

# AVON DESCENT

take the 2018  
plunge!

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



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Shire of Norram



Shire of  
**toodyay**  
*place of plenty*



city of swan



TOWN OF  
**BASSEDEAN**  
*Home by the Swan*



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**BELMONT** • CITY OF OPPORTUNITY •



CITY OF BAYSWATER  
*The Greater City - Quality Lifestyle*

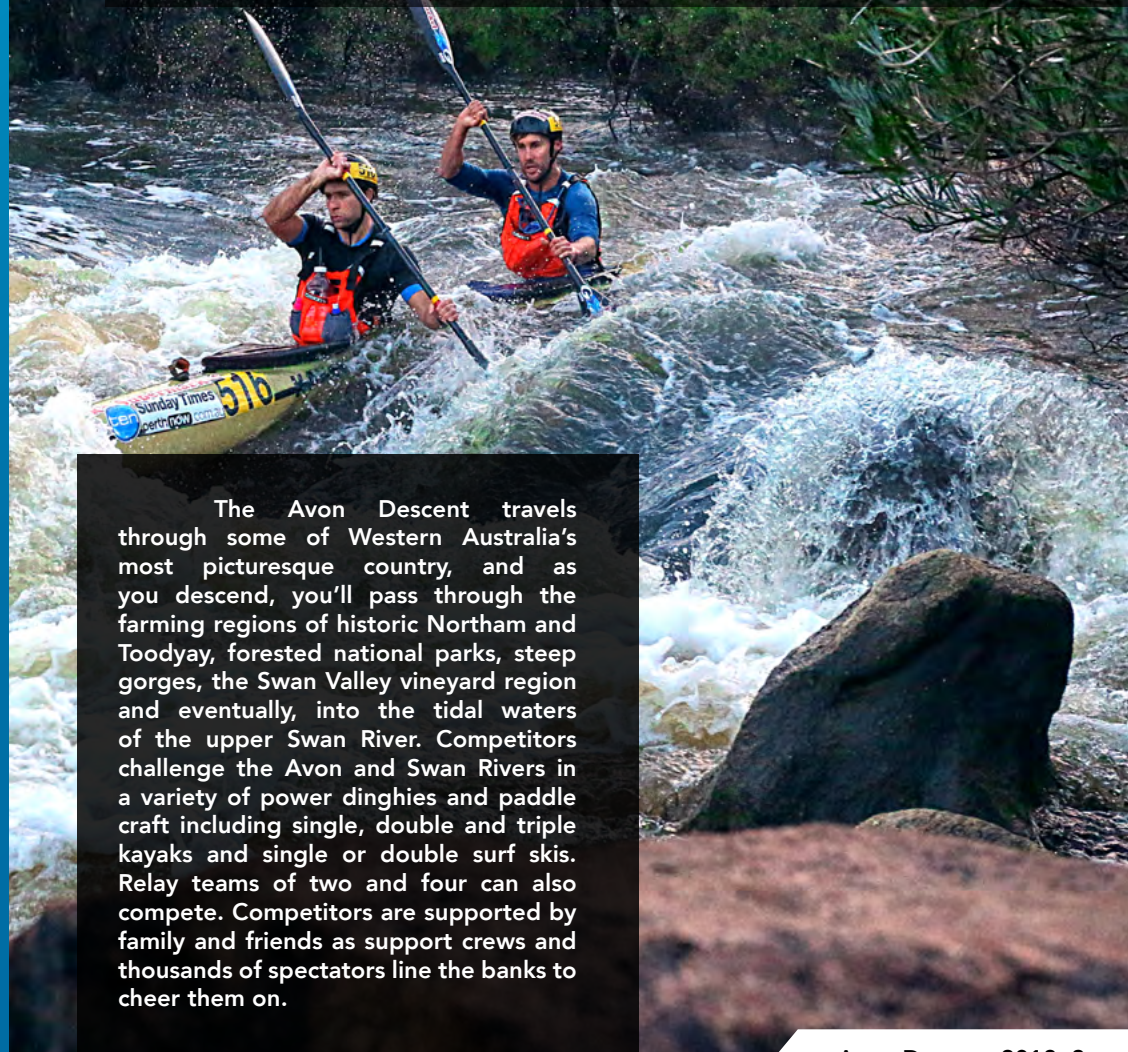






## WELCOME

*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.



# OUR TEAM

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Greg Kaeding
Vice Chairman	Michael Orr
Director, Finance	Rex Adams
Director, Sport	Jay Branson
Director, Logistics	Jane Liddle
Power Boat Delegate	Michael Prosser
Kayak Delegate	Terry Brooke
Skis Delegate	John King
Local Government Authority Delegate	Wendy Harris
ADSU Manager	Santokh Gill

## OFFICERS

Treasurer	Todd Crosswell
Secretary	Rob Riggir
Chief Marshal	Tad Sieczka
Avon Challenge Coordinator	Peter Martin

## RACE CONTROL TEAM

Race Director	John King
Deputy Race Director	Jim Smith
Deputy Race Director (Kayaks)	
Deputy Race Director (Power Boats)	Kim Epton
Deputy Race Director (Rescue & Recovery)	Santokh Gill

## 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
- 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



[www.avondescent.com.au/contact/](http://www.avondescent.com.au/contact/)  
PO Box 120 Bayswater, WA 6933

EVENT EMERGENCY CONTACT

**0456 436 500**

## EVENT MANAGEMENT

Event Coordinator	Alexandra Holcbarova
Sport & Graphics Coordinator	Sean Dunstan
Marketing Coordinator	Breanna Holmes

## MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS

Risk Management Advisor	Dave Hunt
School Program Coordinator	Rebecca Lewis
Social Media	Emily Matthews
Stalls & Exhibition	Jayne Stanley
Invitations	Lewis Watson
Avon Power Challenge	Kris Parnell



## 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/Chittering Lions Club	Start Marshalling Area/Traffic Management
Northam Lions Club	Traffic Management, Bridges
Northam SES	Power Boat Pre- and Post-Race Scrutineering
Power Dinghy Racing Club	Parking at Williamson Weir
Toodyay Football Club	Campsite Services
Toodyay Lions Club	
1st Herne Hill Scouts	

Build something great™

## Boral Australia

Suppliers of concrete, asphalt and quarry products

Boral is the proud sponsor of the Cobbler Pool Campsite

See page 26 for more information



# SPONSORS & PARTNERS

## MAJOR SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS .....



## MEDIA SPONSORS .....



## OFFICIAL PARTNERS .....



## OFFICIAL SUPPORTING SPONSORS .....



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# MESSAGES 2018

**GREG KAEDING, Chairman,**  
Northam's Avon Descent Association

To competitors, support crews, volunteers, spectators and local communities, welcome to this year's 2018 Avon Descent.

As Chairman of Northam's Avon Descent Association, it is my privilege to welcome you as a part of Western Australia's longest running multi-sport adventure event.

For the majority of our competitors the equivalent distance of 3 marathons on water in less than 36 hours represents the achievement of a major physical challenge, whilst for others negotiating the twists, the turns, the rocks, the drops, the trees, the high and low white water at speed is an opportunity to test well honed racing skills.

The achievement for all however remains the same - to beat the river and to arrive safely in Perth having enjoyed a great and unique experience whether it be as a competitor, support crew, family, friend or volunteer supporter.

But the Avon Descent is much more than an adventure challenge. It provides outdoor entertainment and pleasure for tens of thousands of spectators and the local communities that share the spectacle of white water paddling and power craft racing against the elements through the beautiful National Parks, waterway and vistas of the Avon and Swan Valleys, whilst passing through the adjacent Towns of Northam, Toodyay, Bassendean, and the cities of Swan, Belmont and Bayswater.

As we move towards our 50th anniversary event in 2022, it is important we recognise the long association and support of the State Government and its agencies, the staging of the local Government Family Fun Days along the course, and the support from the East Metropolitan Regional Council, sponsors and media partners in the conduct of this unique world standard event. We sincerely thank them for their ongoing commitment.

In 2018, NADA has partnered with the Zero2Hero organisation to promote awareness of adolescent mental health in schools and has also initiated new single day events for paddle and power craft of every variety and for new age groups so more can enjoy the Avon Descent experience and festivities.

As with all events of this scale our community groups and volunteers are integral to the safe and successful delivery of the event and for that I extend a personal thank you. For those of you watching this year, please go to our website and maybe in 2019 - Take the Plunge.

I'll see you on the water!

Greg Kaeding



## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM

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

**Avon Descent  
4-5 August 2018**



The McGowan Government is a proud sponsor of the Avon Descent through its Regional Events Scheme.

The scheme was devised as a way for the Government to support smaller and emerging events in regional Western Australia to boost tourism, increase community vibrancy and participation, and develop regional areas.

The Regional Events Scheme plays an important role in positioning Western Australia as an exciting destination to visit and a great place to live by showcasing and promoting a region's unique and diverse attractions.

Sixty-nine diverse regional events across Western Australia have been funded through the 2018-19 Regional Events Scheme. This year's round includes the Regional Aboriginal Events Scheme with a funding pool of \$150,000 exclusively allocated to events delivering Aboriginal activities and experiences.

Tourism is a key pillar of the McGowan Government's plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and develop business opportunities, especially in regional Western Australia.

To achieve this we have a two-year action plan in place to help us attract more visitors to Western Australia, encourage them to stay longer, disperse further and do more while they are here.

We hope everyone enjoys the event and takes the time to explore the Wheatbelt region.

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

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



## ROSALIE EVANS, Executive Officer, Paddle WA

On behalf of the Paddle WA Board and members, I would like to wish all Avon Descenders the best of luck for the 2018 Avon Descent.

How lucky have we been with the rains this year, plenty of time to get your skills up and have fun in the white-water with your friends and team mates, 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 is incredible 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 eleven clubs or our own Paddle 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.

Remember to have fun and see you on the finish line at Bayswater!







### Avon Descent 2018

## zero2hero<sup>®</sup> promotion

Are you a **hero** looking for a **zero**?  
You could both be eligible for a \$40 discount  
on your Avon Descent entry!

1. Like our Facebook page
2. Connect with your zero
3. Complete the application
4. Receive your discount
5. Get training !

Find out more at:  
[www.avondescent.com.au/2018promo](http://www.avondescent.com.au/2018promo)  
Terms and conditions apply.



## take the 2018 plunge!



zero2hero is a mental health and suicide prevention charity.  
Through a range of innovative school based programs,  
camps and events, zero2hero educates, engages  
and empowers young mental health heroes.



### OUR PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

**Hero High** - Schools Program

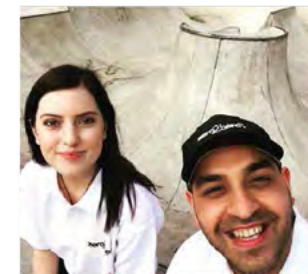
**Camp Hero** - A selection of camp programs for young people

**In Your Head** - Youth Mental Health Forum

**cape2cape** - 5-day Trek for corporate and individual supporters

**Tough Stuff** - 8 week resiliency building program

**Hero Events** - Fundraising events that promote positive  
mental health and aim to prevent suicide



VISIT [ZERO2HERO.COM.AU](http://ZERO2HERO.COM.AU) FOR INFO





## 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 visit [www.dinghyracing.com.au](http://www.dinghyracing.com.au)

**NEW!**

### Avon Power Challenge!

**4th August 2018**

**Don't want to compete in the full race but still want some powerboat action?**

Jump into the **Avon Power Challenge**, a new Avon Decent racing competition in 2018. Competitors start on the Avon Descent start line on Saturday morning and race downriver towards Cobbler Pool. Ages 14 and up!

All engines up to 10 hp (including 7.5, 8hp)  
Aluminium boats are welcome!

**Entry Fee**  
\$290 (\$260 early bird)

**Find out more at:**

[www.avondescent.com.au/avon-power-challenge](http://www.avondescent.com.au/avon-power-challenge)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| FRI 20th JULY  | : (Optional) Race Pack Collection<br>4.00pm - 8:00pm<br>Burswood Watersports Centre<br>1 Camfield Drive, Burswood   |
| SUN 22nd JULY  | : Scrutineering – Safety Briefing: 9:45am<br>: Scrutineering<br>Hinds Reserve Bayswater, from 9.00am<br>(paddlecraft), from 8.00am (powercraft)<br>: Belmont Belter Qualifying Race: 10:45am<br>Hind's Reserve, Bayswater to Garvey Park,<br>Belmont (11km)<br>: Power Craft Time Trials: 12:00pm - 4:00pm<br>: Proposed course: Bells Rapids to Middle Swan<br>Bridge (No further South) |
| SAT 28th JULY  | : Practice Day 1<br>: Paddle Craft Practice: 8:00am - 12:00noon<br>: Power Craft Practice: 12:00noon - 6:00pm   |
| SUN 29th JULY  | : Practice Day 2<br>: Power Craft Practice: 8:00am - 1:00pm<br>: Paddle Craft Practice: 1:00pm – 5:00pm   |
| FRI 3rd AUGUST | : Competitor Registrations:<br>Northam Swimming Pool – 12:00noon – 8:00pm<br>: Craft Drop Off: Start Marshalling Area<br>– 12:00noon – 10:00pm<br>: Shire of Northam Avon River Festival  |
| SAT 4th AUGUST | : Day 1 Event Start: Northam at 8:00am<br>: Avon Power Challenge<br>: Shire of Toodyay International Food Festival  |
| SUN 5th AUGUST | : Day 2 Event Start: Cobbler Pool Campsite<br>: SunSmart Avon Challenge<br>: Avon Surf Challenge<br>: City of Swan Family Fun Day<br>: Town of Bassendean Family Fun Day<br>: City of Belmont Family Fun Day<br>: City of Bayswater Family Fun Day  |



# RACE PACK COLLECTION

Race Pack contents will be available for Optional pick-up at Burswood Watersports Centre, 1 Camfield Drive Burswood from 4pm to 8pm on 20th July 2018. Alternatively they can be picked up at Scrutineering in Bayswater on 22nd 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 2018 event.

## 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.

## SUPPORT CREW STICKERS AND PASSES

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

Support Crew Passes provide access for up to 2 adults to enter the parking areas along the river including the National Parks, Bells Rapid, Extract's Weir and Cobbler Pool. Parking, bus and entry will be at a cost of \$10.00 per vehicle per location.

**NOTE:** Those vehicles displaying a Support Crew pass carrying more than 2 adults will be charged for parking.

**A Family Access Pass** will be available for \$45 online or \$50 at the Cobbler Pool Gate which provides free access for a Single vehicle to all paid parking areas along the river (except those that require a Valley Sticker)

**Valley Sticker (for team's only):** Display adjacent to Support Crew sticker on front windscreen **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 \$25 pp or online via the myAvon Store for \$20pp. 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 22nd July - Hinds Reserve Bayswater**

**Powercraft from 8:00am onwards**

**Paddlecraft 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 22 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)



## AVON DESCENT TEAM RELAY - TEAM OF 2 OR 4

### Did you know?

**You don't have to complete the full 124km of the Avon Descent to win a medal!**

The full race too much to handle? Enter into the Team Relay event with 2 or 4 people and take turns completing different sections of the water. How you complete it is up to you. Reach the finish line and you will receive a silver Team Finisher medal.

*Shorter distance, less hassle and by sharing your boat and equipment you save money!*

**Get a team of friends together and *Take the Plunge!***

### 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 Walyunga 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	Walyunga 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 Walyunga 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 checkered flag with the word 'checkpoint' in green.
- 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!

**ALL SUPPORT CREW MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET WHEN ENTERING THE WATER OTHERWISE THEIR TEAM/COMPETITOR RISKS PENALTY OR 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.

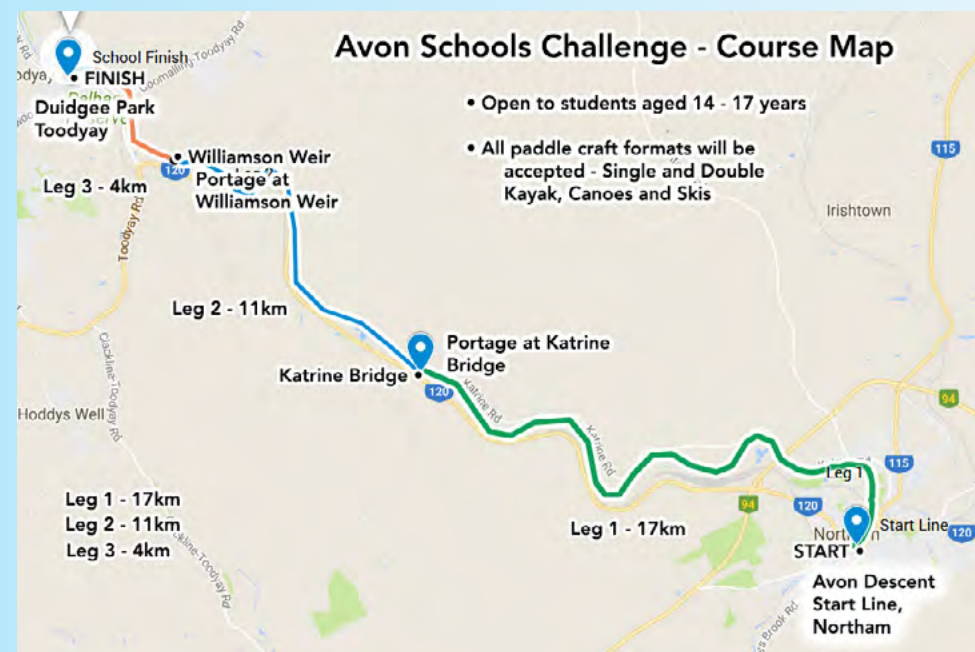
## AVON SCHOOLS CHALLENGE!

The Avon School's Challenge will be a new and integral part of Northam's Avon Descent Association's long term commitment to developing physical and mental health across Western Australia and fostering a new generation of world class athletes.

- Course: 32km
- Starting on the Saturday morning of the Avon Descent weekend
- Participation open to students aged 14 - 17 years
- All paddle craft formats - Single and Double Kayak, Canoes and Skis
- All participating students will receive an Avon Descent entry race pack
- Prizes will be awarded to schools and a winner's ceremony will be conducted on the day.
- Participating schools will also gain free access to a 5 week training program developed by Olympic medallist and Australian sprint and marathon canoeist Ramon Andersson

**We encourage you to get in touch today to discuss your school's participation in WA's newest inter-school competition in 2019.**

[www.avondescent.com.au/avon-schools-challenge](http://www.avondescent.com.au/avon-schools-challenge)



# 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:** (available for \$20pp online or \$25pp at the gate). This will allow for up to 2 nights camping at the Cobbler Pool site and full access to the RaceHUB.

For more information refer overleaf.

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 reinvigorated 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.

# COBBLER POOL FOOD AND EXHIBITION VILLAGE

Need to find your race grid number?

Want to have a quick browse?

Feel like something to eat or drink?

In addition to all the usual great food and coffee of our Food Truck Alley, the all new Cobbler Pool Exhibitor Village will exhibit a range of products from local businesses and Avon Descent supporters.

## EXHIBITORS

Avon Descent Merchandise

Bankwest

Zenith Sport Science

Tupperware

Pure & Healthy

Robie Robes

## FOOD & DRINK

On The Frog and Toad Café

That Food Truck

Temel's Turkish Food Van

What the Flip

The Dirty Swine

## PLUS

Chat with competitors & officials,  
view official race timing & results,  
information desk and more

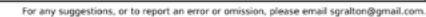
## WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Want to have your own stall at the exhibition village or know someone who would? Get in contact today!

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



## MAP OVERVIEW





## SUNSMART AVON CHALLENGE!

**Sunday 5th August 2018**

Dragon Boats, Outriggers, SUPs, Team of 3 Legs, Team of 2 legs, Canadian Canoe Team 3 leg and U18 Iron-Person 15km

The Avon Challenge presented by SunSmart is conducted by Paddle WA, in association with the Northam's Avon Descent Association. The race is open to all junior paddlers from schools, clubs, other organisations, and individuals.

Held on the Swan River, over the last 15 kilometers of the Avon Descent course, participation is in two, three and six-person Canadian canoe teams.

In the team relays each team member paddles one of the stages, the team swaps the paddler, number bib, boat and any other equipment (as required).



[www.paddlewa.asn.au/sunsmart-avon-challenge](http://www.paddlewa.asn.au/sunsmart-avon-challenge)

## / 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 has been a proud partner and supporter of the Avon Descent for more than 30 years.

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 & Arc Infrastructure 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.

[www.arcinfra.com](http://www.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 5th August. The top three place getters of the 10hp Classes (9 motors) will be scrutineered at the finish line.

## AVON SURF CHALLENGE



**NEW!**

### Avon Surf Challenge!

5th August 2018

Single and double paddlecraft and for the first time in an Avon Descent event surf boats will compete in new 15 km course traveling upriver from Bayswater and returning to the Avon Descent finish line.

*Join in the fun and excitement of the Avon Descent weekend while while being cheered on by thousands of spectators along the course. Cash prizes on offer.*

**\$50.00** per single or double  
**\$100.00** per surf boat crew

**Find out more at:**  
[www.avondescent.com.au/avon-surf-challenge](http://www.avondescent.com.au/avon-surf-challenge)





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

Nelo is the leading company in top performance kayaks and canoes and the major innovator in canoeing, from boat design to services and technology. Nelo now have a strong footing in all paddle related sports, from Rowing to Stand Up Paddle, while still developing and producing strong composite shells for other sports and showing great versatility in the production of all kind of composite sport equipment under other brands.

More than 75% of the boats raced during major world and continental competitions are Nelo boats, equipping nations worldwide.

Since Athens 2004 Nelo has been the Official Provider in Canoe Sprint for the Olympic Games, and proudly so. Our boats have collected a total of 93 Olympic Medals and just in 2016 in Rio with 27 of the 36 available medals.



**FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT**  
[nelo@neloaustralia.com.au](mailto:nelo@neloaustralia.com.au)  
Nigel +61 412 444 461  
Jimmy +61 433 991 852

## NELO OLYMPIC CHALLENGE

Nelo Australia has put the call out across the country to Australia's greatest paddlers to **Take the Plunge** into the Avon Descent in 2018 and the call has been answered!

### Team of 2

**Ken Wallace**  
Olympic Gold  
2x Olympic Bronze

**Bill Bain**  
Former Junior World  
Marathon Champ  
Australian Sprint Rep

### Single

**Michael Baker**  
Aus Marathon Team Rep  
2016 Ski Winner

### Team of 2

**Todd Brewer**  
Former U23  
National Sprint Rep

**Tom Norton**  
Former U23  
National Sprint Rep

### Team of 2

**Lachlan Armstrong**  
WAIS Squad athlete

**Brett Cassidy**  
WAIS Squad athlete

### Single

**Ramon Andersson**  
Olympic Bronze Medallist  
World Marathon Champ

### Team of 2

**Gary Clarke**  
Avon Descent Veteran

**Thomas Rogan**  
Avon Descent Veteran

### Single

**Raf Avigad**  
Veteran Paddler

### Support Crew & Commentary

**Lachlan Tame**  
Olympic Bronze Medallist

**Nigel Gregory**  
Nelo Australia

Come down to the Avon Descent Finish Line in Bayswater for expert commentary and a meet and greet with our Olympian Challenge team!

### TO LEARN MORE VISIT

[www.facebook.com/avondescent](https://www.facebook.com/avondescent) or  
[www.facebook.com/NeloAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/NeloAustralia)



# 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!

## CLIFF WILLIAMS, RESCUE COORDINATOR

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

I attended a Swift Water Rescue course that was run through Dwellingup Adventures and one of the instructors was Graham Sharpe. He has been involved with the ADSU for many years and based upon his obvious passion for the unit I contacted him in the lead up to the next event.

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

There is a lot that I enjoy about ADSU. For a start the volunteers that do this are extremely dedicated but also a great bunch of people who certainly know how to unwind once the pressure is off! There is a huge range of experience and expertise that is brought to the group with everyone keen to provide the best service possible to the event.

I love being outdoors and in the water. It's great to be with a group across all the areas of ADSU who aren't happy sitting on their backsides at home but will put up their hands to cook, run radios, jump in the freezing cold water or drag boats for miles.

Finally, I love the challenge of preparing for and responding to emergency situations. Being ex-military and after 20+ years in the emergency services I am a firm believer in the adage of 'Train hard – fight easy!'

### 3. Most challenging experience?

I think that currently the most challenging element is an administrative one. The unit, like many volunteer-based organisations, is struggling to get numbers. The current management group is very aware that we need to be proactive and work hard to get more people on board.

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

Always going to be a contentious point! Rescue teams require a big commitment in the 6 months leading up to the event to ensure that our personnel can perform in one of the highest risk rescue areas you will come across.

Recovery get smashed in the preparation a couple of weeks out while I am pretty sure the primary directive to boats is to not only perform to the highest level but to always look good on the water!

When all is said and done I think the Leadership team are hands down the hardest working group.

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

ADSU is an amazing group with a long and professional history with the event. There really is something for just about anyone. Anything you bring to the unit, be it specialist skills or just life skills and a desire to challenge yourself, then you will find a home with the ADSU.

# 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 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, Former Act Belong Commit ADSU Manager, Volunteer with the Act Belong Commit ADSU for 15 years



# Northam's Avon River festival

Minson Avenue | 4pm Friday, 3 August

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



T: 9622 2100  
E: [events@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:events@northam.wa.gov.au)  
Visit Northam



LIKE TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD FESTIVAL ON FACEBOOK

Or head to  
[toodyayiff.wixsite.com/home](http://toodyayiff.wixsite.com/home)  
for full program details!

## TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL 2018



FREE FAMILY FUN DAY!

Stirling Park & Duidgee Park

Saturday 4 August 10.00 am- 4.00 pm

Come and celebrate the 2018 Avon Descent at the fourteenth 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, free kids activities and a fantastic entertainment line-up featuring African drumming, Indonesian dancing, Cossack dancers, bands and food/cooking demonstrations by WA's Food Ambassador; Don Hancey!

Proudly brought to you by



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PERTH'S EASTERN REGION?

### THE SWAN RIVER RAMBLE

Spend a day with the family exploring the Swan River and discover the QR codes that highlight attractions along the way.

### ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS

**Bush Skills 4 Youth** - free youth-focussed workshops and events providing opportunities to develop awareness and appreciation of local natural environments, plus skills on how to preserve them.

**Bush Skills for the Hills** - free workshops explaining the whys and hows of managing land, bush and creeks in the hills.

### THE GREENPAGE

A bi-monthly Landcare newsletter packed with information on important issues affecting landcare and work being undertaken in Perth's Eastern Region - plus activities, training and funding opportunities.



### EVENTS

Check out the activities and events including the Avon Descent Family Fun Days, Perth's Autumn Festival and more.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF  
PERTH'S EASTERN REGION AND  
SUPPORTED BY THE EMRC



VISIT [PERTHSEASTERNREGION.COM.AU](http://PERTHSEASTERNREGION.COM.AU)  
TO CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!





CITY OF SWAN AND PERTH AIRPORT PRESENT

# Avon Descent Festival '18

FREE FAMILY EVENT!



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 5 | LILAC HILL PARK, CAVERSHAM**  
**10AM TO 3PM | [WWW.SWAN.WA.GOV.AU/AVON](http://WWW.SWAN.WA.GOV.AU/AVON)**

SUPPORTED BY



PRESENTED BY



AVON  
DESCENT

**CITY OF BELMONT**  
**AVON DESCENT FAMILY FUN DAY**  
**SUNDAY, 5 AUGUST 2018**  
**11:30AM TO 3:30PM**  
**GARVEY PARK, FAUNTLEROY AVENUE, ASCOT**  
**FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES | LIVE RACE COMMENTARY**  
**HELICOPTER RIDES**

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



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?



BelmontCouncilWA



BelmontCouncilWA



@BelmontCouncil



**FREE EVENT AVON DESCENT**  
**FINISH LINE FAMILY FUN DAY**

**11AM – 6PM**  
**RIVERSIDE GARDENS BAYSWATER**

**SUN 05 AUG 18**

**ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY**

**ENJOY FREE BOUNCY CASTLES AND FACE PAINTING**  
**COMMERCIAL FOOD TRUCKS AND MARKET STALLS!**

**PARKING VIA SLADE AND KING WILLIAM STREETS ONLY**

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

lotterywest supported

AVON DESCENT

CITY OF BAYSWATER



# FAMILY FUN DAYS

## SPECTATOR LOCATIONS



### SHIRE OF NORTHAM AVON RIVER FESTIVAL

**Date:** Friday 3rd August 2018

**Time:** 4.00pm - 9.00pm

**Where:** Minson Avenue, Northam

Celebrate the excitement of the start of the world's greatest white water event at the Shire of Northam's Avon River Festival. There will be entertainment by Refractory Road, a street parade, amusements and rides, free family fun zone, the largest fireworks display in the Avon Valley and a variety of food.

### TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND FAMILY FUN DAY

**Date:** Saturday 4th August 2018

**Time:** 10.00am - 4.00pm

**Where:** Stirling Park & Duidgee Park, Toodyay



Combine the thrills and spills of the Avon Descent with dozens of mouth-watering international cuisine stalls and free family entertainment all on the banks of the Avon River. The main stage will come to life with a diverse range of performers inspired from around the globe.

### AVON DESCENT FESTIVAL - CITY OF SWAN



**Date:** Sunday 5th August 2018

**Time:** 10.00am - 3.00pm

**Where:** Lilac Hill, Caversham

The Avon Descent Festival returns to Lilac Hill on Sunday August 5 with our biggest program of family fun yet.

Soak up the jam packed program of onstage entertainment featuring Duncan Saige, The Lulus, Junkadelic and Zap Circus.

There's also a special edition of the Vintage Collective Markets, community art installation by Mundaring Arts Centre, a cracking food truck line up, crowd favourite fair rides and inflatables in the Movida Fun Zone, giant bubbles, drumming

workshops, the Midland Gate Massage Retreat, Swan Valley giveaways and much much more.

And of course, don't forget to make the most of our prime riverside vantage point and cheer loud and proud as the Avon Descent competitors zoom past in their quest for victory.

There's free parking opposite the site and a free shuttle bus from Guildford train station all day.

### BASSO'S COMMUNITY GATHERING TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

**Date:** Sunday 5 August 2018

**Time:** 11.00am - 2.00pm

**Where:** Point Reserve, Bassendean



View the Avon Descent from the banks of one of the Town of Bassendean's picturesque riverside reserves such as the beautiful Point Reserve. Pack a picnic and head down to enjoy free activities including a free sausage sizzle and giant games.



### AVON DESCENT FAMILY FUN DAY CITY OF BELMONT

**Date:** Sunday 5 August 2018

**Time:** 11.30am - 3.00pm

**Where:** Garvey Park, Ascot

Get up close to all of the action at the City of Belmont FREE family fun day. Enjoy live race commentary on the banks of the Swan River, FREE children's activities and much more. If you are a City of Belmont resident with an Opportunity Card, take advantage of your free and discounted offers during the day (limits apply).

### AVON DESCENT FINISH LINE FAMILY DAY CITY OF BAYSWATER

**Date:** Sunday 5th August

**Time:** 11.00am - 5.00pm

**Where:** Riverside Gardens, 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 with bouncy castles, children's rides, face painting and live commentary over the loud speakers.





## 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

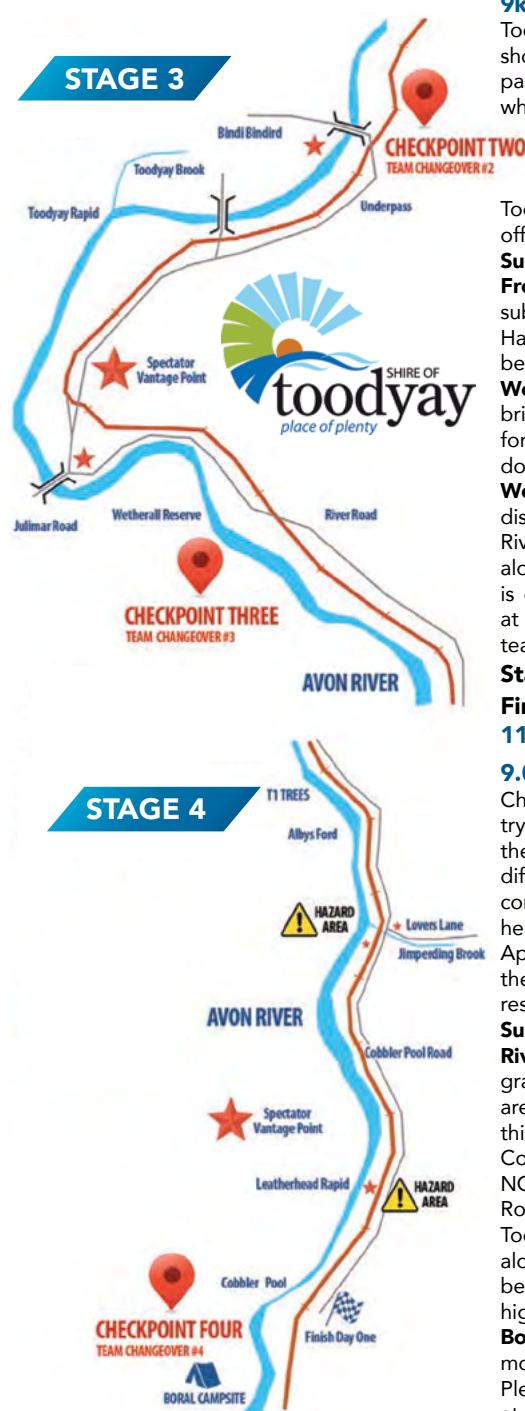
The hazard of Glen Avon Rapid is 2km downstream from Katrine Bridge, followed by 7km of coffee rock with negotiable channels. Sinclair's Crossing, beneath Dumbarton Bridge, creates a hazard in low to medium water. The next challenge is Williamson Weir. This 3m high rock weir provides one of the most 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.



## STAGE 3

## STAGE 4

## 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 the area 50m up Julimar Road towards Toodyay formerly known as Toodyay Oval. 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 Cobble Pool & Finish of Day 1

11km | Grade 1 | from 8.40am (Cobble 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 Cobble 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 Cobble 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 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.

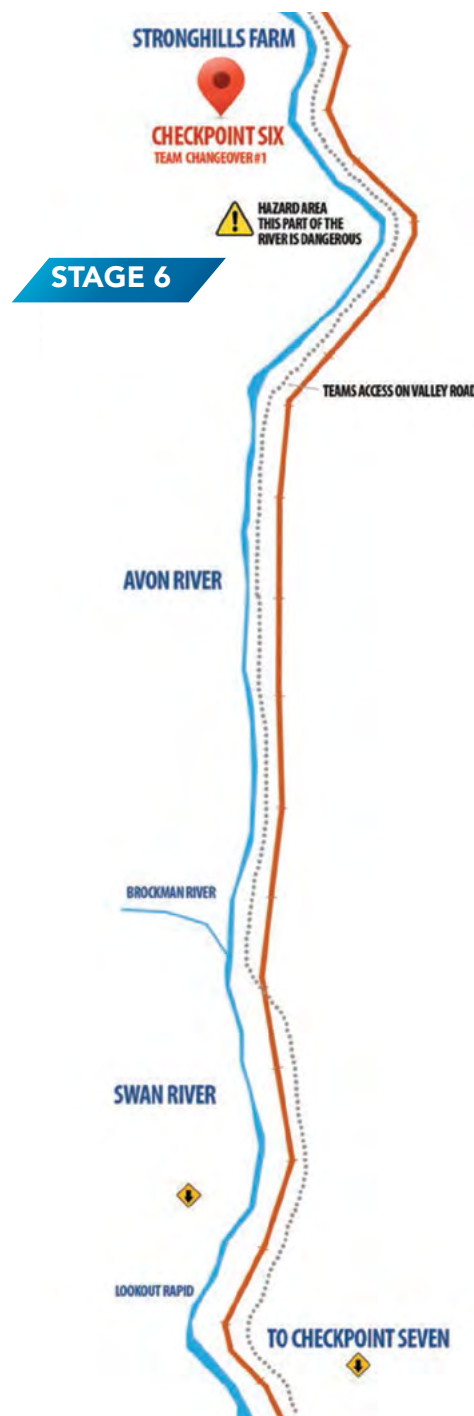
**Support Crew for Teams ONLY:** upon leaving Cobbler Pool, turn right out of the campsite and follow Cobbler Pool Road to the Valley Road/Quarry Road junction. Cobbler Pool Road turns into the Valley Road at this junction. Continue straight onto Valley Road where you will be stopped by a Race Official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



### 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



## 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, Syds 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.

**Did you know?**

The sweep boat is a support craft operated by the Avon Descent Support Unit that sweeps the river behind the last competitor to make sure no one has been left behind.





# / RACE RECORD HOLDERS

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

Single Plastic Long	2008	Northam To Bayswater	J Bateman (L)	9:23:48
Double Plastic	2008	Northam To Bayswater	B Ingram I A Gluyas	9:22:49
Single Canadian	1986	Northam To Bayswater	W Smith	9:46:00
Double Canadian	1986	Northam To Bayswater	R Holt I R Fry	8:34:55
Double Canadian	1991	Northam To Bayswater	P Kitney I R Holt	9:23:04
Single Surf Ski	2007	Northam To Bayswater	J Humphrys (L)	10:33:07
	2008	Northam To Bayswater	B Sarson	7:34:20
Single Surf Ski Recreational	1999	Northam To Bayswater	S Lusk	10:46:29
			L Young (L)	12:04:15
Double Surf Ski	1996	Northam To Bayswater	D Pratt I T Bird	7:13:48
Double Surf Ski Mixed	2011	Northam To Bayswater	N Leaversuch I P Leaversuch	8:49:40
Power Sundry	1990	Northam To Bayswater	B Cooper I S Patterson	3:00:57
Paddle Sundry	1991	Northam To Bayswater	C Boocock I I Wookey	8:52:53
73-76 Sundry 80-83 Mixed Dbl	1982	Northam To Perth	S Snowball I J Snowball	8:21:08
Single Teams	1996	Northam To Bayswater	B Boocock I D Bingham	8:44:19
Double Teams	1996	Northam To Bayswater	J Muir I R Jenkinson	7:38:50
Team Pairs	2008	Northam To Bayswater	A Nesbit I C Pretorius	7:30:39
	2011	Northam To Bayswater	T Stedman I B Holmes	8:53:11
			K Broad I J Martin (L)	10:18:38
Team of Fours	2008	Northam To Bayswater	R Baker I K Jarrott I M Rees I J Zerbst	7:34:58
One Day Event	2013	Northam To Toodyay	N Keen	6:05:17
One Day Event	2013	Northam To Toodyay	E Beeley (L)	6:21:19
Ocean Racer Single	2017	Northam to Bayswater	D Martin	11:35:57



## Burswood Water Sports Centre

WA Recreational Water Sports Association Incorporated



Northam's Avon Descent Association would like to extend a thank you to WARWSA for the generous contribution of their facilities in the organisation of the 2018 Avon Descent.

### WARWSA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The Boating Industry Association of WA Inc.

The Power Dinghy Racing Club Inc.

The West Australian Speed Boat Club Inc.

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The West Australian Marathon Club Inc.

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

# Avon Tracker

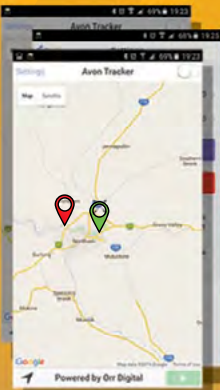
Mobile GPS Tracking

Designed to assist competitors with:

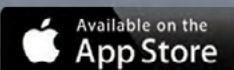
- ▶ Support Crew Assistance
- ▶ Rapid Emergency Response

The AvonTracker is a FREE phone-based solution designed to increase competitor safety and improve emergency response during the Avon Descent.

Utilises a phone's GPS to provide up-to-date positional information



Available Now!



See the Avon Descent website for more info.

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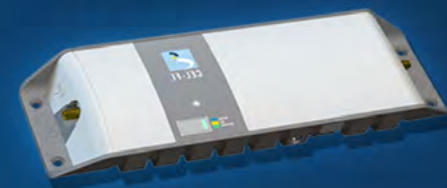
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