



Getting Started

Everything you need to know about the Avon Descent

A photograph of two whitewater rafters in a turbulent river, wearing helmets and goggles, with the word 'About' overlaid in large black text.

About

WA's unique annual whitewater marathon for paddlecraft and power dinghies from Northam to Bayswater

The two day course starts with a 52 kilometre stretch beginning at the Town of Northam. The course proceeds downriver through the town of Toodyay into the upper reaches of the Darling Range escarpment. The overnight stop is the Boral Campsite located at Cobbler Pool 20 kilometres west of Toodyay.

Day 2 is 72 kilometres long and sees competitors tackle the valley containing the major white water obstacles and challenges of the event including Supershoot, Emu Falls, Championship Rapids and Bells Rapids. The rush of the valley leaves competitors with the marathon 30 kilometre, flat water stretch to Bayswater. While the victorious burst their way over the Finish Line the achievers are happy just to finish.

Check the website for [Key Dates](#)

A faded background image showing two divers in a cave. They are wearing full diving gear, including helmets and goggles. They are looking down at a large map or chart spread out on the ground in front of them. The cave walls are rocky and uneven.

Clubs

There are several clubs, training groups and events you can get involved with to improve your skills, meet new people and have the most fun!

Check the website to find a [club](#)



Boat and Paddle

Almost any kind of boat can enter the Avon Descent (as long as it floats!) but getting all the way down the river is another matter.

For those who want to be competitive then a craft meeting the requirements of the most competitive classes are recommended.

The most popular craft to compete are in Marathon Kayaks and Sit-on-top Skis under 5.79m

A person wearing a dark life jacket and a helmet is shown in a snowy, mountainous environment. The person is looking towards the camera. The background is a bright, snowy landscape with mountains in the distance.

Helmet Life jacket Whistle

The whistle is used to call for help during an emergency and should be attached to the life jacket so as not to get lost along the way.

Pea-less whistles continue to work even when wet and are available in the [myAvon Store](#).

A faded background image of two canoeists in a river. They are wearing helmets and goggles, and are looking towards the camera. The water is splashing around them, and the background shows a rocky riverbank.


Safety

The river can throw many challenges and you need to be able to save yourself if you capsize or find yourself in a tricky situation.

If you have:

- a. Completed both days of the Avon Descent in the past 5 years,
- b. Completed a safety training course in the past 3 years, or
- c. Completed an Australian Canoeing Award System course

Then you already satisfy our safety requirements and don't need to worry!

A faded background image of two triathletes in wetsuits and helmets, crouching on a surfboard in the ocean. The text 'Support Crew' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters.

Support Crew

You will need at least one other person to act as support crew to assist you from the shore. Whether you need a drink of water, bite to eat, need help carrying the boat or want someone to monitor your times, a support crew is essential.

For teams, each team member may act as the support crew for the other members of the team during the race.

Everything is more fun when you have other people to do it with!



Welcome to the Avon Descent

Take the Plunge! avondescent.com.au