

50TH AVON DESCENT



Participant Guide

12 — 13 August 2023



WESTERN
AUSTRALIA



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WALKING ON A DREAM

PERTH | BOORLOO

Perth is effortlessly Australian, the most relaxed and naturally adventurous capital city in the world.

Choose your dream adventure

- Feel the thrill of powerboating, skiing, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking in the region's stunning 295km long Avon River.
- Immerse yourself in Noongar culture on an Aboriginal tour – discover the cultural significance and ancient stories of this region.
- Soak up the sun and relax in one of the world's largest inner-city parks, Kings Park & Botanic Garden.
- Discover Rottnest Island / Wadjemup, where you'll be greeted by 63 wondrous beaches and the world's happiest animal, the adorable quokka.
- Discover our 'many stories' at WA Museum Boola Bardip, then explore the Perth Cultural Centre.
- Soar over the dreamlike Avon Valley in a hot air balloon, or experience true awe paragliding.
- Explore Optus Stadium's Halo Rooftop Walk or Matagarup Zip+Climb.
- Watch Mother Nature paint a fiery sunset over the sparkling Indian Ocean at one of Perth's 19 beaches.
- Cycle or walk along the Swan River / Derbarl Yerrigan and experience Perth's unique flora and fauna, or canoe or kayak and become immersed in the beauty of the natural world.
- Feast on the local flavours and feel the indie vibe at one of the many restaurants and cafes in Fremantle / Walyalup, or 'Freo' as it is affectionately known.

Follow us at @WesternAustralia | #WAtheDreamState



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WESTERNAUSTRALIA.COM

Welcome

2023 celebrates the 50th official Avon Descent, which started in 1973.

The Avon Descent is an exciting two day challenge over 124 kilometers. 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.

Participants challenge the Avon and Swan Rivers in a variety of power craft and paddle craft including single and double kayaks, single and double surf skis, ocean racing skis and sundry craft. Relay teams of two and four can also participate. Entrants are supported by family and friends as support crews and thousands of spectators line the banks to cheer them on.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson	Greg Kaeding
Director, Finance	John King
Director, Governance	Kim Epton
Director, Logistics	Michael Orr
Director, Sport	Michael Prosser
Director, Stakeholder Relations	Louanne Munz
Director, Rescue/Recovery	Phil Kitney

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Event Manager	Deborah Boxall
Volunteer/Logistics Manager	Melissa Magini
ADSU Manager	Phil Kitney
Board Secretary	Zoe Davies
Chief Marshal	Tad Sieczka
PDRC Delegate	Mahony Fenn
Paddle WA Delegate	Terry Bolland
Mini Jet Delegate	Brad Cuss
Scrutineering Consultant	Warren Southwell



SWITCH
ON

PERTH

5PM



NEWS
FIRST

RACE CONTROL TEAM

Race Director
Deputy Race Director (Paddle Craft)
Deputy Race Director (Power Craft)
Deputy Race Director (Rescue/Recovery)
Race Starters
Start Assistants/Aligners
Commentators

John King
Greg Kaeding
Michael Prosser
Phil Kitney
Greg Kaeding, Kim Epton
Graeme Birkett, Caleb Kaeding
Rob Goyen, Greg Kaeding,
Sue McDougall, Steve Found and
Tony Maxfield

AVON DESCENT LEGENDS

During 2012, the 40th Anniversary of the Avon Descent, Northam's Avon Descent Association (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
- Jay Branson

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
- Graeme Birkett
- Gerry Post
- Tully Telenta
- David Bray (deceased)
- Kevin Harrison
- Bob Quin
- Kim Epton
- Sheila Bray
- Jim Paine (deceased)
- Jim Smith (deceased)
- Michael Orr

VOLUNTEERS

Sincere appreciation and recognition to our community and corporate volunteer partners, who tirelessly support the Avon Descent.

Ascot Kayak Club
Arc Infrastructure
Avon Descent Support Unit
Cockburn 4WD Club
Dragonboat WA
Gingin/Chittering Lions Club
Northam SES
Paddle WA
Power Dinghy Racing Club
Toodyay Football Club

Checkpoints & scrutineering
Rail safety
Rescue & recovery
Promotional signage & logistics
Dragonboat coordination
Duidee Park & Cobbler Pool parking
Northam marshalling, traffic & security
Seeding races
Power boat scrutineering/time trials
Extracts Weir support

Partners

Northam's Avon Descent Association thank Official Partners and key stakeholder groups for supporting the delivery of Avon Descent events.



WESTERN
AUSTRALIA



2023 Merchandise Partner

Roy Hill Olympians Challenge Team



ROY HILL

Welcome



HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA,
DEPUTY PREMIER;
MINISTER FOR TOURISM
AND
HON DON PUNCH MLA,
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Avon Descent, 12 & 13 August 2023

The State Government is a proud sponsor of the Avon Decent through Tourism Western Australia's Regional Events Scheme (RES).

RES was established to support event holders across WA with the development of events to drive tourism to regional Western Australia. The scheme plays an important role in positioning the state's five tourism regions as exciting destinations to visit and great places to live by showcasing and promoting the host region's unique and diverse attractions.

A total of 65 regional events across WA have been funded through the 2023-24 RES, which also includes a \$250,000 funding pool for the Regional Aboriginal Events Scheme, which exclusively allocates funding to events delivering Aboriginal activities and experiences.

The State Government, through Tourism WA, is proud to sponsor these regional events, which help bring vitality to local communities and drive visitor spend, injecting millions into regional economies.

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

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

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

HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER;
MINISTER FOR TOURISM

HON DON PUNCH MLA
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

A word from the Chair



It gives me great pleasure to invite you all as participants and spectators alike to the milestone year that sees the 50th running of the iconic adventure event that is the annual Avon Descent.

Who would have known back in 1973 when 49 participants challenged themselves to be the first 'Avon Descenders' to tackle their way through what was then 132 kms of river from the Town of Northam to Coode Street jetty in South Perth, that this event, featuring a unique combination of power craft and paddle entrants in competition against themselves and the elements, would still be the mainstay of adventure racing in Western Australia some 50 years on.

In that first year those 49 competitors navigated their way through sandbanks, ti-trees, whitewater rapids and long flat-water stretches with no rules other than to travel from the start to the finish over two-days. There were no checkpoints, no officials, no rescue and recovery units and very few spectators.

The stories from that first and subsequent events captured the interest and enthusiasm of not only the media and the general public, but some 35,000 competitors who have now participated in this iconic event over the last 49 years.

Having competed in my first event in 1973 and completing 10 straight Avon Descents, I know the dedication, training and commitment that goes into the challenge of competing over such a distance in often cold, wet and windy weather and water conditions. But the Avon Descent of today provides a variety of opportunities for both World Champion and Olympic athletes, novices and family alike to enjoy the atmosphere and adventure of the Avon Descent.

Like most public participation events of today, the Avon Descent offers a number of paddle and power craft entry options including short duration 'challenge' events of a few kilometres for the less experienced, and still enjoy the finish line atmosphere and be rewarded with a participant's medal.

And behind the Avon Descent is not a myriad of staff, but a dedicated group of volunteers who make an event like this happen each and every year.

We appreciate the ongoing annual support and commitment of the State Government, Local Governments and sponsors who support the 2023 Avon Descent. Entry fees alone are but a contribution toward the cost of delivering the

annual event and it is essential we maintain the support of our event partners. Additionally we appreciate the invaluable support of our local community groups, who provide the resources that ensure the event runs smoothly.

I also eagerly look forward to seeing the many spectators lining the banks from Northam through the Avon Valley and Walyunga National Parks and at the various Avon Descent Family Fun Days happening riverside to cheer on our participants.

In particular, I thank our Avon Descent Board of Management, our Volunteering Program and Support Unit (ADSU), and Event Management Committees. You all play a vital role in ensuring the Avon Descent is run professionally, successfully, and that everyone who participates has an outstanding time.

Maybe like me, you will want to get involved in the Avon Descent, other than as a competitor. If so, I would encourage you to consider joining our team where you will be warmly welcomed.

But for now, let's celebrate 50 years of excellence on the Avon and Swan River – I invite you to join me at the start line and riverside as we ready for the 50th Avon Descent and beyond!

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



Results

Top finishers of the 2022 Avon Descent

Fastest solo 124km paddle: Ben Carrick (450) — single kayak — 8:16:25

Fastest 124km power: Fair Dinkum Builds 190 Racing Team (190) — Sports class — 2:02:37

124 Ultra Single Ski

1. Charlie Hewitt (361) 9:05:42
2. Byron Albertsen (329) 9:18:32
3. Rebecca Creedy (319) 9:20:58
4. Jason Bresanello (360) 9:29:18
5. Ron McKenzie (524) 9:54:26
6. Brant Tapley (322) 9:48:01

124 Ultra Single Kayak

1. Ben Carrick (450) 8:16:25
2. Luke Dooley (640) 8:18:52
3. Travis England (455) 8:55:26
4. Harry Hewitt (665) 8:56:41
5. Alexander McIntyre (461) 9:04:26
6. Alan Albert (453) 9:15:06

Kayak – Single Wildwater

1. Harry Langley (477) 9:25:15
2. Phill Langley (325) 9:31:39
3. Peter Gigengack (710) 10:12:02

Female Paddler (Single Ski or Kayak)

1. Rebecca Creedy (319) 9:20:58
2. Nina Mueller (385) 9:36:51
3. Simone Wilson (328) 10:09:29

Recreational Paddle Single – 1st Only

Wayne Martin (363) 8:30:50

Single Ocean Racer – 1st Only

Wes Gould (602) 8:45:11

Team of 2 – 1st Only

Kippin & Rice (506) 7:43:13

Team of 4 – 1st Only

Macaulay, Luc Jacob, Jacob & Maliphant (553) 9:42:25

124 Ultra Double Ski

1. Peter Leaversuch & Natasha Leaversuch (388) 8:40:56
2. Joshua Cowley & Alison Kate McLay (390) 12:23:37

124 Ultra double kayak

1. Jemery Doney & Jy Timperley (407) 8:24:13
2. Brett McDonald & Peter Tomczak (402) 8:31:12
3. Michael Liddle & Jaime Roberts (401) 8:45:53

Contents

124 Ultra power boat — Sports

1. Fair Dinkum Builds 190 Racing Team (190) 2:02:37
2. Team 100 (100) 2:03:09
3. M2 Technology (007) 2:04:45

124 Ultra power — Super Standard

1. Potholes Perth (200) 2:20:33
2. 134 Racing (134) 2:28:13
3. 262 Racing (262) 2:28:53

124 Ultra power — Standard

1. Boating West (86) 2:45:10
2. 141 142.Racing (141) 2:48:34
3. Teco Racing (40) 2:48:40

124 Mini Jet

1. Custom Racing Team (247) 02:39:40.560
2. MHC (155) 02:41:58.210
3. Gentronics/Building Products WA (165) 02:44:21.047

Results for the 2023 Avon Descent will be available at www.bluechipresults.com.au



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ROY HILL

Olympians Challenge Team



A dream relay team of Olympic paddle legends will feature in this year's 50th Avon Descent.

Keep your eye out for the bright national colours of Ukraine, as special guest Olympian Leonid Kamlochuk returns to Australian waters for the first time since Sydney 2000; joining our own Aussie heroes in green and gold.

Western Australian Institute of Sport Head Coach Canoeing, Ramon Andersson, bronze medalist at Barcelona 1992, will be a leading figure of this prestigious Olympians relay team.

Ramon and Leonid will be joined by triple-Olympian gold medalist Jacob Clear and bronze medalist Lachlan Tame, to complete the 124km course in the 50th official Avon Descent in a four-person team relay.

Together they are the Roy Hill Olympians Challenge Team.

Roy Hill is a world class iron ore operation in WA's Pilbara and is the valued sponsor of this outstanding team.

Through their generosity, Roy Hill have also made it possible for Leonid's wife Victoria — Ukraine-Australia Schools Ambassador — to travel to Australia. Victoria runs the highly successful volunteer pen pal program 'West Aussie Kids for Rivne Kids, Ukraine'.

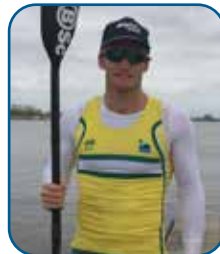
The Relay Team Members



Leonid Kamlochuk



Ramon Andersson



Jacob Clear



Lachlan Tame

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or phone 9285 8501

John D. Williams



Paddle WA is Proudly supported by:



**"With you
on the
Water"**



The Power Dinghy Racing Club was formed in 1978. Even though it is a highly competitive sport, the club is very much family orientated with many family teams competing in all events.

We hold 10 races each calendar year including 4 river races, one of which is the Avon Descent. Our Clubrooms are based at Burswood and also play host to race day events.

We cater for juniors starting in formula 8 craft at 10 years, junior dinghy from 14 years and more arduous river races at 17 years.

Contact: 0417 977 553 Kris Parnell (Commodore)

Email: PDRCinformation@gmail.com

www.DinghyRacing.com.au

Dinghy Class

Dinghys are our premium class with custom fiberglass and timber hulls and a 10hp motor. Racing in 3 Classes Standard, Supers and Sports.



Adventure Class

Adventure class is a relatively new class which consists of standard aluminium hull boats with up to a 15hp motor.



Formula 8

Formula 8 is the entry class for juniors. They are raced at our Burswood clubrooms. They are 8hp center steer boats.

Bathtubs

Bathtubs are as the name suggests and are comprised of a bathtub mold on a hull. These are 10hp for 17yo and up.



Celebrating fifty Avon Descents

As we gear up for the 50th event, it is interesting to look back on the last five decades and connect with those who were involved in those early days.

There are many tales to be told about the Avon Descent — from the lowest of low river levels, running with craft in ankle deep waters from Northam to Katrine bridge; to the raging high water years with water streaming over Katrine Bridge and the old Bell's Rapids bridge, with Emu Falls non-existent replaced by a torrent of white water; the dinners and overnight hi jinks and fun of the Cobbler Pool overnight campsite and campfire, and of course the elation, relief and fun atmosphere of the Family Fun Day finish line, now at Riverside Gardens in Bayswater. Each and every story a vivid memory told with enthusiasm and joy at being part of something as challenging and incredible as the Avon Descent.

Keep your eye out for the only original 1973 competitor participating in the 50th Anniversary Event — Charlie Elliott

At age 83, Charlie will be the oldest person in the 2023 event, and the only competitor to have entered in the 1st and 50th Avon Descents.

Charlie competed in the inaugural Avon Descent in 1973 (pictured top right with wife of 62 years, Jean Elliott (dec)), with little to no paddling experience. He went on to compete in 35 Avon Descents in Canadian, slalom, DR boats, marathon K1's, single, double and triple surf skis — mostly all his own designs.

Along the way, Charlie gained several class wins in single kayaks. He was the first to design, build and compete in the Marathon K1 class in the 1983 Avon Descent and still holds the race record for this class when it was a class in its own right. Completing the race in his Marathon K1 design helped the Avon Descent register as an international event. In 1982 Charlie broke a world record for the longest solo distance paddled in 24 hours in flat water, on the Swan River outside the Ascot Kayak Club. This was acknowledged in the 1985 Guinness Book of World Records.

In the same year Charlie was acknowledged by the Town of Kwinana as "Sports Person of the Year" and still proudly wears his blazer. It was from these humble beginnings on the Avon in 1973 that sparked Charlie's interest in paddling and he went on to achieve great things in the sport.



Source: Charlie and Tony Elliott

Tony followed in his father's footsteps and first competed in the Avon Descent at age 19. At age 53, Tony has competed in 15 Avon Descents in single, double and triple surf skis and best placed 5th in the Men's single surf ski division. Tony has competed three times with wife Phyllis in a double surf ski. Together they won the Mixed Double Surf Ski class twice and was best placed 4th in the open division. In 2006, Phyllis was the first female over the finish line.



In 2023, to celebrate the 50th official running of the Avon Descent, Charlie will team up with his son, Tony, and daughter-in-law, Phyllis, to compete in a triple surf ski aptly named 'Triple Bypass' (pictured bottom right in 2021).

The Avon is very important to Charlie and his wife Jean and family have built their lives around supporting him in this annual race.

Northam's Avon Descent Association wish Charlie and the Elliott family all the best in the 50th event!



Milestone year

The most experienced driver on the river — Gary McNamara

Gary McNamara agrees — four decades of Avon Descent is a feat and a half! And that is Gary's achievement this year, as he undertakes his 44th Avon Descent.

In the 10 horsepower Sports Class category of power craft, Gary (pictured below in the yellow life vest) will be the most experienced driver on the river this August. With all that experience comes a long memory of the highs and lows of powering down the Avon and Swan Rivers. Gary's first Avon Descent was during 1977 when we experienced one of the lowest river levels of the event's history — with around 30 power craft starting day 1, but only nine starting day two... there was a lot of walking to be done that year!

He's had his teeth knocked out and got a few prop scars, but he has loved every minute of it because with the 'lows' come the highs. Gary has placed third twice, and come first in 1989.

Gary has raced with his son, stepsons and grandson — ensuring the love of the Avon Descent transcends generations. This year, he will take on his 44th Avon Descent alongside current teammate, Josh Dewar. Together, they look forward to taking on the 50th Avon Descent and celebrating at the Bayswater finish line.





Forty years going strong for power entrant, Dave Gentry

Dave Gentry first entered the Avon Descent in 1981 as a paddler in a secondhand Canadian canoe. After paddling two Avon Descents, he was offered a go in a power dinghy by Bob Bernhardt and rest, as they say, is history!

This year, Dave will participate in his 40th Avon Descent.

When looking back on his forty year journey, Dave fondly remembers all the forms of boats they have raced — from alloy boats, pop riveted and welded together, to the introduction of fiberglass. Dave was one of the first powerboaters to develop his own mold for quick and easy boat production.

Dave remembers varying river levels too, particularly the floods of 1983 where, when navigating from Bells Rapids, Dave and his partner took a 'wrong turn' and ended heading up Ellenbrook river instead of the Swan!

For more than a decade, Dave has partnered with mate, Gary Waldock, to compete in the iconic race (pictured together above, at Posselts Ford). Gary himself will celebrate his 35th Avon Descent this year and will once again be teaming up with Dave in the Super Standard power class.

The wealth of knowledge and experience in boat #193 this year is something to behold, but at the end of the day, it's about mateship, fun and having a great weekend.



lotterywest

AVON Descent Festivals

Celebrating
50
Years



FREE EVENTS!

FRI
11
AUG

Northam Bilya Festival

Bilya Koort Boodja Centre
Garden, Northam, **5pm - 9pm**

SAT
12
AUG

Toodyay International Food Fest

Stirling and Duidgee Parks,
Toodyay, **10am - 4pm**

SUN
13
AUG

City of Swan Avon Descent Festival

Lilac Hill Park, Caversham,
10am - 3pm

SUN
13
AUG

City of Bayswater Finish Line Festival

Riverside Gardens,
Bayswater, **11am - 5pm**

Find out more www.avondescent.com.au/festivals



Festival Fun

For some perfect family fun, check out the Avon Descent Festivals!

During the annual Avon Descent weekend, spectators can enjoy all the action from the river bank during the Northam, Toodyay, Swan, Belmont and Bayswater Festival events.

Enjoy race commentary, free entertainment and much more. Fun for all the family!

Northam's Avon Descent Association is proud to work alongside the Shire of Northam, the Shire of Toodyay, the City of Swan, the City of Belmont, the City of Bayswater and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council to deliver these fantastic events.

For more information, please head to www.avondescent.com.au/festivals

Northam Bilya Festival & Avon Descent Start Line Shire of Northam

Date: Friday 11 August 2023

Time: 5:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Bilya Koort Boodja Centre Garden, Minson Avenue, Northam

Supported by Lotterywest.

Toodyay International Food Fest Shire of Toodyay

Date: Saturday, 12 August 2023

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Stirling and Duidgee Parks, Toodyay

Supported by Lotterywest.

Avon Descent Festival City of Swan

Date: Sunday, 13 August 2023

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Where: Lilac Hill Park, Caversham

Supported by Lotterywest.

CITY OF BELMONT

AVON DESCENT

AT GARVEY PARK

- ◆ Live race commentary
- ◆ Covered viewing of the race
- ◆ Family friendly activities
- ◆ Free food vouchers*

FREE
EVENT!



Sunday 13 August, 11am to 3pm



Garvey Park, Ascot



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tickets here →



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– the City of Opportunity.

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*Conditions apply

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📺 [City of Belmont](https://www.youtube.com/CityofBelmont)

BELMONT
CITY OF OPPORTUNITY



Festival Fun

Avon Descent at Garvey Park City of Belmont

Date: Sunday, 13 August 2023

Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm

Where: Garvey Park, Ascot

Avon Descent Finish Line Festival City of Bayswater

Date: Sunday, 13 August 2023

Time: 11:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Riverside Gardens, Milne Street, Bayswater

Supported by Lotterywest.



Gear up for the 50th Avon Descent



SCAN ME!



Scrutineering

Paddle

Paddler scrutineering will be held on Friday 28 July at Ascot Kayak Club between 3–7pm. Pre-Race scrutineering is compulsory for all entries 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 the Perth GPO are not exempt from the above requirements—late scrutineering will be available on Friday 11 August from 12noon–6.30pm, and must be confirmed with NADA prior to 28 July.

Power craft

Power craft scrutineering will occur at the Time Trial on Saturday 5 August from 7am.

Department of Transport (DoT) officials will check every power craft. They will be very strict on craft registrations, so ensure 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.

Compulsory participant safety briefing

A representative from each entry must attend the compulsory safety briefing at scrutineering. Each participant must sign for their attendance/acknowledgement of the information provided.



Power Craft Time Trial

Power craft time trial—Saturday 5 August, from 9am

Bottom of Bells Rapids to Middle Swan Bridge—no further south.

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

Practice Weekend Power and Paddle

Participation in the practice weekend is the responsibility of the participant and is undertaken at your own risk. Time on the river has been set aside for Paddle and Power craft to practice. Paddle craft are NOT to practice during the times reserved for power craft. Penalties will apply. We recommend checking out as much of the course as possible prior to practice weekend, accessing as many points as legally and safely possible.

NOTE: Only access the river from publicly accessible locations and do not enter private property without explicit permission from the landholder. Penalties may apply.

Specific points to check out are: Northam Weir, Dumbarton Bridge, Williamson Weir (Extracts), Duidgee Park, Toodyay (Rubbish Tip) Rapid, Leatherhead Rapid, Syds Rapid, and Bells Rapid.

- 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.

Day one activities—Saturday 5 August

Paddle Craft Practice: 8am–5pm, Northam to Posselts Ford.

Power Craft Time Trial: 9am–2pm, Bells Reserve to Middle Swan.

Day two activities—Sunday 6 August

Paddle Craft Practice: 8am–5pm, Bells Reserve to Middle Swan.

Powercraft Practice: 9am–6pm, Northam Weir to Posselts Ford.

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 Posselts Ford.

Event Registration

Friday 11 August—Dome Cafe/Farmer's Home Function Room, Northam

12noon–6:30pm (7:30pm–8:30pm by appointment only).

Access from Peel Terrace only. Parking at Bernard Park and entry up stairs—Avon Descent participant parking only. This does not include late scrutineering.

From 6:30pm registrations will close in order to allow attendance of the Northam Bilya Festival opening ceremony.

Someone from your team must attend Friday registration.

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

Once participants have registered, they must drop their craft off at the Start Marshalling Area, Broome Tce (opposite riverbank to Registrations).

- For relay teams, this is the starting person's craft only.
- The *start marshalling area* will be open from 11am–7.30pm on Friday 11 August.
- 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 7.30pm on Friday 11 August will not be permitted to start.

Be aware there will be fireworks in Northam on Friday 11 August from 8.30pm. There will be NO admittance in the pit area from 8pm. This will be strictly enforced by the Shire of Northam.

Event security will be present in the craft assembly area, however participants are encouraged to remove any loose or unsecured items which could be lost or fall out if craft have to be moved to allow for additional craft.

Starts

Day one start — Saturday 12 August 2023

Day 1 start is at Northam and the start order is as follows (subject to Race Director):

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

Day two start — Sunday 13 August 2023

Day 2 start is at Cobbler Pool Campsite, West Toodyay:

- Paddle craft start at 7am in order of fastest first (regardless of Class).
- Power craft start at 12noon (subject to change by the Race Director).

Start Procedures—start procedures for paddle and power are outlined in the Event Rules (available at www.avondescent.com.au).

Relay Teams

Valley Road access

Each **Paddle Team Entry** is issued with one (1) Valley Access sticker. This allows access to the Valley Road on Day 2. Turn right when leaving Cobbler Pool (stage 5 & 6). Your Official Valley Access Sticker must be visible. No valley pass = no entry to Valley Road or 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

Checked checkpoint flags indicate changeovers along the river. Where timing gates are installed, all team Paddle Craft must pass through all timing gates. Changeovers must take place after passing through the timing gate. Teams may strategise how members paddle each section of the river but all team members must complete at least one leg each day and only one team member may be on the water at any time.

Team identification

If team identifiers are provided, you must wear the identifier at all times on the water. During a changeover, the competitor exiting must hand over the identifier to the next team member prior to that competitor entering the water.

Stickers and race numbers

The following stickers will be supplied to all participants and must be placed on the craft in accordance with the Rules. Sponsors stickers from previous Avon Descent events must be removed prior to the commencement of this year's event.

ID Numbers

PADDLE CRAFT: Your official CRAFT Race ID Number sticker will be given to you at scrutineering. Your HELMET Race ID Number Sticker will be given to you at Friday registration along with your BlueChip UHF timing tag.

POWER CRAFT: Your official HELMET Race ID Number Sticker and BlueChip UHF timing tag will be given to you at Friday registrations.

ID stickers and timing devices

HELMET STICKERS: Participants must have their helmets clear for both the timing chips and race ID number—please ensure any old numbers are removed. Any participants 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 participants, 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 on the helmet. 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.

Vehicle stickers and passes

- Ensure you have received all your passes. Stickers will be not be re-issued, so keep them safe.
- No Valley Access Sticker = No Entry to Valley Road Day 2 or Changeover # 1 at Stronghills.
- All Participants—Support Crew Sticker on front windscreen of support vehicle.
- Teams Participants Only—Valley Access Sticker placed adjacent to your Support Crew sticker. One Pass per Team.

Vehicle stickers and passes, cont.

- Ensure your support crew have their Passes to gain access to Williamson Weir (Extracts), Avon Valley National Park and Bells Reserve on event day.
- Entry fees may be payable (proceeds to local community groups).
- National Park gates close at 5pm and no dogs are permitted.

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

Support Crew Passes provide access to parking areas along the river including Bells Rapids and Cobbler Pool. Parking, bus and entry fees may still apply at some locations, as these are managed by volunteer community groups.



Valley Sticker (Relay teams only): Display adjacent to Support Crew sticker on front windscreen. No sticker = NO ENTRY to Valley Road or Changeover 1 on Day 2.



Standard campsite entry: can be purchased at the gate (\$30pp) or online via the Avon Descent registration platform for \$20pp +GST and booking fee (under 12yrs admitted free). Wristbands MUST be worn at all times around the campsite.



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

Support Crew

Checkpoints (team changeover)

Please read the following important information regarding the checkpoints:

- Ti Trees and Walyunga are now safety checkpoints although there is information available at Ti Trees only.
- Upper Swan Checkpoint has been reinstated.
- Cut-Off time at Middle Swan Bridge is 3.30pm for Paddle Craft—4.30pm for Power Craft.

Checkpoint	Location	Teams Changeover
Day 1		
1	Katrine Bridge	Yes #1
2	Newcastle Bridge (Duidgee Park)	Yes #2
Safety	West Toodyay Bridge	No
3	Wetherall Reserve Checkpoint	Yes #3
Safety	Ti Trees	No
4	Cobbler Pool	Yes
Day 2		
5	Emu Falls	No
6	Stronghill Farm	Yes #1
7	Bells Rapids	Yes #2
Safety	Walyunga National Park	No
8	Upper Swan	No
9	Middle Swan Bridge	Yes #3
10	Bayswater Riverside Gardens	Yes

If support crews decide to enter Walyunga National Park, parking fees may be payable.

Checkpoints

What you need to know

- Checkpoints will be identified by a large checkered flag with the word 'Checkpoint' in green.
- Participants passing Checkpoints should call out their Race Identification Number to ensure they are accurately recorded. Responsibility rests with participants.
- Participants must follow the directions of Checkpoint Officials.
- Penalties apply to those who disobey or ignore directions of Checkpoint Officials. See Event Rules.

Selecting your checkpoints

Your stops depend on your goals! Liaise with other paddlers to combine support resources. If you're a more experienced participant, 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. Support can be holistic—you may need psychological support just as much as food and drink.

Make sure support crews are familiar with a map of the area and the actual roads themselves—a good option is to review the course using an online map resource (like Google Maps) several times before the event weekend.

Support crew should allow plenty of time to get to designated stops during the race, as traffic can be tedious. We strongly recommend two cars leap-frogging positions. Plan equipment to be carried to the water's edge... a spare paddle is useless back in the car park!

Important: all support crew must wear a life jacket when entering the water otherwise their team/competitor risks penalty or disqualification.

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 + 3hrs 45min
Toodyay Checkpoint	Start + 5hrs 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 + 2hrs 30min
Bells Rapid Checkpoint	Start + 3hrs 30min
Upper Swan Checkpoint	Start + 4hrs
Middle Swan Checkpoint	Start + 4hrs 30min
Bayswater Finish Line	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	3:45pm
Cobbler Pool	5:00pm

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 – subject to DoT Marine Safety instructions and current weather conditions
Bayswater Finish Line	5:00pm

Finish lines

Day one—Cobbler Pool, West Toodyay

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

Day two—Riverside Gardens, Bayswater

Day 2 will see participants 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 and paddle support crew parking will be via Leake street and Bellevue street, while power craft support crew access is via Milne Street. Please follow directional signage and follow parking marshal directions. **Only vehicles with 'Support Crew' 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 craft 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 participant's craft from the holding area and take it to their vehicle.

Power craft pick up information

Power craft will be extracted from the Scout Hall ramp, with parking and express pick up via Milne street.

Support crew and spectators

Riverside Gardens—Spectators to access via Leake Street Bayswater, follow directional signage, and follow directions of marshalls.

The paddler support crew parking area will be in the main spectator parking area.

Power support crews will be via Milne street. 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 top finishing craft may be scrutineered following the event and prior to presentations. This will be conducted at the finish line. The top three place getters of the 10hp Classes (9 motors) will be scrutineered at the finish line.

General tips

- Get fit!—make sure you're fit enough to participate in the Avon Descent. Maintain your training routine as high fitness levels reduce the risk of injury.
- Be prepared—assess the weather and river conditions and prepare yourself accordingly. ***Do not take risks and if in doubt, do not do it.***
- Prevent hypothermia—be aware of the warning signs (shivering, muscle weakness, abdominal cramps, lethargy, hallucinations, aggressive behaviour and euphoria). Change into dry/warm clothes immediately following racing or training. Seek medical help if symptoms persist.
- Drink plenty of fluids—thirst is not a good indicator of hydration. Cool water is a good fluid replacement drink.
- Fuel up—keep your energy levels up by eating high carbohydrate and low fat foods before, during and after the race.

Clothing/ Safety equipment

Buoyancy vests and helmets are essential. Helmets must comply with the CE EN 1385 standard, be of a rigid type and designed to give protection to the forehead and temple areas. Wet boots with hard soles or sand shoes, sneakers or gym boots are ideal. Adequate foot protection is essential both in the water and on the bank in the event of a capsized.

Remember to wear weather appropriate clothing. Thermal clothing (tops and bottoms) and a CAG (windproof/waterproof top) are also recommended. Protect yourself against sunburn and windburn on all exposed areas.

General public access to river not permitted

Please ensure your support crew, friends and family are aware that they (and the general public) are not permitted on the water, along the event course, during the Avon Descent. Our Emergency Services and volunteer rescue and recovery must be focused on event participants and do not need the distraction.

General tips

Access to the River & Private Property

Only access the river from publicly accessible locations. We are generously provided permission to run the event by making use of private land and must ensure local landholder wishes are respected at all times.

Support Crews, or spectators of competitors, who access private land without landowner permission, risk their competitors being penalised or disqualified from this year's event and / or future years participation.

'Glen Avon' Rapid	Situated on private land and must not be accessed without explicit landowner permission.
Extracts/Williamson Weir	Access via Millard's Pool only. Adjacent farmland is strictly private property and you must have landowner permission to do so.
Ti Trees on Day One (otherwise known as 'Deepdale' or 'the Drainpipes')	Access only via Wetherall Reserve. All areas downriver of Wetherall Reserve until Cobbler Pool road are situated on private property and are strictly prohibited.
Cobbler Pool	This is public land and is freely accessible.
Walyunga Pool	National park area and rules apply, a fee is applicable on entry.
Bells Rapids	Public access area, but may be closed to vehicles if river conditions are treacherous. One way road access only.
The Valley Road	This area is not accessible to the public, only to authorised vehicles. There is a high level of train traffic making it very dangerous.
Stronghills Farm	Private leasehold land and not open to the public.

Cobbler Pool Campsite

The campsite for participants and support crews is located at Cobbler Pool, West Toodyay, at the end of Day 1/start of Day 2. Basic infrastructure is in place. The campsite is available for camping both Friday and Saturday nights, however some facilities may only be in place on the Saturday.

The Campsite is managed and site 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 under the Cobbler Pool Campsite area. Under no circumstances are dogs or any other pets allowed at the campsite. NADA recommends the use of reusable or recyclable containers for food, beverage and other consumable products at Cobbler Pool to minimise the environmental impact of the event. Competitors, support crews and spectators are requested to take any rubbish with them as limited paid rubbish removal services are provided.

Campsite fees

Cobbler Pool Overnight Wristbands: (available for \$20pp +fees online or \$30 at the gate). This will allow for up to 2 nights camping at the Cobbler Pool site. Campsite Wristbands MUST be worn at all times around the campsite. Children under 12 will be admitted free of charge.

Catering

Some food vendors may be on site Saturday afternoon to ensure you're reinvigorated at the end of Day 1 and ready to tackle Day 2.

Firewood

Campers are prohibited from collecting firewood from natural vegetation. Firewood may be provided for sale in bags at the campsite but campers will be encouraged to use alternative fuels, e.g. gas, diesel fuel heaters.

Campsite restrictions & code of conduct

NADA organisers and Campsite Management reserve the right to immediately remove any person behaving in a disorderly or intoxicated manner from the Cobbler Pool 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.

Safety Briefing

All Important safety information will be provided to participants during the compulsory safety briefing at scrutineering and on the Avon Descent website.

WARNING

Flags will be displayed along the length of the river. Due to changes in water level, locations of various flags may change on the day. It is in the participant's interest to be fully aware of flag colours and meanings.

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.

Be safe around the railway this Avon Descent



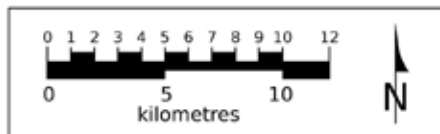
With our freight rail network running through the heart of the Avon Valley, Arc Infrastructure has been a proud partner and supporter of the Avon Descent for more than 30 years.

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.



		Toodyay										Northam				
		Wetherall	Cobble Pool	Emu Falls	Stronghills	Walyunga	Bells Rapid	Upper Swan	Middle Swan	Hinds Res.	Katrine	Dumbarton	Willmson	Newcastle		
Padding Distances (km)		11	20	24	28	32	36	43	60	17	24					
<i>Combative daily totals in red</i>		8	19	28	32	36	43	60	17	24						
Wetherall		11	20	24	28	32	36	43	60	17	24					
Cobble Pool		10	18	29	38	42	46	53	70	7	28					
Emu Falls		17	27	35	46	55	59	63	70	4	11	28				
Stronghills		17	27	35	46	55	59	63	70	4	8	15	32			
Walyunga		4	21	31	39	49	57	68	77	81	85	92	109			
Bells Rapid		5	9	26	36	44	55	64	68	72	79	96				
Upper Swan		13	18	22	39	49	57	68	77	81	85	92	109			
Middle Swan		13	18	22	39	49	57	68	77	81	85	92	109			
Hinds Res.		15	28	33	37	54	64	72	83	92	96	100	107	124		



Legend

- river (day one)
- river (day two)
- river (not in race)
- bridge
- level crossing, rail bridge
- road, track (public access)
- road, track (teams access only)

For any suggestions, or to report an error or omission, please email sgatron@gmail.com.

Course information

Stages—the course is divided into nine stages:

Day 1	Shire of Northam to Cobbler Pool	52 km
Stage 1	Shire 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 Cobbler Pool Campsite	11 km
Overnight Stop		
Day 2	Cobbler Pool to City of Bayswater	72 km
Stage 5	Cobbler Pool 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	15 km

Wild water — grade difficulty

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.



Withdrawn Craft Day 1

Should you be withdrawn from the race, competitors will be taken to the roadside and Support Crew contact is attempted. Should you not get in contact with your Support Crew, craft and competitors will be taken to Cobbler Pool. Withdrawn competitors should approach a checkpoint official to have their withdrawal recorded.



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—dependent 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: Newcastle Bridge to Wetherall Reserve

9km | Grade 1 | from 8.30am

Toodyay Checkpoint can be difficult for craft. 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 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 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 available adjacent to the bridge, or on the area 50m up Julimar Road towards Toodyay. Stopping or standing on Julimar bridge is not permitted during the event.

Wetherall Reserve: Continue along Julimar Road. A short distance after you cross the railway line, turn left into River Road (just before West Toodyay Bridge). Proceed along River Road about 1.5km. Reserve is on the right.

Teams Changeover #3

Wetherall Reserve at the start of the Ti Trees is the third changeover point for teams. Changeover area—left hand bank.

Stage 4: Wetherall Reserve to Cobble Pool & Finish of Day 1

11km | Grade 1 | from 8.40am

(Cobble Pool from 9am)

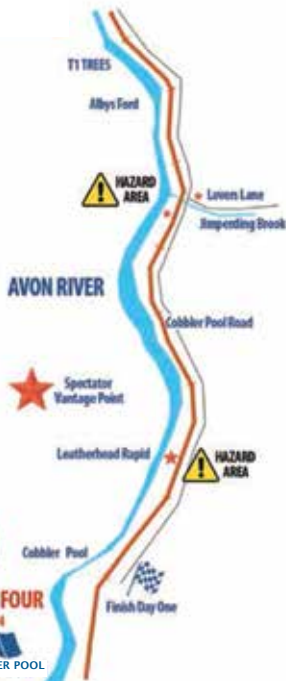
Albys Ford is reached just after entry to the Ti Trees. Water levels play a great part in the ease or difficulty with which the Ti Trees may be negotiated—channels do exist! Participants caught in the Ti Trees at nightfall must head for the left bank only and report to a race official. About 200m after Leatherhead Rapid, look out for the finish line indicating the end of Day 1!

Support Crews and Spectators

River Road: Turn right out of Wetherall Reserve parking area and ensure vehicles don't block other traffic on this 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 when water levels are high. Travel for a further 1.4km turning left into River Road.

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 noon

The worst of the Ti Trees beckons participants at the start of Day 2. Rocks and misleading channels are found right through to Posselts Ford. Depending on the water level, large boulders immediately above the Ford can be a bone jarring slide or virtually non-existent. Shortly after Posselts 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.

Attention Power Craft

Please note there is no refuelling on course.

Support Crews

Leaving camp, there are two available options:

Only teams will have access to Emu Falls (no spectators). Please ensure your support crew and competitors know this. There will be checkpoint officials and first aid at the location to assist. Competitors needing withdrawal from here will be taken back to Cobbler Pool.

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

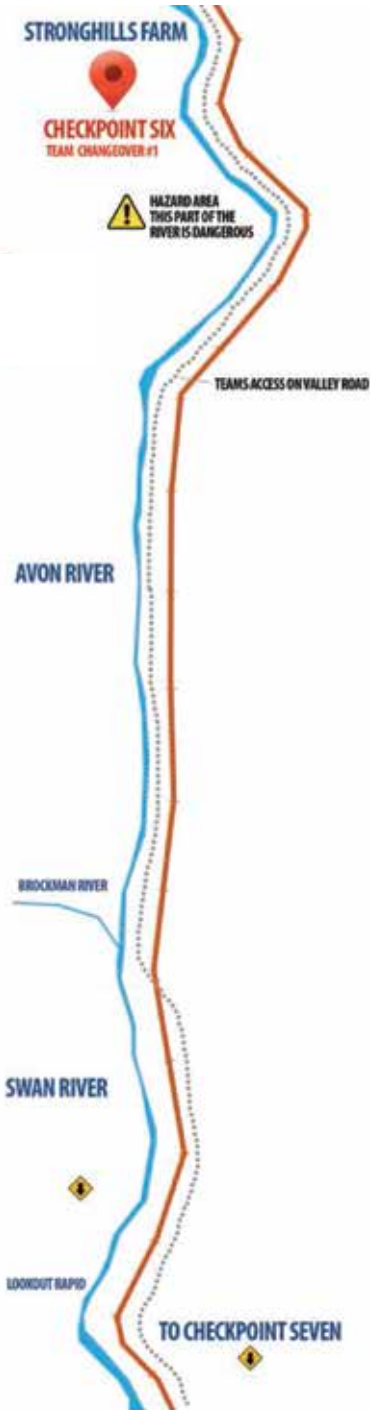
Remember, this sticker must be in the lower right corner of the front windscreen. Paddlers 2 and 3 should be in this vehicle and taken to Stronghills Farm and Bells Rapid.

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 ensure they are recorded by a race official before departing.





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 participants at Stronghills or Emu Falls. 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 contact the nearest ADSU or Checkpoint official to have it recorded.



Stage 7: Stronghills Farm to Bells Bridge

21km | Grade 3/4 | From 8.30am

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

Support Crew and Spectators (except teams)

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

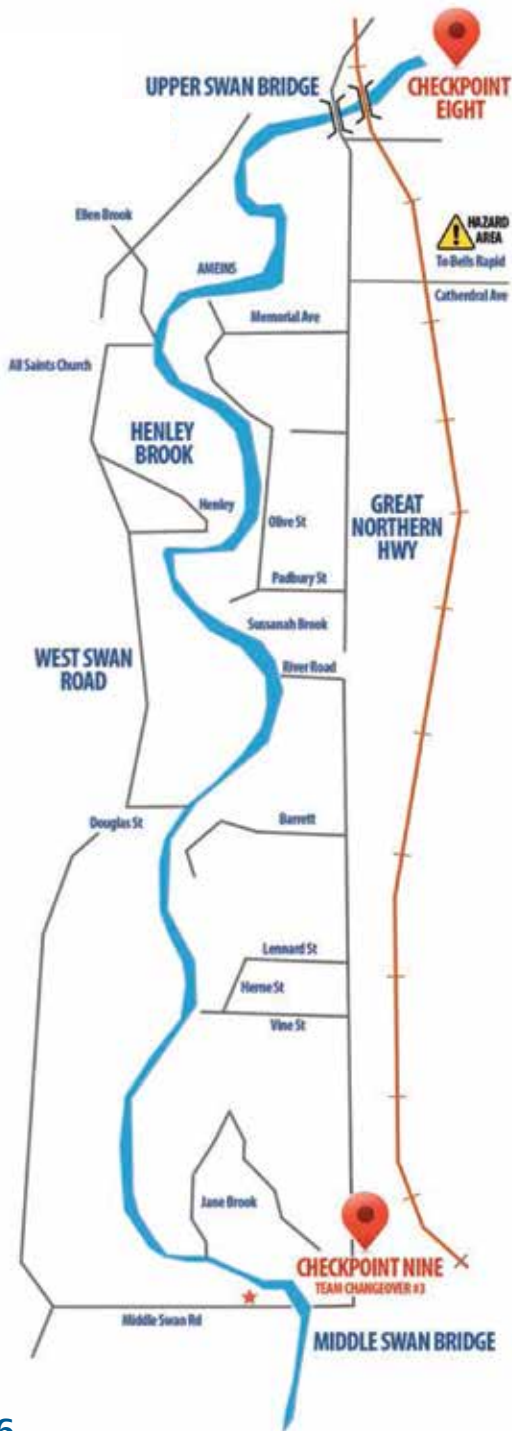
Support Crew and Spectators must leave their vehicle at the State Equestrian Centre Parking area and use the shuttle bus provided. Parking and bus is \$10 per vehicle for all spectators. Allow a 25 minute turnaround for the shuttle bus.

Teams Support Crews

Enter via the Valley Road and follow directions of officials and park in the lower car park at Bells, extra support crew vehicles will not be permitted entry down to Bells via Cathedral Avenue. If extra support crew vehicles wish to meet their competitor at Bells they must park at the State Equestrian Centre taking the shuttle bus to Bells.

Teams Changeover #2

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



Stage 8: 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. Ellen Brook enters from the right just before the end of the trees.

Support Crews and 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 11am
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, participants 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 participants finish at Riverside Gardens, Bayswater to an athlete recovery area and the City of Bayswater Family Fun Day.



ATTENTION: POWER CRAFT

All power craft participants must keep to the left of the island and close to the left bank at Garvey Park. You are encouraged to engage the crowd with fun, safe power craft action.

MINI JET JUMPS

Be aware that stationary jumps for the mini jets may be in place at Garvey Park. Mini jets should exercise caution when considering using the jumps, and ensure no other participants will be impacted by their landing.

Bond to Bayswater Belter

Sunday 13 August 2023
start from 9.30am

**Join the excitement & challenge of the 50th Avon Descent
in a flat water belter of a course**

Just over 13km from Reg Bond Reserve in the City of Swan, to the Avon Descent finish line, Riverside Gardens, Bayswater. If it floats & is propelled by paddle, then it will get a start!

Double Ocean Skis	\$40
Double Spec Skis & Kayaks	\$40
Single Ocean Skis	\$30
Single Spec Skis & Kayaks	\$30
Single Outriggers	\$30
2-person Outriggers	\$50
4/6-person Outriggers	\$110 per boat
Surf Boats - Ladies & Men's open, Masters 180+	\$110 per boat
Recreation Plastic & Touring Kayaks	\$30
SUP's	\$30
Canoes	\$30
Sundry Paddle - any craft not listed above	\$TBA
Dragon Boats	\$200 per boat

Approximate Start times dependent on entries. Participation medals will be distributed to those who complete the course & suitable rewards issued to place getters dependent on entries.



Register at www.avondescent.com.au

A Belter of a course!

The Bond to Bayswater Belter is an opportunity for anyone to take part in the excitement of the iconic Avon Descent and make the most of the 50th celebrations!

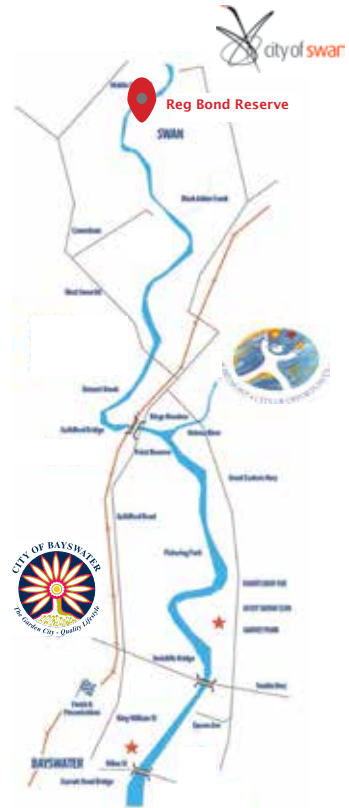
This unique event that will take participants from Reg Bond Reserve in the City of Swan, through to the City of Bayswater's Riverside Gardens.

Participants will enjoy the excitement of the Family Fun Days as they paddle by the City of Swan's Lilac Hill, City of Belmont's Garvey Park and arriving at the City of Bayswater's Riverside Gardens and the Avon Descent Finish Line.

- Incredible Avon Descent short course.
- Avoid the white water rapids.
- Just over 13km of flat water river.
- Riverbanks lined with spectators cheering participants on.
- Suits novice paddlers, teams and those using new and innovative paddle craft.
- No requirement for paddler competency.
- No requirement for craft scrutineering.
- Paddlers are encouraged to wear a suitable PFD, but helmets are not required.

The Bond to Bayswater Belter is a fantastic chance to get out and be active this August, and be part of the 50th Avon Descent!

To register, head to www.avondescent.com.au



Race Record Holders

CLASS	YEAR	NAME	TIME
8Hp Dinghy Sports	2008 Northam To Bayswater	J Goodbody K Goodbody	2:39:55
8Hp Dinghy Standard	1991 Northam To Bayswater	K Parnell G Black	3:01:32
10Hp Dinghy Sports	2021 Northam To Bayswater	K Parnell T Wilson	01:59:30
10Hp Dinghy Super	2018 Northam To Bayswater	D Green M Lagore	2:20:29
10Hp Dinghy Standard	2018 Northam To Bayswater	C Johnson J Paggi	2:20:59
6Hp Dinghy Sports	1983 Northam To Bayswater	W Mould N Jones	3:52:11
8Hp Alloy	1994 Northam To Bayswater	S Brown 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
	2021 Northam To Bayswater	J Kippin	07:27:01
Single Kayak Wild Water	2021 Northam To Bayswater	P Langley	08:39:56
		H Thorpe (L)	10:28:34
Double Kayak - Wk2	1983 Northam To Bayswater	G Kaeding R Holt	8:07:59
Double Kayak - Wk2/Mk2	1986 Northam To Bayswater	A Duke P Pawlow	7:48:04
Double Kayak	1996 Northam To Bayswater	P Genovesi 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
		J Bateman (L)	9:23:48
Double Plastic	2008 Northam To Bayswater	B Ingram A Gluyas	9:22:49
Single Canadian	1986 Northam To Bayswater	W Smith	9:46:00

CLASS	YEAR	NAME	TIME
Double Canadian	1986 Northam To Bayswater	R Holt R Fry	8:34:55
Double Canadian	1991 Northam To Bayswater	P Kitney 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 Recreational	2021 Northam To Bayswater	W Martin	7:50:50
	1999 Northam To Bayswater	L Young (L)	12:04:15
Double Recreational	2021 Northam To Bayswater	D Klompaker M Pizzuto	9:26:54
Double Surf Ski	1996 Northam To Bayswater	D Pratt T Bird	7:13:48
Double Surf Ski Mixed	2021 Northam To Bayswater	N Leaversuch P Leaversuch	7.50.22
Power Sundry	1990 Northam To Bayswater	B Cooper S Patterson	3:00:57
Paddle Sundry Double	1991 Northam To Bayswater	C Boocock I Wookey	8:52:53
Paddle Sundry Triple	2018 Northam To Bayswater	M Dean J Morfitt A Crothers	7:46:37
73-76 Sundry 80-83 Mixed Db	1982 Northam To Perth	S Snowball J Snowball	8:21:08
Single Teams	1996 Northam To Bayswater	B Boocock D Bingham	8:44:19
Double Teams	1996 Northam To Bayswater	J Muir R Jenkinson	7:38:50
Relay Team of 2	2008 Northam To Bayswater	A Nesbit C Pretorius	7:30:39
	2011 Northam To Bayswater	T Stedman B Holmes	8:53:11
		A Okano T Guilbert (L)	09:14:22
Relay Team of 4	2008 Northam To Bayswater	R Baker K Jarrott M Rees J Zerbst	7:34:58
One Day Event (Single)	2021 Northam To Cobbler Pool	M Verkerk	4:04:11
One Day Event (Single)	2013 Northam To Cobbler Pool	E Beeley (L)	6:21:19
One Day Event (Double)	2021 Northam To Cobbler Pool	M Clancy-Lowe D Clancy-Lowe	3:51:43
Ocean Racer Single	2021 Northam to Bayswater	C Albertsen	8:32:30
Open Stand Up Paddle	2018 Northam to Bayswater	P Hepworth	12:30:31



FARMERS' HOME HOTEL



Join us in a celebration of our Avon Descent adventurers past and present.

Each of the sixteen rooms at the Farmers' Home Hotel capture the simplistic beauty of country living with all the touches you'd expect of a boutique hotel. Immerse yourself in the 150-year history of the hotel whilst you unwind and experience the beauty of the Avon Valley. With the Temperance Bar (a tongue-in-cheek nod to Northam's past as a model 'Temperance Town' from the late 1800s) offering an extensive selection of wine, beer and spirits from the region and a Dôme Cafe with an exclusive 'After 5' dinner menu, it's the perfect place to warm up by the fire this winter. Scan our QR code for more details.



ECLIPSE
BREWING
CO

TAP TAKEOVER

*In celebration of the 50th Avon Descent, local brewery
ECLIPSE BREWING will be taking over the Temperance
Bar's beer taps from 5pm on Friday 11th August*