVON DESCENT

A nominee for 'Freeman of NADA' must have 10 years exceptional service to the Association at a suitably high level.

- Rex Adams
- Kevin Harrison
- Bob Quin
- David and Sheila Bray
- Jim Paine (deceased)
- Jim Smith
- Graeme Birkett
- Gerry Post
- Tully Telenta



EVENT EMERGENCY CONTACT

**0456 436 500**

# OUR TEAM (Continued)

## EVENT MANAGEMENT

Event Coordinator  
Sport & Graphics Coordinator  
Marketing Coordinator

Alexandra Holcbarova  
Sean Dunstan  
Fran Diettrich

## MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS

Traffic/Campsite Management  
Management Plans  
Merchandising/myAvon Store  
Sponsorship  
Volunteer Management

Breanna Holmes  
Cyprian Ubah  
Connie Cheng  
Kobie Olsen  
Sarah Grundy  
Vlasta Thomas

Logistics Support

Kirsty Burnett  
Katrina Long

Sponsor Support  
Community Liaison  
Sport Support

Teagan Craig  
Jenny Gamble  
Elsa Yeeting Lai  
Melissa Benson

Graphics Design

Sonja Grovermann  
Claire Howell  
Tiago Martins

IT Support & Web Design  
Media Support

James Armenti  
Louisa Keron  
Clare Jorgensen  
Tanusree Ghosh  
Ramya Kurmala



## OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Ascot Kayak Club	Checkpoints and Scrutineering
Boral Quarries	Provision of Campsite
Arc Infrastructure	Rail Safety
Bullsbrook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Parking/Buses into Walyunga National Park
Grass Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade	Fire Security Cobbler Pool Campsite
East Swan Volunteer Fire Brigade	Parking and buses into Bells Rapid
Gingin Lions Club	
Northam Lions Club	Start Marshalling Area/Traffic Management
Northam SES	Traffic Management
Power Dinghy Racing Club	Power Boat Pre- and Post-Race Scrutineering
Toodyay Football Club	Parking at Williamson Weir
Toodyay Lions Club	Campsite Services

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## Boral Australia

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Boral is the proud sponsor of the Cobbler  
Pool Campsite

See page 26 for more information

# SPONSORS & PARTNERS

## MAJOR SPONSORS



## MEDIA SPONSORS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## OFFICIAL PARTNERS



## OFFICIAL SUPPORTING SPONSORS





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As we prepare for another challenge in the wonderful Avon Valley, we should recall the last minute rains that produced an instant river in 2015 and brought about a collective sigh of relief.

While that was fortunate timing, the recurrence of such events should not be

relied upon and the changing nature of the river is a reality. This is our 45th year and it cannot be denied that there was generally more water under our keels in the first 22 years than the last.

Whether this is a permanent trend or not, it tests the resolve of all involved in the Avon Descent, on and off the water.

Northam's Avon Descent Association is responsible for all aspects of the event—its history and its future—and is determined to ensure the Avon Descent remains a prominent fixture on the event calendar in Western Australia.

NADA also recognises, as we all must, that a different perspective is needed if we are going to stay positive and strive to protect the unique privilege of racing paddle craft and power boats down the valley.

This provides an opportunity to broaden the appeal of the Avon, perhaps encouraging competitors such as endurance athletes and adventure racers to join the hundreds of paddlers and power dinghy racers who define the event each year.

NADA recognises the special place the Avon Descent has in Western Australia and believes that the community wants to continue to enjoy its unique offering.

We will do our very best to make sure others have a chance to continue the legend of the Avon—Hell or High Water.

# HELL OR HIGH WATER

# MESSAGE 2017

## **KIM EPTON, Chairman, Northam's Avon Descent Assoc.**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Northam's Avon Descent Association I welcome competitors and support crews to the 2017 Avon Descent.



With the assistance of the State Government through Tourism WA, and the staging of the Family Fun Days by the five Local Governments along the course, and support from the East Metropolitan Regional Council and Lotterywest, the Avon Descent confirms its status as a grassroots community event, and a celebration of the Western Australian lifestyle.

Thank you to all of our Sponsors for their support including our media partners Network Ten, Mediavation, and The Sunday Times. In addition to all the sporting and community groups who receive financial or social benefits from the event, thank you to the Act Belong Commit Avon Descent Support Unit for their safety, rescue, recovery, and first aid services.

The 2017 Avon Descent will be broadcast all around Australia on the Ten Network and will have a potential international viewing audience of hundreds of millions.

To the many Volunteers who have come forward this year in a time of change, know that your efforts have made a difference and, without you, there would be no Avon Descent.

Best wishes for a safe and successful event.

## **FRANK FILOSI, General Manager Network TEN, Perth**

Network Ten Perth is proud to be the Official Media Sponsor of the 2017 Avon Descent. This iconic Western Australian sporting event is actively embraced by Network Ten with a television special broadcast nationally a few weeks after the race weekend, enabling all Australians to enjoy the spectacle.



Network Ten Perth proudly supports local community activities and assists in ensuring they are a success by providing a variety of highly specialised skills and resources.

Our association with the Avon Descent has a long and proud history and we have seen it grow to reach the international status that it enjoys today. TEN Eyewitness News First At Five and our experienced production team get right behind this event and enjoy it immensely. Network Ten Perth congratulates the Northam Avon Descent Association, all the volunteers and the competitors for their commitment, dedication and hard work in making the Avon Descent a worldwide success.

Good luck to everyone involved and have a great 2017 Avon Descent.



# WELCOME MESSAGE FROM

**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA, MINISTER FOR TOURISM  
AND  
HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN MLC, MINISTER FOR REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**



**Avon Descent  
5-6 August 2017**



Welcome to the 2017 Avon Descent, one of Western Australia's longest running sporting events.

The white water race tests even the toughest of competitors, taking them on a challenging 124km course from Northam to Bayswater in a variety of paddle and power craft.

Since its inception in 1973, the home-grown event has attracted more than 35,000 competitors from Australia and around the world, and has developed into a popular feature on Western Australia's events calendar.

It continues to expand with this year's program featuring a new category, stand up paddle boarding, which will take place from Middle Swan Bridge to the finish line at Riverside Gardens in Bayswater.

The Avon Descent is proudly supported by the McGowan Government through Tourism Western Australia's Regional Events Program.

Tourism is a key pillar of the McGowan Government's plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and develop business opportunities, especially in the regions. In 2017, visitors spent \$10 billion in the State, including \$4.7 billion in regional areas.

Events such as the Avon Descent are important because they provide significant economic, social and cultural benefits to regional communities, making them exciting places to visit as well as great places to live.

We wish all the competitors the best of luck, and hope everyone enjoys the event.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Papalia'.

**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA  
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alannah MacTiernan'.

**HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN MLC  
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

# MESSAGE 2017

## **MAREE DE LACEY, Acting Executive Director Healthway**

Healthway is delighted to support the Avon Descent Support Unit which is a vital part of the 2017 Avon Descent and a great way of demonstrating the Act-Belong-Commit message.

Just like Act-Belong-Commit, the Avon Descent Support Unit is all about connecting with other people and making a commitment to work for a common cause. The ADSU unites people from all walks of life from Perth and regional areas as they use their skills to deliver this iconic event.

After many months of training together, ADSU volunteers will be there on the 2017 Avon Descent weekend as a team supporting the event making it as safe as possible for competitors and for spectators.

As the Act-Belong-Commit message says, we can build positive mental health by taking action to be physically, mentally and socially active. This can include setting goals, staying involved in family and community activities, participating in community events and by making a commitment to challenges or causes that provide meaning and purpose in our lives.

Volunteering for the ADSU is one of those ways people can connect with each other to develop common interests. This includes supporting the competitors in the 2017 Avon Descent who have also demonstrated how to Act-Belong-Commit by choosing to take on a challenge, committing to training and competing this weekend to achieve their goals.

From everyone at Healthway – enjoy the event!

## **ROSALIE EVANS, Executive Officer, Canoeing WA**

On behalf of the Canoeing WA Board and members, I would like to wish all Avon Descenters the best of luck for the 2017 Avon Descent.

At the time of writing this message, the rains had not started falling where we want them to, but as history shows us the levels of the river can change within hours, so whether it is your umpteenth Avon or your first, or you are just ticking off a bucket list item – enjoy every moment of this amazing Event.

The comradery that you find on the River over the two days are incredible regardless if the water is high or you may have to do an occasional portage, everyone understands what the other person is going through, whether you are an Olympian or weekend warrior. So remember to encourage and respect all other competitors paddle and power alike.

Also remember the Avon Descent is not the only paddle event on the calendar, there are paddle events almost every weekend through-out the year, either through our twelve clubs or our own Canoeing WA events, so wherever you are in your paddling, and you want to improve and do better in next year's Avon, go to [www.paddlewa.asn.au](http://www.paddlewa.asn.au) for more information about who we are and what we do.

See you on the water and remember to have fun!





# AVON CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself and try the Avon



WHERE= MIDDLE SWAN- BAYSWATER

WHEN= AUGUST 6

TIME= 9AM - 12 PM

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN:

<http://www.paddlewa.asn.au/events/canoeing-waavon-challenge/>



Department of  
Sport and Recreation



# POWER DINGHY RACING CLUB (PDRC)

The PDRC (Power Dinghy Racing Club) was formed in 1976 by Avon Descent competitors who wanted more racing than one weekend a year. The club's race calendar has twelve races each year. River racing is confined to winter months from June to October where four races are held on the Blackwood River in the South West.

The Avon Descent is our main event for the year making a total of five river races. Summer months are taken up with six circuit races in front of our clubrooms on the Swan River. With competing members aged between 10 and 70, including a ladies' class, the whole family can be involved. Safety is paramount in this sport and is strictly controlled. PDRC membership covers Public Liability as well as Personal Accident Cover.

New members are assisted in sourcing boats, motors, race gear to get them on the water. Advice on setting up race craft and tactics are gladly given. Expeditions on rivers in Eastern States and the north of WA take place each year. River Racing is the mainstay of the PDRC which takes us to areas of Australia few are able to see and enjoy. We have an active social calendar with excellent club facilities at the Burswood Clubrooms - 1 Camfield Drive, Burswood. (In front of the Burswood Casino).

**To get started contact Commodore David Mcconkey on 0409 992 102 or [www.dinghyracing.com.au](http://www.dinghyracing.com.au)**

# WEST COAST DINGHY RACING CLUB (WCDRC)

The West Coast Dinghy Racing Club Inc. ("WCDRC") was formed in September 2012 by a passionate group of men and women who wanted a family friendly club with its goals to help new members get involved with the sport and to increase the number of power boats entering the Avon Descent. Now in our fifth season of racing, the club boasts members from all walks of life and abilities – from Racing Veterans to Novices, Avon Descent Champions to those looking to compete for the first time this year.

Our club's emphasis and attention is on the South West of Western Australia - from Mandurah in the north to Augusta in the south and Boyup Brook to the east, with the intent of bringing the sport to the south west region throughout the year. The WCDRC races are conducted in varied water bodies including rivers, estuaries, the ocean and closed circuits within the South West each year in the lead up to the Avon Descent. One of our proud veteran members is Kevin Williams. In 2011 he and his son, Joshua came 1st in the Avon Descent "Past Racer and Novice Class" in record time. Kevin is now in his 35th year of racing power dinghies and has no plans on giving up soon! Since our inception, the club has been instrumental in enticing 14 new boats into the sport.

Membership numbers have increased month by month this year and we look forward to playing a pivotal role in growing the numbers in our sport – not just our club – for countless years to come. Kim Bolvary, Commodore

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY 15 JULY	: Power Boats Practice day – Williamson Weir, 10am - 1pm
SUNDAY 23 JULY	: Scrutineering & Race Packs, Hinds Reserve Bayswater
	: Paddle & Powercraft: 9:00am
	: Scrutineering – Safety Briefing: 9:45am
SUNDAY 23 JULY	: Belmont Belter Qualifying Race: 10:45am Hind's Reserve, Bayswater to Garvey Park, Belmont (11km)
SUNDAY 23 JULY	: Power Craft Time Trials: 12:00pm - 4:00pm
	: Proposed course: Bells Rapids to Middle Swan Bridge (No further South)
SATURDAY 29 JULY	: Practice Day 1
	: Paddle Craft Practice: 8:00am - 12:00noon
	: Power Craft Practice: 12:00noon - 6:00pm
SUNDAY 30 JULY	: Practice Day 2
	: Power Craft Practice: 8:00am - 1:00pm
	: Paddle Craft Practice: 1:00pm – 5:00pm
FRIDAY 4 AUGUST	: Competitor Registrations: Northam Swimming Pool – 12:00noon – 8:00pm
	: Craft Drop Off: Start Marshalling Area – 12:00noon – 10:00pm
	: Shire of Northam Avon River Festival
SATURDAY 5 AUGUST	: Day 1 Event Start: Northam at 8:00am
	: Shire of Toodyay International Food Festival
SUNDAY 6 AUGUST	: Day 2 Event Start: Cobbler Pool Campsite
	: Avon Challenge & Avon Junior Challenge
	: City of Swan Family Fun Day
	: City of Belmont Family Fun Day
	: City of Bayswater Family Fun Day

## BE ACTIVE AVON CHALLENGE

The Avon Challenge presented by Be Active is conducted by Canoeing WA, in association with the Northam Avon Descent Association. The race is open to junior paddlers from schools, clubs, and other organizations, and individuals. Many juniors who have started with the Junior Avon have gone on to represent Australia at the highest level of paddling in their respective disciplines. This year the race will also be open to Dragon boats, Outriggers and Stand up Paddle Boards. The Avon Challenge will be held on the Swan River on the 6th August over the last 16 kilometres of the Avon Descent course. Finishing at Riverside Gardens Bayswater.





# RACE PACK COLLECTION

Race Pack contents will be available for collection at Scrutineering on 23rd of July.

**Please Note:** Entry Packs will NOT be posted out to you as per previous years.

## STICKERS AND IDENTIFICATION

The following stickers will be supplied with your competitor pack and must be placed on the craft in accordance with the Rules. Sponsors stickers from previous Avon Descents must be removed prior to the commencement of the 2017 event.

**NETWORK TEN STICKERS: 2 x stickers on craft**

**SUNDAY TIMES STICKERS: 2 x stickers on craft**

## RACE ID NUMBERS

**PADDLE CRAFT:** Your official CRAFT Race ID Number sticker will be given to you with your race pack. Your HELMET Race Id Number Sticker will be given to you at registration along with your blue Chip UHF Timing tag.

**POWER CRAFT:** Your official HELMET Race ID Number sticker and blue Chip UHF timing tag will be given to you with your race pack on collection day. These are to be applied prior to scrutineering and used for time trials. These will also be used for the event weekend, so please take care of these once applied in the lead up to the event.

## RACE ID STICKERS AND BLUECHIP TIMING DEVICES

**HELMET STICKERS:** Competitors must have their helmets clear for both the timing chips and race ID number- please ensure any old numbers are removed. Any competitors with a carbon helmet must apply a foam spacer between the helmet and the timing chip. Please see the bluechip timing team at registration if you need the spacer.

**TIMING CHIP STICKERS:** The timing device is a sticker which is Ultra High Frequency. There are two stickers for individual competitors, teams of two and teams of four. Double or triple paddle teams and power craft teams will receive 1X set of timing device stickers which must be worn by the front paddler or power craft driver. Stickers must be placed one on each side of the helmet so be sure to bring all helmets to registration.

**RACE ID NUMBER:** The sticker is to be applied over the top of the timing chip. The timing chip must be applied straight and without folding, crinkling or bending. It must also not be stuck over any screws or metal plates on the outside of the helmet. Timing stickers must remain on the helmet for the duration of the event.nt.

## SUPPORT CREW STICKERS AND PASSES

Support Crew Sticker: Display on front windscreen clearly visible to officials.

National Parks and Bells Rapid Passes: To be handed to gate attendants for entry, shuttle buses will be provided. Parking, bus and entry will be at a cost of \$10.00 per vehicle.

Valley Sticker (for team's only): Display adjacent to Support Crew sticker on front windscreen

Note: No sticker = NO ENTRY to Valley Rd or Changeover 1 on Day 2

Wristbands MUST be worn at all times around the campsite.

**\*\* Standard campsite entry can be purchased at the gate for \$20 pp. See page 26 for more information.**

**Please note:** no passes will be re-allocated under any circumstances - please ensure you do not misplace any of these items.

## SCRUTINEERING

**Sunday 23 July - Hinds Reserve Bayswater - Paddle Craft & Power Craft from 9:00am onwards**

Pre-Race scrutineering is compulsory for all entries with at least one entrant living within 200 kilometres of the Perth GPO. The Scrutineer is a 'judge of fact' and a protest may not be made against their decision. All craft, Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's) and helmets will be checked for compliance with the specifications.

Late scrutineering is subject to approval of NADA. Interstate/overseas and entrants living outside of 200 kilometres of the Perth GPO are not exempt from the above requirements – late scrutineering arrangements must be made.

**COMPULSORY COMPETITOR SAFETY BRIEFING:** A representative from each entry must attend the compulsory safety briefing at scrutineering, at 9:45am. Each competitor must sign for their attendance.

**POWER CRAFT:** Department of Transport officials will check every Power Craft. They have informed us that this year they will be VERY strict on craft registrations. Be very sure you have the CORRECT rego sticker on the port, rear side of your craft. DO NOT have a sticker that relates to another boat you may have. Your craft should have a HIN number, be sure it is shown correctly. Our Volunteers will help you to put stickers on the correct spot at the scrutineering, DOT have been lenient and allowed some craft to do the time trial even though some rego details have not been correct.

# TIME TRIAL

NOTE: If you are not able to comply with all regulations at scrutineering, you will not be allowed to enter the time trial.

**SUNDAY 23 JULY - 12:00pm to 4:00pm**

**No craft away any later than 3:00pm**

Bottom of Bells Rapids to Middle Swan Bridge - No further south.

# PRACTICE WEEKEND

Two days have been set aside for Power Craft to practice on certain parts of the course. Paddle craft are NOT to practice in the below areas during these times. **Penalties may apply to competitors ignoring this or any other Practice Day directive.** This is an officially sanctioned event and motor, boat and all race gear used must be as per the PDRC Rules and Regulations in order for insurance cover to be effective. Random checks will be conducted. We recommend checking out as much of the course as possible prior to practice weekend, accessing as many points as legally possible. Specific points to check out are: Northam Weir exit, Dumbarton Bridge, Williamson Weir, Duidgee Park, Toodyay (Rubbish Tip) Rapid, Leatherhead Rapid, Syds Rapid, and Bells Rapid. Participation in the Practice Days is the responsibility of the entrant and is undertaken at their own risk. Participants must avoid travel in the upstream direction during practice. Upstream travel under Katrine Bridge is NOT permitted. Plan Ahead – Remember it gets dark quickly in the valley so leave yourself plenty of time.

## PRACTICE DAY ONE - SATURDAY 29 JULY

**Paddle Craft Practice:** 8:00am - 12:00 noon all sections of the river.

**Power Craft Practice:** 12:00noon - 6:00pm Northam Weir and Posselt's Ford and downstream of Bell's Bridge to Middle Swan Bridge - No further south.

## PRACTICE DAY TWO - SUNDAY 30 JULY

**Power Craft Practice:** 8:00am - 1:00pm Northam Weir and Posselt's Ford and downstream of Bell's Bridge to Middle Swan Bridge - No further south

**Paddle Craft Practice:** 1:00pm - 5:00pm all sections of the river.

Power Craft may start upstream of Northam Weir, but no further upstream than the Peel Terrace traffic bridge. Power Craft must at all times stay upstream of Posselt's Ford.

# EVENT REGISTRATION

## Friday 5 August - Northam Swimming Pool - 12:00pm to 8:00pm

At least one competitor from each entry must attend Friday registration.

All helmets must be brought to registration in order for stickers and timing chips to be attached. Grid positions for Day 1 will be posted at registration. Competitors will not be registered until their equipment has passed scrutineering and will not be permitted to start until registration is complete.

# CRAFT DROP OFF

Once competitors have registered, they must then drop their craft off at the Start Marshalling Area. For teams this is the starting person's craft only. The start marshalling area will be open:

**12:00pm – 10:00pm on Friday 4 August 2017.**

The Start Marshalling Area is near the main traffic bridge, follow the instructions of the Start Marshall. Craft not in the Start Marshalling Area by –

**10:00pm on Friday 4 August 2017** will not be permitted to start.



## START LINE INFO

**The Day 1 start is at Northam and the start order is as follows:**

- Power craft start at 8:00am
- Paddle craft start at 8:30am

**The Day 2 start is at Boral Cobbler Pool Campsite, Toodyay;**

- Paddle craft start at 7:00am in order of fastest first regardless of Class
- Power craft start at 12:00pm (Subject to change by the Race Director)
- Final start time will be provided by the Race Director at the campsite, 4pm on Day 1

Start Procedures – Start procedures for paddle and power are outlined in the **event rules**.



# COURSE INFO

## STAGES

Day 1	Town of Northam to Boral Campsite	52 km
Stage 1	Town of Northam to Katrine Bridge	17 km
Stage 2	Katrine Bridge to Toodyay	15 km
Stage 3	Toodyay to Wetherall Reserve	9 km
Stage 4	Wetherall Reserve to Boral Campsite	11 km
Overnight Stop		
DAY 2	Boral Campsite to City of Bayswater	72 km
Stage 5	Boral Campsite to Emu Falls	8 km
Stage 6	Emu Falls to Stronghills Farm	10 km
Stage 7	Stronghills Farm to Bells Rapid	21 km
Stage 8	Bells Rapid to Middle Swan	18 km
Stage 9	Middle Swan to Bayswater Finish	15km

## WILD WATER - GRADE DIFFICULT

Grade 1	Not difficult, regular stream, regular waves, small rapids and simple obstructions
Grade 2	Moderately difficult, passage free, irregular stream, irregular waves, medium rapids, small stoppers, eddies/whirlpools and pressure areas. * Simple obstructions in stream and small drops
Grade 3	Difficult, route recognisable , high irregular waves, larger rapids, stoppers, eddies and whirlpools and pressure areas. * Isolated boulders, drops and numerous obstructions in stream.
Grade 4	Very difficult, route not always recognisable , inspection mostly necessary, heavy continuous rapids, heavy stoppers, whirlpools and pressure areas. * Boulders obstructing stream, big with undertow
Grade 5	Extremely difficult, inspection essential, extreme rapids, stoppers, whirlpools and pressure areas. *Narrow passages, steep gradients and drop with difficult access and landing
Grade 6	Limit of practicability, generally speaking impossible. *Possibly navigable at particular water levels, high risk, even experts risk life.

**Notes \*\*Pressure areas” refer to water piling up against a rock or other obstacle. Weirs are not classified as wild water and as such are not evaluated. They are either easily navigable or (very) dangerous. WARNING - Although the more dangerous spots are marked, the river can change at any time and must be approached on the basis that it is dangerous at all times and at all points along the length.**

# CUT-OFF TIMES

Any craft that does not complete a Day 1 cut off time will not be permitted to start on Day 2. The following cut-off times shall apply (subject to change by the Race Director).

## POWER CRAFT

DAY 1 :	POWER CRAFT CUT OFF TIMES
Northam Weir	Start + 1hr 45min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3hr 45min
Toodyay Checkpoint	Start + 5hr 40min
Wetherall Reserve Checkpoint	When first paddle craft reaches checkpoint
DAY 2 :	POWER CRAFT CUT OFF TIMES
Emu Falls Checkpoint	Start + 1hr 45min
Stronghills Farm Checkpoint	Start + 2hr 30min
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	Start + 3hr 30min
Upper Swan Checkpoint	Start + 4hr 30min
Middle Swan Checkpoint	5:00pm

## PADDLE CRAFT

DAY 1 :	PADDLE CRAFT CUT OFF TIMES
Northam Weir	Start + 1hr 45min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3hr 45min
Toodyay Checkpoint	Start + 5hr 40min
Wetherall Reserve Checkpoint	Start + 6hr 30min
Ti Trees Checkpoint	4:00pm
DAY 2 :	PADDLE CRAFT CUT OFF TIMES
Emu Falls Checkpoint	11:00am
Stronghills Farm Checkpoint	12:00pm
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	1:30pm
Upper Swan Checkpoint	2:30pm
Middle Swan Checkpoint	Between 3:30 – 4:00pm (subject to DOT Marine Safety instructions and current weather conditions)

# TEAMS

## ENTRY

Each TEAM entry is issued with one (1) Valley Access sticker. You will only get one so don't lose it! This allows access to the Valley Road on Day 2.

Turn right when leaving the campsite (stage 5 & 6).

Sticker must be placed adjacent to your Support Crew Sticker.

**No valley pass = no entry to valley road and changeover 1 on day 2.**

The Valley Road is a private road. ALL vehicles must always give way to emergency and official event vehicles and obey all directions of race officials. No stopping is permitted on the Valley Road except at designated changeover points.

**UNAUTHORISED STOPPING ON THE VALLEY ROAD MAY INCUR A 10 MINUTE TIME PENALTY TO YOUR TEAM.**

## TEAMS CHANGEOVER

An inflatable buoy will indicate that a changeover will occur in 50m. Where timing gates are installed, all team Paddle Craft must pass through all timing gates. Changeovers must take place after having passed through the timing gate. Pairs can paddle 2 sections each per day. Pairs can paddle consecutive sections, however MUST portage at the intersecting changeover point. Fours must changeover at each changeover point and each paddler must paddle one section per day.



## CHECKPOINTS (Team Changeover)

Please read the important information which follows regarding the checkpoints and information board locations.

- Ti Trees and Walunga are now safety checkpoints although there is information available at Ti Trees only
- Upper Swan Checkpoint has been reinstated and support crew information is available.
- Cut-Off time at Middle Swan Bridge is 4:00pm for Paddle Craft - 5:00pm for Power Craft.

Checkpoint	Location	Teams Changeover	Info Board
------------	----------	------------------	------------

### Day 1

1	Katrine Bridge	Yes #1	Near Bridge
2	Newcastle Bridge (Duidgee Park)	Yes #2	Under Bridge
Safety	West Toodyay Bridge	No	Under Bridge
3	Wetherall Reserve Checkpoint	Yes #3	On River bank
Safety	Ti Trees	No	Available
4	Cobbler Pool	Yes	Finish Line Info Tent

### Day 2

5	Emu Falls	No	Not Available
6	Stronghill Farm	Yes #1	Not Available
7	Bells Rapids	Yes #2	On River bank
Safety	Walunga National Park	No	Not Available
8	Upper Swan	No	On River bank
9	Middle Swan Bridge	Yes #3	On River bank
10	Bayswater Riverside Gardens	Yes	Finish Line

**NB.** If support crews decide to enter Walunga National Park, parking and bus fee of \$10 is payable to attendants (proceeds aid the Bullsbrook Volunteer Fire Brigade).



# CHECKPOINTS

- Checkpoints will be identified by a large sign with the letter 'C' displayed in black.
- Competitors passing Checkpoints should call out their Race Identification Number to ensure they are accurately recorded. Responsibility rests with competitors.
- Competitors must follow the directions of Checkpoint Officials.
- Penalties apply to those who disobey or ignore directions of Checkpoint Officials. **See Event Rules.**

# SELECTING YOUR STOPS

Your stops depend on your goals! Liaise with other paddlers to combine all the support resources. If you're a more experienced competitor you will probably choose fewer stops than a novice. However when anyone stops, it will be brief and you will want a quick refill of water and food ready to eat i.e. Bananas already peeled!

If you're a novice, you might opt for more support stops, and you might sail by with a cheery wave to the support crew (who will have spent hours fighting with the traffic and the mud to be in the right spot!) On the other hand when a novice does stop they may need psychological support as much as food and drink.

Make sure your support crew are familiar with a map of the area and the actual roads themselves. Remember to allow plenty of time for your support crew to get to their stops during the race as traffic can be tedious! We strongly recommend two cars leap-frogging positions as the best way to cover all eventualities. Plan equipment to be carried to the water's edge... a spare paddle is useless back in the car park!

**SUPPORT CREWS MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET WHEN ENTERING THE WATER; OTHERWISE THEIR TEAM/COMPETITOR RISKS DISQUALIFICATION.**

**ENSURE ALL YOUR SUPPORT STICKERS AND NATIONAL PARK PASSES ARE IN ORDER.**

- All Competitors - Support Crew Sticker on front windscreen of support vehicle.
- Teams Competitors Only – Valley Access Sticker placed adjacent to your Support Crew sticker. One Pass per Team.

**Remember: No Valley Access Sticker = No Entry to Valley Road Day 2 or Changeover # 1 at Stronghills.**

- Ensure your support crew have their Passes to gain free access to Williamson Weir, Avon Valley National Park and Bells Rapid on race day, otherwise they will need to pay the \$10 entry fee (proceeds to the Toodyay Football Club and Gingin Lions).
- National Park Gates close at 5:00pm and No Dogs Permitted.

**Proud Official Production Partner of the 2017 Avon Descent™**



**mediavation**  
CREATIVE PRODUCTION

[www.mediavation.tv](http://www.mediavation.tv)



# BORAL COBBLER POOL CAMPSITE

The campsite for competitors and their support crews is located at the traditional Boral Cobbler Pool campsite at the end of Day 1/start of Day 2, however only a basic infrastructure will be in place. The campsite is available for camping both Friday and Saturday nights, however main facilities will only be available Saturday night.

The Toodyay Lions Club will manage the site and allocations will be on a first in/first served basis. Please be familiar with the campsite rules and the environmental policy on the website [avondescent.com.au](http://avondescent.com.au) under the Cobbler Pool Campsite area. Under no circumstances are dogs or any other pets allowed at the campsite.

## CAMPSITE FEES

**Cobbler Pool Overnight Wristbands: BLUE** (available for \$20pp). This will allow for up to 2 nights camping at the Cobbler Pool site and full access to the RaceHUB. RaceHUB Wristbands: **YELLOW** (available for \$10pp). For more information refer to pages 27 and 51.

Campsite tickets can be purchased at the gate

Campsite Wristbands **MUST** be worn at all times around the campsite

Children under 12 will be admitted free of charge.

## CATERING

The food vendors will be on site to ensure you're refuelled at the end of Day 1 and ready to tackle Day 2. See race pack for full Food Truck Menu.

## FIREWOOD

Campers are prohibited from collecting firewood from natural vegetation. Firewood will be provided for sale at the campsite for \$20.00. Spectators and competitors will be encouraged to use alternative fuels, eg. gas, diesel fuel heaters.

## CAMPSITE RESTRICTIONS

The organisers reserve the right to immediately remove any person behaving in a disorderly or intoxicated manner from the Boral Campsite. The use of glass is limited to designated areas. NOTE: Entry to the campsite is at your own risk. No liability for damage or loss of personal items or equipment will be accepted by the event organisers or their agents.



**helloworld Alexander Heights is the official travel agent of the Avon Descent**

If you are looking for accommodation or car hire while competing in the Avon Descent contact helloworld now! Quote AVON and we will receive a commission on your booking. Phone **61-8-9343 9000** or Visit **agents.helloworld.com.au/helloworld-alexander-heights**

# AVON DESCENT RACEHUB

**Need to find your race grid number?**

**Feel like a delicious meal?**

**Time for a post-race massage?**

**Come and visit the Cobbler Pool Campsite RaceHUB – your one stop shop for all official Avon Descent information for competitors, support crews and spectators.**

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO FIND AT THE RACEHUB

Official Race Timing Information – Day 1 and Day 2

Avon Descent Official Merchandise

Social Media Hub

First Aid

Coffee Vendors

A wide range of gourmet food trucks

Kids Zone

Day 1 Winner Prize Presentations

**Schedule of  
Events on  
Page 51!**

**FRIDAY 4 AUG, 08:00 – MIDNIGHT**

**SATURDAY 5 AUG, 08:00 – MIDNIGHT**

**SUNDAY 6 AUG, 08:00 - MIDDAY**

**The RaceHUB is located across the rail line at the centre of the Cobbler Pool Campsite and will host all official Avon Descent race functions.**

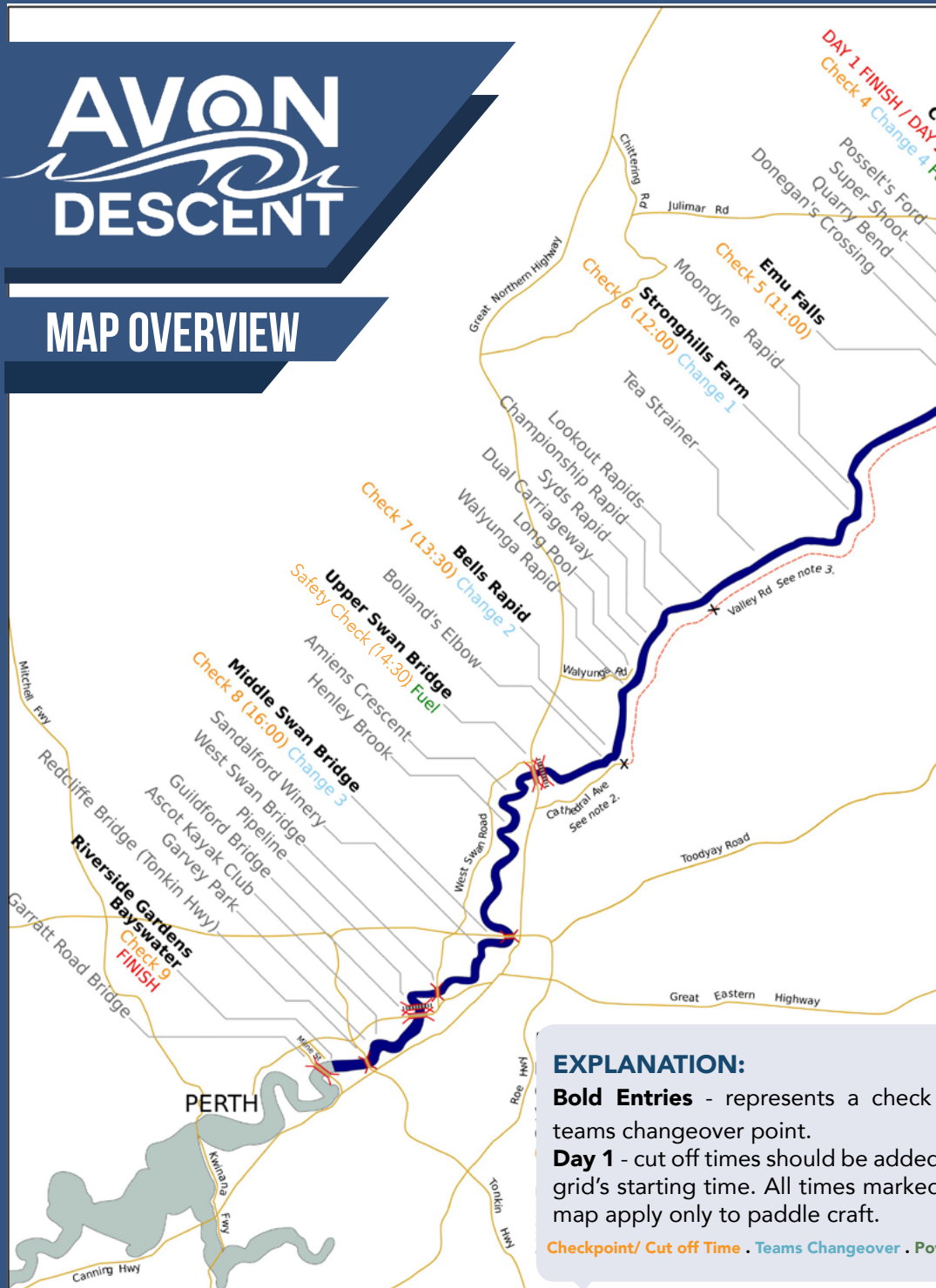
**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING  
YOU AT THE 2017  
AVON DESCENT RACEHUB!!**

**AVON**  
  
**DESCENT**



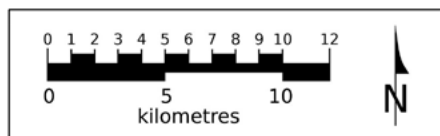
# AVON DESCENT

## MAP OVERVIEW

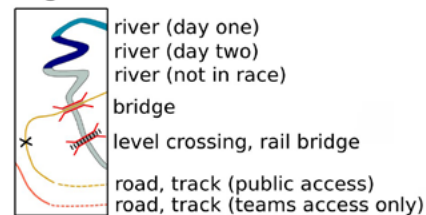




Paddling Distances (km)													
													Northam
													Katrine
													Dumbarton
													Williamson
													Newcastle
													Wetherall
													Cobbler Pool
													Emu Falls
													Stronghills
													Walyunga
													Bells Rapid
													Upper Swan
													Middle Swan
													Hinds Res.
	15	28	33	37	54	64	72	83	92	96	100	107	124
	13	18	22	39	49	57	68	77	81	85	92	109	
	5	9	26	36	44	55	64	68	72	79	96		
	4	21	31	39	50	59	63	67	74	91			
	17	27	35	46	55	59	63	70	87				
	10	18	29	38	42	46	53	70					
	8	19	28	32	36	43	60						
	11	20	24	28	35	52							
	9	13	17	24	41								
	4	8	15	32									
	7	11	28										
	4	11	17	24	41								
	17	24	28	35	52								
	19	28	32	36	43	60							
	29	38	42	46	53	70							
	29	38	42	46	53	70							
	46	55	59	63	70	87							
	50	59	63	67	74	91							
	55	64	68	72	79	96							
	68	77	81	85	92	109							
	83	92	96	100	107	124							



## Legend



For any suggestions, or to report an error or omission, please email [sgralton@gmail.com](mailto:sgralton@gmail.com).



# PHOTOS

- more photographers - greater selection

**'All Your Photos' digital package**  
*get the whole story of your Avon Descent!*



**Souvenir Prints**  
*these ones go in a frame  
on the wall*



**Posters**  
*the big 'brag' one  
for the pool room!*



**\$20 Discount Voucher \***  
you will receive by email when photos go online

\* Subject to conditions

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West Australia 6173  
Ph: +61 (08)95373280  
mobile: 0409100196  
admin@aussiesinaction.com.au



**[www.aussiesinaction.com.au](http://www.aussiesinaction.com.au)**

# / SAFETY BRIEFING

All Important safety information will be briefed to competitors at the compulsory safety briefing at scrutineering (see scrutineering info).

**RED**

## **STOP**

Do not proceed beyond this point.

**BLACK**

## **DISQUALIFICATION**

Leave the water Immediately

**ORANGE**

**WHITE**

## **CAUTION**

Obstruction ahead.

Caution to be used in area.

## **WARNING**

**FLAGS WILL BE ISSUED  
ALONG THE LENGTH  
OF THE RIVER. DUE TO  
THE CHANGE OF WATER  
LEVEL, THE LOCATIONS  
OF VARIOUS FLAGS  
WILL CHANGE ON  
THE DAY. IT IS IN THE  
COMPETITOR'S INTEREST  
TO BE FULLY AWARE OF  
FLAG COLOURS AND  
MEANINGS.**

## Be safe around the railway this Avon Descent



With our freight rail network running through the heart of the Avon Valley, Arc Infrastructure is proud to continue a 30 year partnership to support the Avon Descent.

Trains continue to operate as normal over the Avon Descent weekend; please be extra vigilant around the railway. Whether in a vehicle or on foot, only cross the railway line at designated crossings.

- Obey stop signs at level crossings
- Follow instructions from Arc Infrastructure employees
- Between Lookout Rapids and Bells Rapids section of the course, competitors may ONLY exit from the Walyunga National Park (right-hand) side of the river
- Speed limit on Rail Access Road is 20km/h
- Rail Access Road is one way ONLY (except emergency vehicles)
- Overtaking on Rail Access Road is NOT permitted
- Vehicles are NOT to be stationary in middle of Rail Access Road
- Display Valley Event Sticker clearly on windscreen.

[arcinfra.com](http://arcinfra.com)







# FINISH LINE

## DAY ONE

The tough 52km stretch will come to an end at Boral Cobbler Pool Campsite, West Toodyay. Competitors will battle the Ti Trees and reach the finish line, greeted by sponsors, VIPs, spectators, support crew and fellow competitors. Once crossing the finish line, competitors will exit through the finish chute and put their craft into the Pit Area ready for Day 2.

## DAY TWO

Day 2 will see competitors tackle 72kms of challenging river, with the final 30km a flat water sprint to the Finish Line at City of Bayswater's, Riverside Gardens. Spectator's access parking will be via King William and Slade Streets, whilst support crew access is Riverside Gardens via Milne Street. Please follow directional signage and following parking marshal's directions. Only vehicles with 'Support Vehicle' stickers attached to the top front driver's side of the windscreen will be permitted to park here.

### PADDLE CRAFT PICK UP INFORMATION

Retrieval of boats will occur from the boat/craft holding area, which will be fenced off from the public. To reduce congestion, 2x support crew will be permitted to assist with retrieval of their competitor's craft from the holding area and take it to their vehicle.

### POWER CRAFT PICK UP INFORMATION

Power craft will be extracted from the beach via a throughway that passes directly through the crowd to the parking area behind the food vendor tents. Please take caution of spectators passing across the throughway. Power boat support crew should load the boat on their trailer and clear the exit point as quickly as possible so other teams can also retrieve their craft.

## SUPPORT CREW AND SPECTATORS

Riverside Gardens – access via Milne Street Bayswater, follow directional signage, and obey directions of officials – the competitor/support crew parking area will be Riverside Gardens West, Bayswater. Please follow the signs and directions of staff to the allocated parking area. Strictly ONE vehicle per entry is permitted, with the Support Crew sticker clearly visible.





## POST-RACE SCRUTINEERING

All prize winning craft may be scrutineered following the event and prior to presentations. This will be conducted at race end – Sunday 6th August. The top three place getters of the 10hp Classes (9 motors) will be scrutineered at the finish line.

## 2016 WINNERS



Left: 2016 Powercraft winners Michael Prosser and Perrin Franks as they cross the finish line.

Right: 2016 fastest paddlecraft winner Josh Kippin being awarded his finisher's medal.



# 2017 INTERSTATE CHALLENGE

## MEET THE STATE TEAMS

### Team South Australia

#### **Michael Baker – Solo, Spirit Paddle Sports Team Leader**

Michael Baker will be entering his 13th year and will be ready to take home his 6th 1st place surf ski title. He will be this years official leader of Team Spirit, and looks forward to being a positive, supportive mentor to the full group of 12.



### Team Western Australia

#### **Sam & Josh Maurice representing as a TEAM OF 2**

Sam & Josh Maurice are exceptionally accomplished West Australian Paddlers, showcasing the title of 2 x winners of the Avon Descent Duo entrant category.

#### **Ben Carrick representing as a SOLO**

Ben shares an enviable list of achievements, including; 2014/2015 2nd in single long plastic, 2010/2012 1st in team of two, 2011 2nd in team of four, in addition to numerous state titles for surf lifesaving in both junior and senior division.

### Team New South Wales

#### **Rob McIntyre representing as a SOLO**

Rob showcases a truly outstanding array of titles and achievements, including; 8 x Australian Wild water champion (6 sprint, 2 classic), 3x 4th place finishes in world cups with a best result at world championships of 6th place. 2 x U/23 sprint teams and this year made the senior team for the first time.



#### **Montannah Murray representing in a TEAM OF 2**

Age : 20

It will be very exciting to have Montannah join Team Spirit for her first Avon Descent. Boasting impressive experience beyond her years in both NSW & Queensland marathon kayaking, Montannah shares the titles of; 2014 Coolangatta Gold (Open Womens 3rd place short course), 2015 Coolangatta Gold (Open Womens 9th Place) long course, U23 2017 1st Female Mokai Cup, 2017 1st Female Batemans Bay Challenge and much more.

## **Team Victoria**

### **Chris Wharton**

Chris Wharton brings to his first Avon Descent, an incredible, high calibre level of athleticism and experience paddling rivers in Victoria with Canoeing VIC through to paddling all four corners of the globe; United States of America, South Africa and Nepal (just to name a few).

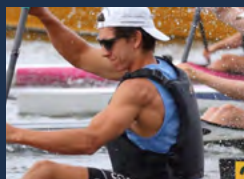
### **Brea Roadley**

In 2016, Brea successfully placed 1st in the Avon Descent mixed team with Coran Longwood. Her impressive achievements don't end there, with titles in the following; Australian team member in 2017 in open womens k2 (placed second at the Oceania championships with a broken boat to gain selection) Australian team member in 2014 in open womens k2 (placed 15th at the world championships)



### **Casey Haynes**

Casey is a strong, superior marathon paddling champion who most recently placed 15th in the U23 world championships in Oklahoma, USA. He will be representing Team Victoria in his very first Avon Descent and brings with him phenomenal achievements.



## **Team Queensland**

### **Joel Savage**

Joel has paddled in various conditions mostly Ocean paddling around Australia and dealt with broken rudders, snapped paddles and the like and hell or high water he is keen to get down the Avon to experience the legendary Avon descent and have a great adventure!

### **Mick DeRoy**

Mick DeRoy is highly respected and proficient Australian water sports champion, who has dedicated a lifetime to surf lifesaving, canoeing outrigger and surf ski. Mick is a regular dominant force on the Northern Queensland Ocean Paddling Series; regularly placing 1st in a list simply too long to share. Mick is a world class champion who is set to impress at The Avon Descent!

### **Paul "Tex" Turner**

The Avon Descent has always been a long term dream for experienced tri-athlete and marathon kayaker Paul Turner, but the logistics of getting race day equipment all the way from Tasmania, across the Bass Strait and over to the West Coast has made it unforeseeable. Until now of course as Paul Turner joins TEAM SPIRIT, taking the place in the FURY to tackle the 124km course, bringing with him a world of experience in K1 and v14 marathon racing.

To learn more visit [www.facebook.com/avondescent/](https://www.facebook.com/avondescent/) or [www.facebook.com/spirittpaddlesportsaus/](https://www.facebook.com/spirittpaddlesportsaus/)

# ACT BELONG COMMIT AVON DESCENT SUPPORT UNIT



The Act Belong Commit Avon Descent Support Unit (ADSU) is a dedicated team of volunteers specifically focused on the safety of everyone involved in the Avon Descent. The ADSU is funded by Healthway under the Act, Belong, Commit program and we provide our members with specialist training to ensure a safe and fun event for all.

Our training begins in February each year with a camping trip down in Collie, using the water release from Wellington Dam to provide our swift water environment. Our training is based on nationally and internationally recognized standards which we adapt to suit the Avon Descent environment. The race weekend is a very busy, but exceptionally enjoyable weekend which relies on the continued commitment of the volunteers in the Rescue and Recovery teams to perform at their very best.

We all hope you enjoy your race, and we look forward to a great event!

## ALYCE ATKINSON, COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

### **How did you get involved with the Act Belong Commit ADSU?**

My work colleagues at the time invited me to come along and be apart of the team. I had already been support crew for a few paddling friends in previous years and have socially paddled the river myself. I thought it would be fun to do something different and I enjoyed volunteering. I became hooked after the first year and can't imagine my life without it now!

### **What's the best part of being in the Act Belong Commit ADSU?**

There is not one best part; every aspect has a favourite memory. Mostly the common denominator is the family aspect. From the first training I felt a part of the team and it has just continued to grow since then. Even if I haven't seen members since last years race, the minute I see them at our first training its like I saw them yesterday! That family support means that any part of the day you know your team is going to be there to back you up. Plus the conversations at the side of the river and along it are pretty hilarious!

### **Most challenging experience?**

The 4am start on Sunday morning when it is freezing cold! I honestly do not have a logical reason for anyone to stand in a wet wetsuit by the side of the river in a valley at that time, but somehow if you ask me the same question at 4pm that day, I wouldn't know what you were talking about and I would say there is nothing worth complaining about!

### **Who works hardest – rescue teams, recovery teams or the sweep boat crew?**

I need to be really careful answering this question, as hubby is in the recovery team, so this is a highly debated topic on Sunday evening when we argue who has to unpack the car, and who is more tired from doing more work! But honestly it is 100% a team effort, no team could work without the other and for that we all work equally as hard as each other at different times. (I still shouldn't have to unpack the car though because I'm usually still wet, and recovery have heated cars to stay warm!?!.. just saying!)

### **Why would you recommend the Act Belong Commit ADSU to others?**

Honestly the view! You get prime viewing of an amazing race, you get to meet fantastic people (if I don't say so myself!) and you go home knowing that you have made an impact by ensuring everyone got home safely at the end of the day. Each member of the ADSU brings something different. There is something to do for everyone including cooking, land support (so you don't have to do the crazy wet wetsuit thing! Communication support etc.) and I promise you will have a lot of fun and create great memories along the way!



# VOLUNTEER FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Volunteering provides the opportunity to feel part of the community and meet like-minded people with similar interest and goals. This gives us a sense of belonging which helps us keep mentally healthy. Whatever your reasons for volunteering, it is clear that engaging in volunteer work improves self-esteem, confidence, provides us with a sense of achievement and greater control over our lives. All these things contribute to good mental health.



The Avon Descent is underpinned by two pillars -the competitors and the volunteers. The pinnacle of the volunteers is the Act Belong Commit Avon Descent Support Unit. Partnering with Act Belong Commit is a great synergy as both organisations embody the Act-Belong-Commit message through participation and volunteering

- Kevin Harrison, Chairperson of the Avon Descent for 18 years

One thing all volunteer groups have in common is the fantastic culture of the people within them. Volunteers are a very special group of people who give their time for the betterment of society. I'm privileged to lead a group of volunteers who brave freezing cold conditions to ensure every competitor in the Avon Descent makes it home to their families safely. In return for volunteering we all gain new skills and make some wonderful friendships along the way.

- Simon Lalor, Act Belong Commit ADSU Manager, Volunteer with the Act Belong Commit ADSU for 15 years



# 2017 AVON RIVER FESTIVAL

Street Parade  
Markets  
Food Stalls  
Family Fun Zone  
Stage Show  
Sideshow Alley  
Rides for all the family  
Fireworks Finale

Minson Avenue - 4 pm  
Friday, 4 August

Enquiries to the Northam Visitor Centre  
P: 9622 2100 E: [events@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:events@northam.wa.gov.au)  
Visit Northam

Parking will be available throughout Northam for the evening of the Avon River Festival. If you are looking to attend and don't want to drive, the AvonLink train will be running a special event train for the occasion. Contact Northam Visitor Centre for details.

Fitzgerald Street (between Gairdner and Grey streets) will be closed for the Street Parade. Minson Avenue will be closed for the duration of the event.



Please note that this is a smoke-free event, and that dogs will not be permitted



## TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL 2017



FREE FAMILY FUN DAY!

Stirling Park & Duidgee Park

Saturday 5 August 10.00 am- 4.00 pm

Come and celebrate the 2017 Avon Descent at the thirteenth annual Toodyay International Food Festival. Held on the banks of the river, we invite you to combine all of the thrills and spills from the race with delicious international cuisine and a fantastic entertainment line-up.

Proudly brought to you by



LIFE & TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD FESTIVAL ON FACEBOOK





Free family  
events

# Family Fun Days

4 AUGUST TO 6 AUGUST 2017

Visit [perthtourism.com.au](http://perthtourism.com.au)

Brought to you by your local government  
and supported by the EMRC and Lotterywest



## What are your weekend plans?

With some of the best bicycle  
trails in Western Australia,  
Perth's Eastern Region is the  
perfect place to get outdoors  
and back on your bike!

*Bought to you by the local  
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CITY OF SWAN AND ACT-BELONG-COMMIT PRESENT

# Avon Descent Festival '17

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

NEW VENUE!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

LILAC HILL PARK, CAVERSHAM

10AM TO 3PM

WWW.SWAN.WA.GOV.AU/AVON

SUPPORTED BY



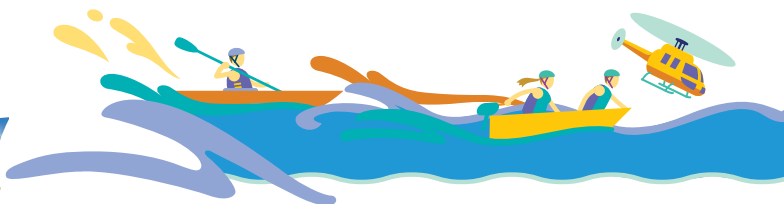
advance  
PRINT AND COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS



PRESENTED BY



AVON  
DESCENT



CITY OF BELMONT

## AVON DESCENT FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY, 6 AUGUST 2017 – 11:30AM TO 3:30PM

GARVEY PARK, FAUNTLEROY AVENUE, ASCOT

FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES ✦ LIVE RACE COMMENTARY  
RACE HIGHLIGHTS ON THE BIG SCREEN  
JUNIOR SPORTS EXPO ✦ HELICOPTER RIDES

**City of Belmont residents**  
bring your Opportunity Card  
for free offers (limits apply).



@BelmontCouncil



BelmontCouncilWA



Visit [www.belmont.wa.gov.au](http://www.belmont.wa.gov.au) or phone the City of Belmont on 9477 7248 for further information.

This smoke free and alcohol free event is proudly brought to you by the City of Belmont – the City of Opportunity and supported by Lotterywest.

TravelSmart – why not cycle, walk or take public transport?



# AVON DESCENT FINISH LINE FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday 6 August 2017  
11am-6pm, Riverside Gardens, Bayswater

FREE entertainment for the whole family. Enjoy carnival rides, face painting and roving entertainers. Food vendors on site. Spectator parking via Slade and King William Streets only.

FREE  
EVENT

Enquiries : Events team 9272 0622  
[www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/events](http://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/events)

## FINISH LINE MAP

### CITY OF BAYSWATER FINISH LINE FAMILY FUN DAY



# FAMILY FUN DAYS

## SPECTATOR LOCATIONS



### CITY OF BAYSWATER

**Date:** Sunday 6 August

**Time:** 11.00am – 6.00pm

**Where:** Riverside Gardens, Milne Street, Bayswater

Nothing beats an exciting finish! Join support crews and spectators to welcome competitors over the Finish Line at the City of Bayswater Avon Descent Finish Line Family

Fun Day. Enjoy a sensational FREE day out for the whole family! Children's rides, community stalls, a range of food trucks and with live commentary as competitors come over the Finish Line.

Spectators can also get up close to the powercraft and see the top competitors having their motors taken apart for post-race scrutineering.



### CITY OF BELMONT

**Date:** Sunday 6 August 2017

**Time:** 11.30am – 3.30pm

**Where:** Garvey Park, Fauntleroy Avenue, Ascot



**Get up close to all of the action at the free family fun day and celebrate the Avon Descent.**

Enjoy live race commentary on the banks of the beautiful Swan River in a large marquee with seating. There will be free children's activities, the Junior Sports Expo, bicycle maintenance and much more. City of Belmont residents - bring your City of Belmont Opportunity Card for free food and beverage offers, giveaways and discounted helicopter rides (limits apply).



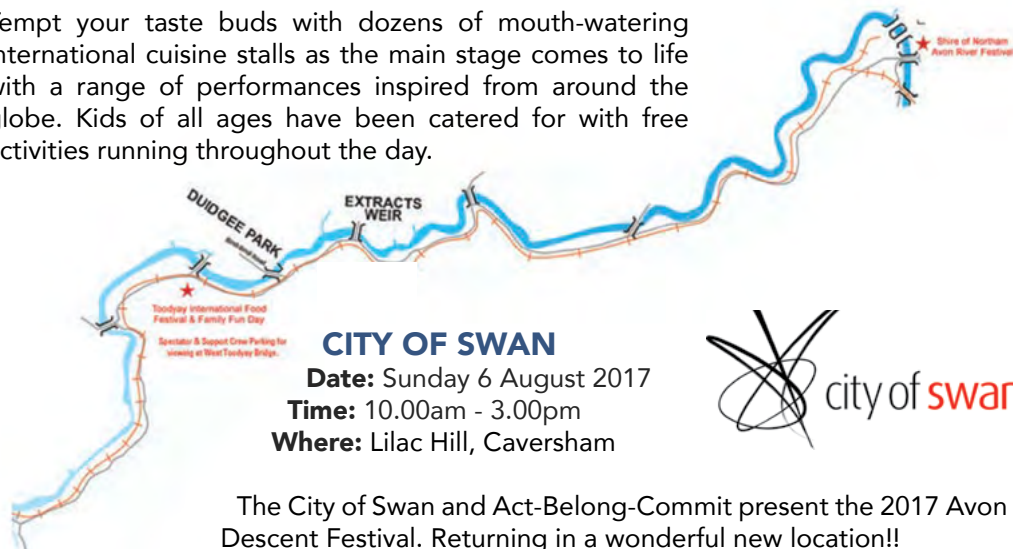
## TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND FAMILY FUN DAY

**Date:** Saturday 5 August 2017

**Time:** 10.00am - 4.00pm

**Where:** Stirling Park, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay

Tempt your taste buds with dozens of mouth-watering international cuisine stalls as the main stage comes to life with a range of performances inspired from around the globe. Kids of all ages have been catered for with free activities running throughout the day.



## CITY OF SWAN

**Date:** Sunday 6 August 2017

**Time:** 10.00am - 3.00pm

**Where:** Lilac Hill, Caversham



The City of Swan and Act-Belong-Commit present the 2017 Avon Descent Festival. Returning in a wonderful new location!!

Join us at Lilac Hill to cheer on the competitors as they speed on by! Enjoy a bumper program of entertainment all day on the main stage, with performances by The Hunting Birds, Hardeyhaha and Possum Music. Meander around the parkland and soak up Swan Valley cooking demonstrations, a special edition of The Vintage Collective Markets, gourmet food truck fare and heaps of giveaways. Plus a packed line up of fair rides, crazy critters, fun workshops and activities for all ages in the Midland Gate Fun Zone!

Free parking onsite, or take the free shuttle bus from Guildford Train Station!



## SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**Date:** Friday 4 August 2017

**Time:** 4.00pm – 9.00pm

**Where:** Bernard Park, Minson Avenue, Northam

Celebrate the excitement of the start of the world's greatest white water event at the Avon River Festival.

This years highlights include: A huge fireworks display on the Avon River, stage show featuring a variety of local talent, family fun zone, rides for all the family, sideshow alley and roving entertainment, game vault, community street parade, markets for avid shoppers, focal food venues, street food and more.



## STAGE 1

### STAGE 1: Northam to Katrine

17km | Grade 1 | from 8.00am

**Start Marshalling Area:** Streets adjacent to and including Broome Terrace will be closed on Saturday morning. Follow signage to designated parking areas. There is ample parking on the town side of the Avon River.

#### Support Crew and Spectators

**Northam:** Follow directional signage to designated parking areas. Please do not park in the gravel area near Northam Weir. When leaving the Town of Northam, follow signage to Toodyay. Follow Newcastle Road – Toodyay Road and turn right to access Katrine Bridge. Please slow down when approaching Katrine Bridge as there are many pedestrians in this area.

**Katrine:** The scenic drive on the north of the river is closed. Access is not permitted to Glen Avon Rapid. Glen Avon Rapid will be patrolled and there is strictly no access.

**Teams Changeover #1:** Katrine Bridge is the first change over point for teams. The changeover area is on the right hand bank.

### STAGE 2: Katrine to Newcastle Bridge

15km | Grade 1 | from 8.10am

The hazard of Glen Avon Rapid is 2km downstream from Katrine Bridge, followed by 7km of coffee rock with negotiable channels. Sinclair's Crossing, beneath Dumbarton Bridge, creates a hazard in low to medium water. The next challenge is Williamson Weir. This 3m high rock weir provides one of the most spectacular sights on the river. Many competitors will portage here – dependant on the river levels. Live expert race commentary will be available.

#### Support Crew and Spectators

**From Katrine:** leave Katrine heading north along the Northam Toodyay Road and follow to Williamson Weir. Williamson Weir: Please do not park on the road verges. A sanctioned parking area is provided. Parking fee is payable by spectators. ONE Support Crew vehicle per team will be provided free access with the Support Crew sticker on the vehicle.

**Toodyay:** Ample parking is available surrounding Duidgee Park and checkpoint 2 is located at Duidgee Park beneath Newcastle Bridge. A checkpoint information board with race updates is also available here.

**Teams Changeover #2:** Duidgee Park is the second changeover point for teams. The changeover area is on the left hand bank.

#### Withdrawn Craft Day 1

Should you be withdrawn from the race, competitors will be taken to the roadside and Support Crew contact is attempted.

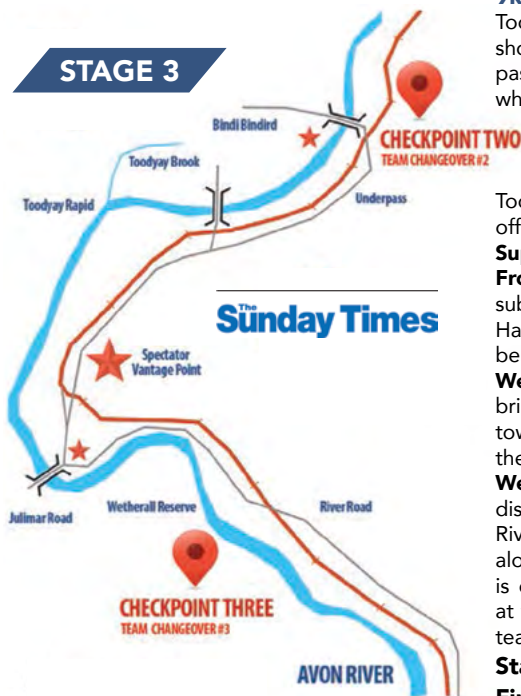
Should you not get in contact with your Support Crew, craft and competitors will be taken to Cobbler Pool. Withdrawn competitors should SMS their race ID and withdrawal location to

0456 436 500





## STAGE 3



## Stage 3: Newcastle Bridge to Wetherall Reserve 9km | Grade 1 | from 8.30am

Toodyay Checkpoint can be difficult for craft and Power Craft should keep to the right in all but the highest water when passing through. Coffee rock prevails for the next 2.4km where you will reach the Railway Bridge. Just 500m past this bridge is Toodyay Rapid, a small drop with many granite boulders. The course is then a mainly shallow and wide river to West Toodyay Bridge. The riverbed from West Toodyay to the Ti Trees is mostly sand with some gravel offering accessible channels.

### Support Crew and Spectators

**From Toodyay:** Support Crews should leave via the railway subway and turn right at the T-Junction at Harper Road. Harper Road becomes Julimar Road and the railway line will be on your right.

**West Toodyay:** limited parking is available adjacent to the bridge, or on West Toodyay Oval, 50m up Julimar Road towards Toodyay. To increase safety, please do not park on the Julimar Road Bridge.

**Wetherall Reserve:** Continue along Julimar Road and a short distance after you cross over the railway line, turn left into River Road (just before the West Toodyay Bridge). Proceed along River Road approximately 1.5km and Wetherall Reserve is on the right. Teams Changeover #3 | Wetherall Reserve at the start of the Ti Trees is the third changeover point for teams. The changeover area is on the left hand bank.

## Stage 4 – Wetherall Reserve to Cobbler Pool & Finish of Day 1

11km | Grade 1 | from 8.40am (Cobbler Pool from 9.00am)

Channels exist in the Ti Trees but the frustration comes in trying to find them. Albys Ford is reached just after entry to the Ti Trees. Water levels play a great part in the ease or difficulty with which the Ti Trees may be negotiated. Should competitors be caught in the Ti Trees at nightfall they must head for the left bank only and report to a race official. Approximately 200m after Leatherhead Rapid, look out for the finish line indicating the end of Day 1 and a well-deserved rest!

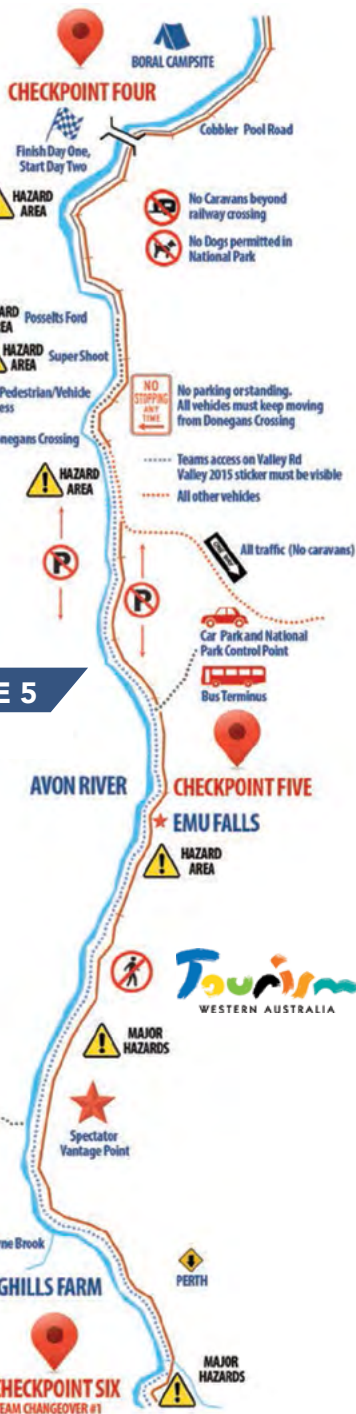
### Support Crews and Spectators

**River Road:** Please take caution on River Road as it is a gravel road. Turn right out of Wetherall Reserve parking area and ensure your vehicle doesn't block other traffic on this gravel road. Turn right at Jimpering Brook Bridge onto Cobbler Pool Road and head toward the overnight campsite. NO dogs or other pets allowed. Alternate access to River Road is via Lovers Lane. If coming from Perth turn left off Toodyay Road into Lovers Lane, care should be taken 5.9km along where Jimpering Brook crosses Lovers Lane as it may be hazardous in very wet weather, when water levels are high. Travel for a further 1.4km turning left into River Road.

**Boral Cobbler Pool Start/Finish:** it would be appreciated if movement of vehicles within the area is kept to a minimum. Please obey directions at all times. Police and security personnel will be patrolling the area.

## STAGE 4





## Stage 5: Cobbler Pool to Emu Falls 8km | Grade 2/3 | Paddlers from 7.00am, Power Craft from 12.00pm

The worst of the Ti Trees beckons competitors at the start of Day 2. Rocks and misleading channels are found right through to Possetts Ford. Depending on the water level, large boulders immediately above the Ford can be a bone jarring slide or virtually non-existent. Shortly after Possetts Ford is Super Shoot. This small rapid is more dangerous than it looks and should be approached with care. The river is then open water with a few trees before narrowing dramatically to Donegan's Crossing. From Donegan's crossing there is a series of small metres of rapids culminating in the main fall of about 2m. Water funnels into one gap at the base of Emu Falls causing congestion in all but very high water. This is known as the 'Washing Machine' and should be taken with great caution. Power Craft: please note there is no refuelling on course.

### Support Crews

Leaving camp, there are two available options:

1. Exit left via Cobbler Pool Road and Lovers Lane to Toodyay Road. All vehicles towing caravans must exit this way.
2. Exit right for Support Crews wishing to gain access at Emu Falls to Quarry Road. Quarry Road is one way only and no caravans are permitted. Then turn right out of the campsite and follow Cobbler Pool Road

**NO STOPPING.** Turn left at Quarry Road (take extreme caution when crossing the railway line) and continue for approximately 3-4km to the Emu Falls Airstrip.

**Support Crew for Teams ONLY:** upon leaving Cobbler Pool, turn right out of the campsite and follow Cobbler Pool Road to the Valley Road/Quarry Road junction. Cobbler Pool Road turns into the Valley Road at this junction. Continue straight onto Valley Road where you will be stopped by a Race Official and checked for your Valley Entry Sticker.

**NO STICKER = NO ENTRY.**

Remember, this sticker must be in the lower right corner of the front windscreen. Paddlers 2 and 3 should be in this vehicle and taken to Stronghills Farm and Bells Rapid.

**Withdrawn Craft:** Support Crews should report to the Valley Gate at the intersection of Cobbler Pool Road, Valley Road and Quarry Road for competitors and craft that have withdrawn between the Campsite and Emu Falls.

Withdrawn competitors must SMS their race ID and withdrawal location to **0456 436 500**

STRONGHILLS FARM

CHECKPOINT SIX  
TEAM CHANGEOVER #1



HAZARD AREA  
THIS PART OF THE  
RIVER IS DANGEROUS

## STAGE 6

TEAMS ACCESS ON VALLEY ROAD

AVON RIVER



BROCKMAN RIVER

SWAN RIVER



LOOKOUT RAPID

TO CHECKPOINT SEVEN



### Stage 6: Emu Falls to Stronghills Farm 10km | Grade 3 | From 7.30am

There are several rapids and small drops in this stage. Many power and paddle craft has become victim to the river in this section over the years. Support crews and spectators (except teams) will not have access to their competitors at Stronghills. The next checkpoint is at Bells Rapids. To exit Emu Falls keep heading south along Quarry Road and turn right at Morangup Road. This will take you to Toodyay Road and turn right towards Perth and the next checkpoint at Bells Rapids.

**Please note:** only 1 Valley Entry sticker is issued to Teams Support Crew and only one car per team is allowed access to the Valley Road as this is a private road. The speed limit is 20km/h and there is NO stopping on the Valley Road and headlights must be on. Give way to safety and emergency vehicles and stop ONLY at the designated Teams Changeover Point.

**Unauthorised stoppage will result in a 10 minute time penalty.**

The Valley Road is a private road and to ensure our continued use, respect must be paramount. These roads are not designed for the volumes of traffic encountered during the Avon Descent so care must be taken. Support Crews park on the roadside at Stronghills, but be sure not to block traffic. Exit along the Valley Road towards Bells Rapid.

### Withdrawn Craft Day 2

Should you withdraw from the race on day 2 down to Bells Rapids, head to the left bank. You and your craft will be taken to the grassed area just to the north of the East Swan Fire Station near the corner of Camargue Drive and Cathedral Avenue near the Equestrian Centre in Brigadoon.

Withdrawn competitors must SMS their race ID and withdrawal location to **0456 436 500**

## STAGE 7

**SPIRIT**  
PADDLE SPORTS



## Stage 7: Stronghills Farm to Bells Bridge

**21km | Grade 3/4 | From 8.30am**

This part of the river is home to a number of hazards including a 140m drop through Walyunga National Park. There is a series of small rapids below the lookout. The first of the major obstacles is Championship Rapid which is low, flat and wide. In very high water it becomes a series of standing waves. A sequence of small drops takes the competitors to the big challenge of the river, Syd's Rapid. This 100 metre rapid is a mass of rock and once competitors are launched into this long gradient they are committed to its awesome power. The river is then wide open water and a few trees to Long Pool. From Walyunga Pool the river becomes very narrow and winding. The last great obstacle of the Descent is Bells Rapid. Once this white water stage is complete, the river opens out through the beautiful scenery of the Upper Swan.

Live expert race commentary will be available.

## Support Crew and Spectators (except teams):

Continue on Toodyay Road towards Perth and turn right into Neuman Road (about 46 kms from the Lovers Lane/Toodyay Rd intersection), then right into Campersic Road, then left into Carmargue Drive, then right into Cathedral Ave and follow parking and shuttle bus directions. Bells Rapid can only be accessed via the shuttle bus.

Support Crew and Spectators must leave their vehicle at the State Equestrian Centre Parking area and use the shuttle bus provided. Parking and bus is \$10 per vehicle for all spectators. Allow a 25 minute turnaround for the shuttle bus.

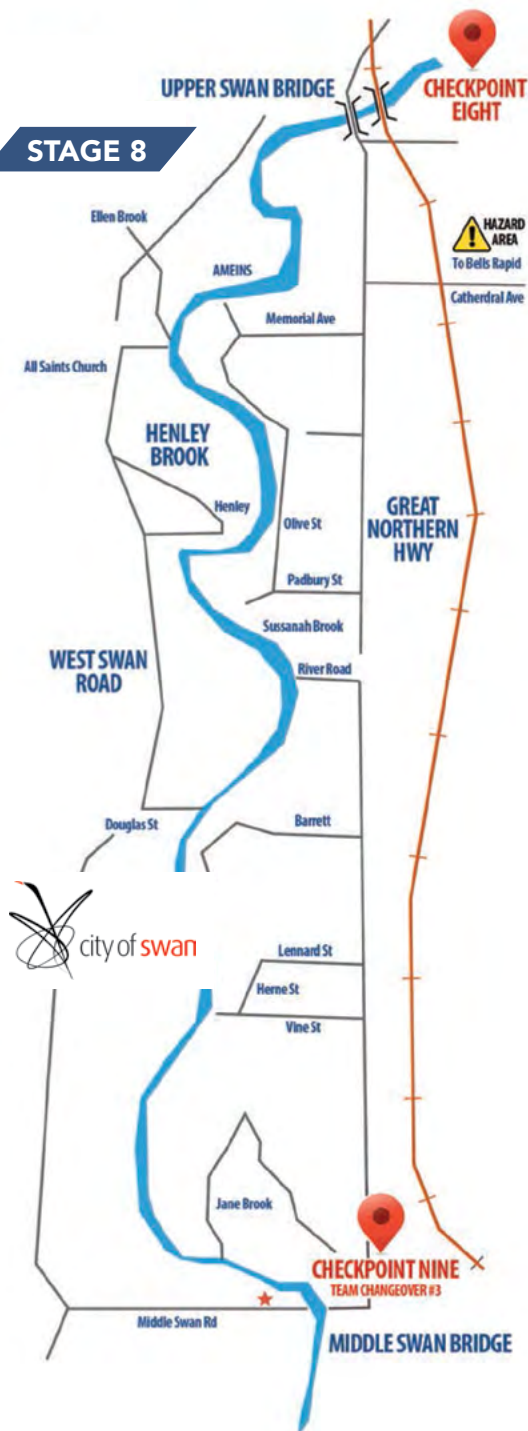
**Teams Support Crews:** Enter via the Valley Road and follow directions of officials and park in the lower car park at Bells, extra support crew vehicles will not be permitted entry down to Bells via Cathedral

Avenue. If extra support crew vehicles wish to meet their competitor at Bells they must park at the State Equestrian Centre taking the shuttle bus to Bells.

**Teams Changeover #2:** Bells Rapid is the second changeover for teams on Day 2. The changeover area is located on the left hand bank below the rapids.



## STAGE 8



## Stage 8: Bells Rapid to Middle Swan Bridge

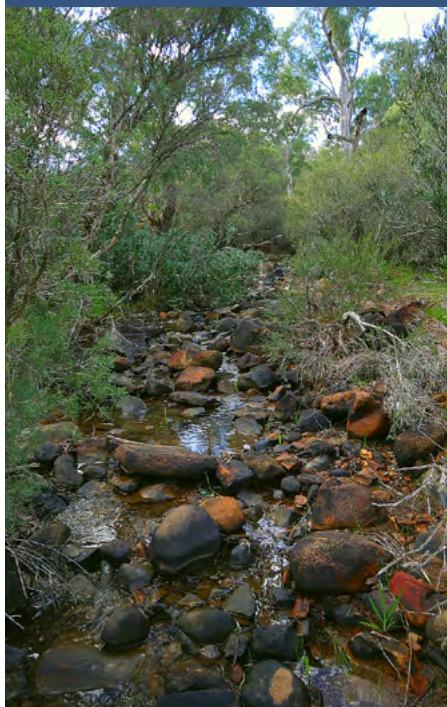
**18km | Grade 1 | From 9.15am**

Downstream from the Upper Swan Bridge the river gradient is slight and the channel shallow.

Competitors face 4km of Ti Trees and scrub before the river opens out into tidal waters. Ellenbrook enters from the right just before the end of the trees.

### Support Crews & Spectators

Upper Swan Bridge is located on Great Northern Highway. Take care when parking and if you stop here, please ensure your vehicle is not blocking traffic. Middle Swan Bridge can be accessed via Great Northern Highway. Turn right into Middle Swan Road and after a short distance turn left (follow the signs). Head under the new bridge and park in the designated area.





## Stage 9 – Middle Swan Bridge to City of Bayswater Finish Line

**15km | Grade 1 | From 11.00am (Bayswater from 11.30am)**

The Power Craft enjoy the long winding open river but for paddlers, this section is often difficult or at least testing, especially if headwinds are present. In the final stage of the race, competitors have the finish line in sight and feel the elation of completing the Avon Descent in front of the large crowd gathered on the riverbank. All competitors finish at Riverside Gardens, Bayswater to an athlete recovery area and the City of Bayswater Family Fun Day.

### STAGE 9



# Cobbler Pool Campsite

## what's on?

Saturday 5th, 2017

**when?**

**what?**

**where?**

9.00am	First Power Boat expected to arrive	Finish Line - Cobbler Pool
Midday	<b>Kids Zone</b> Open!	RaceHUB Kids Tent
12.30pm	First Paddle Craft expected to arrive	Finish Line - Cobbler Pool
2.00pm	Colouring-in competition and activities	Cobbler Pool Pit Area
2.30pm	Powercraft Timed Repairs	Pit Area
FROM 4.00pm	Day One Winners Presentation Day Two Grids Announced 'Dinner District' Opens afternoon entertainment begins!	RaceHUB Stage Food Truck Alley
4.00pm to 10.30pm	Bands, performances and more!  Live band: 'Natural High' Live Band: 'Lost and Late'  Speeches and Announcements Fireworks: Westcoast Fireworks  Live band: 'Another Fine Mess'	RaceHUB Stage

# / RACE RECORD HOLDERS

8Hp Dinghy Standard	<b>1991</b> Northam To Bayswater	K Parnell   G Black	3:01:32
8Hp Dinghy Sports	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	J Goodbody   K Goodbody	2:39:55
10Hp Dinghy Sports	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	I Williamson   T Williamson	2:11:51
10Hp Dinghy Standard	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	C Currey   D Currey	2:39:12
Novice/Past Racer			
10Hp Dinghy Super	<b>2007</b> Northam To Bayswater	J Branson   M Branson	2:28:45
6Hp Dinghy Sports	<b>1983</b> Northam To Bayswater	W Mould   N Jones	3:52:11
8Hp Alloy	<b>1994</b> Northam To Bayswater	S Brown   S Shinnick	4:02:22
Solo Dinghy	<b>2005</b> Northam To Bayswater	G Barndon	4:21:28
Single Kayak - Wk1	<b>1983</b> Northam To Bayswater	D Long	7:56:09
Single Kayak - Mk1		C Elliott	8:35:18
Single Kayak	<b>1996</b> Northam To Bayswater	M Rodgers (L)	8:28:46
	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	B Lewin	7:53:03
Single Kayak Wild Water	<b>2011</b> Northam To Bayswater	D Worthy	9:27:33
		H Thorpe (L)	10:28:34
Double Kayak - Wk2 Mk2	<b>1986</b> Northam To Bayswater	A Duke   P Pawlow	7:48:04
Double Kayak	<b>1996</b> Northam To Bayswater	P Genovesi   D Long	7:14:40
Single Kayak Plastic	<b>2000</b> Northam To Bayswater	D Hocking	10:55:35
		S Boladz (L)	12:20:29
Single Plastic Short	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	R Goodchild	9:31:09
		A Curtis (L)	10:33:50
Single Plastic Long	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	M Baker	8:07:36

Single Plastic Long	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	J Bateman (L)	9:23:48
Double Plastic	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	B Ingram   A Gluyas	9:22:49
Single Canadian	<b>1986</b> Northam To Bayswater	W Smith	9:46:00
Double Canadian	<b>1986</b> Northam To Bayswater	R Holt   R Fry	8:34:55
Double Canadian	<b>1991</b> Northam To Bayswater	P Kitney   R Holt	9:23:04
Single Surf Ski	<b>2007</b> Northam To Bayswater	J Humphrys (L)	10:33:07
	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	B Sarson	7:34:20
Single Surf Ski Recreational	<b>1999</b> Northam To Bayswater	S Lusk	10:46:29
		L Young (L)	12:04:15
Double Surf Ski	<b>1996</b> Northam To Bayswater	D Pratt   T Bird	7:13:48
Double Surf Ski Mixed	<b>2009</b> Northam To Bayswater	R Jenkinson   J Jenkinson	9:57:14
Powered Sundries	<b>1990</b> Northam To Bayswater	B Cooper   S Patterson	3:00:57
Non-Powered Sundries	<b>1991</b> Northam To Bayswater	C Boocock   I Wookey	8:52:53
73-76 Sundry 80-83 Mixed Dbl	<b>1982</b> Northam To Perth	S Snowball   J Snowball	8:21:08
Single Teams	<b>1996</b> Northam To Bayswater	B Boocock   D Bingham	8:44:19
Double Teams	<b>1996</b> Northam To Bayswater	J Muir   R Jenkinson	7:38:50
Team Pairs	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	A Nesbit   C Pretorius	7:30:39
	<b>2011</b> Northam To Bayswater	T Stedman   B Holmes	8:53:11
		K Broad   J Martin (L)	10:18:38
Team of Fours	<b>2008</b> Northam To Bayswater	R Baker   K Jarrott   M Rees   J Zerbst	7:34:58
One Day Event	<b>2013</b> Northam To Toodyay	N Keen	6:05:17
One Day Event	<b>2013</b> Northam To Toodyay	E Beeley (L)	6:21:19





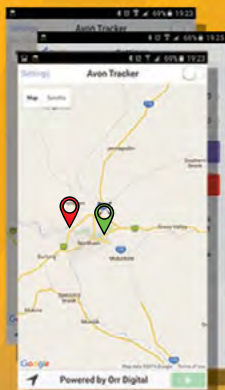
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**act**

take a walk, play a sport, go for a swim, say  
g'day, fly a kite, run, ride your bike, go to the  
beach, skate, work in the garden...

**belong**

join a sporting club, invite your mates  
outdoors, organise a bbq, be more  
involved in any teams you belong to...

**commit**

volunteer at a community event, coach  
a team, enter a sporting competition,  
commit to training, learn something new.

**act  
belong  
commit**

visit [actbelongcommit.org.au](http://actbelongcommit.org.au)

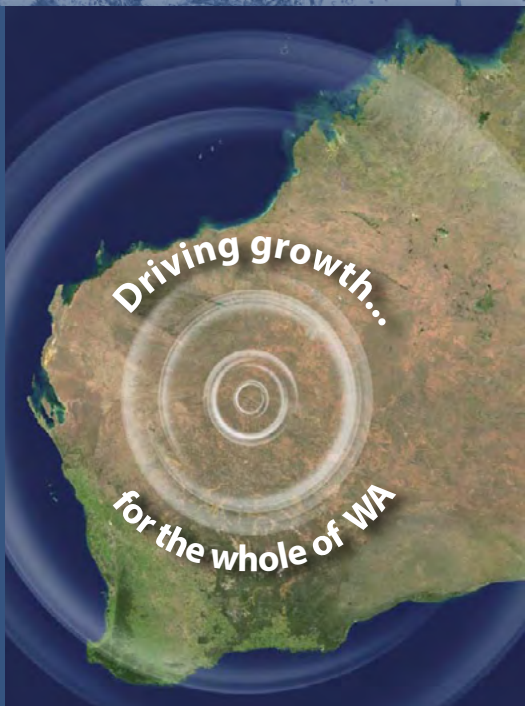




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