

AVON  
DESCENT

# 2021 Avon Descent

## Spectator Guide

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



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA



Will you survive the Avon Descent?

# BRAINS V BRAWN SURVIVOR

10

7.30 SUNDAY - THURSDAY  
FROM JULY 18

## SPONSORS & PARTNERS



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
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# MESSAGES 2021

**GREG KAEDING, Chairperson,**  
Northam's Avon Descent Association (Inc)

It gives me much pleasure in welcoming everyone to this year's 2021 Avon Descent from Northam to Bayswater. This iconic multisport community adventure event, pitting paddle and power against the river, is now in its 48th year.

Whilst COVID precluded the conduct of last year's event, it is notable that entries for this year's event are on the rise with many keen to take advantage of what has been a wetter than usual season and exciting new lead-in events.

The Avon Descent has moved from its traditional weekend to the 3rd weekend in August, acknowledging the late onset of traditional winter rains over the last 10 years.

Over the last 3 events the Avon Descent has not only provided the traditional 124 kilometre white-water marathon event opportunity for paddlers and power-craft, but has also introduced a range of other craft, distances and team relay opportunities for traditional competitors and adventure racers alike, whether one day challenge event, a team relay, or a short course, what attracts competitors and spectators alike is the hype and the atmosphere unique to the Avon Descent.

The combination of the Avon Descent race competition and the family festival fun days run by our local government event partners are a welcome distraction from Perth's winter blues!

The Avon Descent is also about our hundreds of Act Belong Commit Volunteers and our Act Belong Commit Avon Descent Support Unit, whether it be Board members, rescue and recovery personnel or our parking coordinators, all are committed and dedicated to delivering a first class event experience.

This year we welcome a new partner in City of Armadale as the Avon Descent moves from becoming a weekend only event to a month-long opportunity for participation in qualifying events, demonstration events, a new Armadale community festival and introducing new and exciting event participation categories.

The Avon Descent will bring much pleasure to the tens of thousands of spectators and local communities sharing the spectacle of racing against the elements through the backdrop of the beautiful National Parks, waterways and vistas of the Avon and Swan Valleys.

As we move towards the 50th anniversary event in 2022, it is important to recognise the support of all our local government partners acknowledged in this handbook, the Department of Tourism, Healthway, the East Metropolitan Regional Council, our media partner in Channel 10 and our founding member organisations in Paddle WA and the Power Dinghy Racing Club.

An event of this magnitude cannot happen without your support. On behalf of the NADA Board, I sincerely thank them for their ongoing commitment and for those of you watching this year, please go to our website and maybe next year in 2022 'we will see you on the water!'



## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA, MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND HON ALANNAH MACTIERMAN MLC, MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**The Avon Descent  
13-15 August 2021**



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

The scheme was established to support smaller and emerging events in regional Western Australia to boost tourism, increase community vibrancy and participation, and develop regional areas.

It also plays an important role in positioning Western Australia as an exciting destination to visit and a great place to live by showcasing and promoting the host region's unique and diverse attractions.

Sixty-two regional events across WA have been funded through the 2021-22 Regional Events Scheme, which includes the Regional Aboriginal Events Scheme, with a funding pool of \$150,000 exclusively allocated to events delivering Aboriginal activities and experiences.

We are pleased to support these events, which will help to stimulate regional economies and communities that have been set back as a result of COVID-19.

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

Events play an important role in this plan, with the Government sponsoring a range of sporting, cultural, arts and culinary events across the State, through Tourism Western Australia, to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer, disperse further and do more while they are here.

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

**HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA  
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

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

# AVON DESCENT FESTIVALS & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The Avon Descent festival days are back! Alongside the iconic river race for power and paddlecraft, the Avon Descent will see a return of the fantastic free family festivals along the course, this year kicking off with an all new family day at the Champion Lakes Regatta Centre. More now than ever, the Avon Descent has something for everyone!

## **Sunday 1st August**

**Avon Descent Community Day – Armadale**, 11:00am – 3:00pm, Champion Lakes Regatta Centre

## **Friday 13th August**

**Northam Bilya Festival**, 5:00pm – 9:00pm, Bernard Park, Northam

## **Saturday 14th August**

**Toodyay International Food Festival and Family Fun Day**, 10:00am – 4:00pm, Duidgee Park, Toodyay

## **Sunday 15th August**

**City of Swan Avon Descent Festival**, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Lilac Hill park, Caversham

## **City of Belmont Avon Descent Family Fun Day**

11:00am – 3:00pm  
Garvey Park, Fauntleroy Avenue, Ascot

## **City of Bayswater Avon Descent Finish Line Family Fun Day**

11:00am – 6:00pm  
Riverside Gardens, Bayswater

Competitor information can be found separately in the "Avon Descent Competitor Guide"

See all the family fun day information online at  
[www.avondescent.com.au/festivals](http://www.avondescent.com.au/festivals)



**Avon Descent Community Day - Armadale on 1st August (overleaf)**  
See [www.avondescent.com.au](http://www.avondescent.com.au) for more information

# AVON DESCENT COMMUNITY DAY

ARMADALE

**SUNDAY 1 AUGUST**  
**11AM-3PM** | CHAMPION LAKES  
REGATTA CENTRE

In partnership with the Avon Descent we are proud to present the **Avon Descent Community Day** at the world-class Champion Lakes Regatta Centre as the first official event of the Avon Descent!



**FREE TICKETED EVENT**

A family friendly, COVID safe,  
smoke and alcohol free event

**TRY OUT DRAGON BOATING  
WATER RACES TO SPECTATE  
LIVE MUSIC • ACTIVITIES  
FOR ALL AGES • CLUB  
STALLS • FOOD TRUCKS  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
TO PURCHASE**



# FRIDAY 13TH AUGUST

## NORTHAM BILYA FESTIVAL AVON DESCENT START LINE

**Date:** Friday 13 August 2021

**Time:** 5pm – 9pm

**Where:** Bilya Koort Boodja Centre Garden, Minson Avenue, Northam



Join us at the Start Line of the world's greatest white water race! This year the reimagined Northam Bilya Festival highlights the cultural significance of the Avon River flowing through Nyoongar Ballardong country – 'bilya koort boodja, river heart land'. The evening's celebrations start with a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony and river blessing for a safe Avon Descent weekend. The festivities continue with the annual community street parade, the ceremonial turning on of the lights on Australia's longest pedestrian suspension bridge spanning the Avon River, and more family fun activities! For the full program, call the Northam Visitor Centre on (08) 9622 2100 or visit [www.facebook.com/visitnortham](https://www.facebook.com/visitnortham)



## bilya koort boodja northam

CENTRE FOR NYOONGAR CULTURE  
& ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

One hour from Perth in the heart of the  
Avon Valley on Ballardong Country



## river heart land



OPEN: Mon - Sun | 9am - 4pm

Minson Avenue, Northam WA 6401

(08) 9622 2170 | [info@bilyakoortboodja.com](mailto:info@bilyakoortboodja.com)

Entry Fees Apply



BILYA KOORT BOODJA  
CENTRE FOR NYOONGAR CULTURE  
& ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE



# SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST

## NORTHAM SATURDAY MORNING

**Date:** Saturday 14 August 2021

8:00am Start of the Avon Descent powerboats  
8:30am Start of the Avon Descent paddlers

Start Line brekky food and coffee vans... support local!

**Bilya Koort Boodja Centre fire pit will be lit to warm the early birds!**

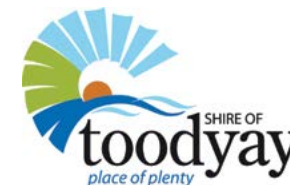
**All Day: Bilya Koort Boodja Centre's 3rd Birthday Party**

**Free cupcakes!**

**Free community art work:** Kirk will be doing a huge art piece that will be of the Bilya running through the middle and then a specific art design and then people who come in can put their handprint on the art work to show everyone coming together for the BKB 3rd birthday. This art piece will be big enough so we can replace the Arial shot of Northam in the round room with this.

**Free weaving workshop** where people can come in and join in.

## TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL & FAMILY FUN DAY



**Date:** Saturday 14th August

**Time:** 10.00am - 4.00pm

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

Enjoy mouth-watering food and free family entertainment at the Toodyay International Food Festival. Held on the banks of the Avon River, it's the perfect location to watch the Avon Descent race. Highlights include food trucks, food stalls, on-stage entertainment, face painting, bouncing castles, animal fair, and roving entertainment.

For more information go the Shire of Toodyay Facebook event or [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au).

## Toodyay International Food Festival

Lots of food!

**Saturday 14 August 2021**  
**10am to 4pm**  
**Stirling Park, Toodyay**

Watch  
the Avon  
Descent

Free family  
event



# SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST

## AVON DESCENT FESTIVAL - CITY OF SWAN

**Date:** Sunday 15th August

**Time:** 10.00am - 3.00pm

**Where:** Lilac Hill, Caversham



The Avon Descent Festival returns to Lilac Hill with a splash in 2021!

With a cracking onstage line up on the Brabham Estate main stage including Coby Grant, Josephine and Goggles, Fliptease Circus and big screens showing live race footage from Bells Rapids!

Plus grab some delish eats from the food truck line up and kick back in the Movida Estate chill zone, take in the Artisan and Retro Markets, a stack of free rides, amusements and more!

A prime vantage point and free family activities galore? It doesn't get any better on Avon Descent weekend.

Check out the City of Swan Facebook page for all the juicy information and updates. Limited free parking onsite and a free shuttle available from Guildford Train Station.

CITY OF SWAN PRESENTS...

# Avon Descent Festival

**FREE FAMILY EVENT**  
#AvonDescentFamilyDays

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 10AM TO 3PM**  
**LILAC HILL PARK, CAVERSHAM**

Find out more [www.avondescent.com.au/festivals](http://www.avondescent.com.au/festivals)

AVON DESCENT MOVIDA ESTATE BRABHAM lotterywest Perth Airport Midland Gate city of swan

# AVON DESCENT



## CITY OF BELMONT

# AVON DESCENT FAMILY FUN DAY

**SUNDAY, 15 AUGUST 2021 FROM 11AM TO 3PM**  
**GARVEY PARK, FAUNTLEROY AVENUE, ASCOT**

ENTERTAINMENT • DISCOUNTED HELICOPTER RIDES •  
LIVE RACE COMMENTARY • COVERED VIEWING OF  
THE AVON DESCENT

**FREE  
EVENT!**

Book tickets at [avon-descent-2021.eventbrite.com.au](https://avon-descent-2021.eventbrite.com.au)



Visit [belmont.wa.gov.au](http://belmont.wa.gov.au) 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?

[belmont.wa.gov.au](http://belmont.wa.gov.au)

[belmontcouncilwa](https://www.facebook.com/belmontcouncilwa)

[belmontcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/belmontcouncil)

[belmontcouncilwa](https://www.twitter.com/belmontcouncilwa)

[www.belmont.wa.gov.au](http://www.belmont.wa.gov.au)



## SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST (CONT)

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

**Date:** Sunday 15th August

**Time:** 11.00am – 6.00pm

**Where:** Riverside Gardens, Bayswater



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.

Visit <http://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/events> for more information.

### WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR AT BAYSWATER

Short Race competitors will be racing in the LiveLighter 'Ramon' from Middleswan to Bayswater 8:30-11:00am.


Dragonboats will be racing for the first time in the Avon Descent in a dedicated 6km short race from Bassendean to Bayswater, 10:30-11:30am.

Please see overleaf for estimates on arrivals of paddlers and powerboaters in the main race.

**Times and arrivals for all race activities are estimates only.**

# AVON DESCENT FINISH LINE FAMILY FUN DAY



 Sunday 15 August  
11am - 6pm

 Riverside Gardens  
Bayswater

Cheer on the Avon Descent competitors as they cross the finish line at Riverside Gardens. Enjoy food trucks, market stalls, entertainment and activities for the whole family.

Entry is free.

City of  
**Bayswater**  
Community Event

 [facebook.com/bayswatercity](https://facebook.com/bayswatercity)

 [instagram.com/cityofbayswater](https://instagram.com/cityofbayswater)

[bayswater.wa.gov.au](http://bayswater.wa.gov.au)



# FLOOD AWARE BE PREPARED

Floods are unpredictable and can happen even in Regions which may have never seen rain. It is crucial as a community to understand risk, flood behaviour, how to be family ready, know vulnerable areas and where to find current information.

## What you need to know:



Understand the potential flood risk to your area



Be prepared



Respond and stay informed

## In a Rare Event of a Flood



Listen to the radio, monitor Emergency WA websites & follow advice from authorities.



Only return home when authorities tell you it's safe. Do not drive through floodwaters.



If you experience damage and need help, call SES on 132 500. For life threatening emergencies, call 000.

## WHEN DO THE BOATS ARRIVE?

		High Water		Medium Water		Low Water	
		Power	Paddle	Power	Paddle	Power	Paddle
Day One	Northam	8:00	8:30	8:00	8:30	8:00	8:30
	Extracts Weir	8:20	10:20	8:25	10:30	8:30	10:45
	Duidgee Park	8:25	10:30	8:30	10:40	8:35	10:55
	Cobbler Pool	8:45	11:45	8:55	12:00	9:05	12:30
Day Two	Cobbler Pool	12:00	7:00	12:00	7:00	12:00	7:00
	Bells Rapids	12:45	9:10	12:55	9:50	13:15	10:15
	Middleswan	13:05	10:30	13:15	11:15	13:30	12:00
	Lilac Hill Park	13:05	10:50	13:15	11:35	13:35	12:25
	Garvey Park	13:10	11:05	13:20	12:00	13:40	12:45
	Bayswater	13:15	11:15	13:25	12:15	13:45	13:00

## ARRIVAL TIMES

The above times are a **guide only**. These refer to when the first paddle and powercraft will pass by each spectator location at high, medium and low river levels. Higher river levels mean faster flowing water and faster moving competitors, likewise low river levels makes it slower, more arduous and may mean competitors have to run or walk if the river is especially low. Many factors affect these times including rainfall and start times.

In some instances, the start times may be delayed 30 minutes or more if there is fog along the course to allow time for it to clear, and this will affect times throughout that day.

For more information on current and historical river levels visit **[water.thebeatentrack.org](http://water.thebeatentrack.org)**

For more information on past and current times visit the Avon Descent website for historical race times and current competitor information through the AvonTracker **[www.avondescent.com.au](http://www.avondescent.com.au)**



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



# WANDER OUT YONDER

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## THE AVON VALLEY

### Top 10 Adventures

1. Drive a scenic 1.5 hours from Perth to the Avon Valley.
2. Visit York for festivals, racing, local fare, arts and crafts.
3. Picnic by the Avon River or savour a meal at a historic pub.
4. Watch the thrills of the annual Avon Descent.
5. Try hot air ballooning or hang gliding in Northam.
6. Discover New Norcia, Australia's only monastic town.
7. Wander through Toodyay's colonial history and architecture.
8. Visit the charming towns of Goomalling, Beverley and Brookton.
9. Enjoy the many scenic walk trails and native wildflower trails.
10. Sleep well in historic hotels and welcoming bed and breakfasts.

Follow us at @WesternAustralia  
#wanderoutyonder

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