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2025 COMPETITOR GUIDE

AVON DESCENT

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Department of
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WESTERN
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WALKING ON A DREAM



The West Australian



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Step into a dreamscape of wondrous events and embark on unforgettable adventures in Perth / Boorloo, the most relaxed and naturally adventurous capital city.

- Soar over the dreamlike Avon Valley in a hot air balloon or experience true awe paragliding.
- Sip your way through the award-winning Swan Valley, home to more than 40 wineries and 70 restaurants and cafes.
- Feel the thrill of powerboating, skiing, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking in the region's otherworldly 295km long Avon River.
- 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 / Derbal Yerrigan and experience Perth's unique flora and fauna.
- Feel the thrill of Optus Stadium's Halo Rooftop Walk or Matagarup Zip+Climb.
- Discover Rottnest Island / Wadjemup, where you'll be greeted by 63 wondrous beaches and the world's happiest animal, the adorable quokka.
- Immerse yourself in Noongar culture on an Aboriginal tour — discover the cultural significance and ancient stories of this region.

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**WELCOME MESSAGE FROM
HON REECE WHITBY
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

Avon Descent 9–10 August 2025

The Western Australian Government is a proud sponsor of the Avon Descent through the Metro Events Program.

The Metro Events Program was established in 2024 to support local event holders to expand their existing events, further activating the Perth region for locals, and drawing in visitors from outside Western Australia.

In its inaugural year, 11 events, including the Avon Descent, have been awarded funding through the Metro Events Program. The Western Australian Government is proud to sponsor these events, which help bring vibrancy to the State, give visitors a time-sensitive reason to book a trip to Western Australia, and enhance the experience of tourists in the city.

The Western Australian Government also sponsors a range of sporting, cultural, arts and culinary events across the State, as we strive to populate an exciting, diverse and world-class calendar of events that is always on, year-round.

Tourism is a key part of the Western Australian Government's plan to diversify the economy, create jobs, and develop business opportunities. Events play an important role in this plan as we strive to achieve our vision for Perth and Western Australia to be the fastest growing events destination in the South East Asia region.

We hope everyone enjoys the Avon Descent and takes the time to explore all that the Perth region has to offer.

A stylized, handwritten signature in grey ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and strokes.

**HON REECE WHITBY MLA
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

Scrutineering

Paddle

Paddler scrutineering will be held on Friday 1 August 2025 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 in Northam on Friday 8 August from 12noon–6.30pm, and must be confirmed with NADA prior to 1 August.

Power Dinghy

Power dinghy scrutineering will occur at the Time Trial on Saturday 2 August from 7am (completed by 8.30am sharp).

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.

Safety briefing

Compulsory participant safety briefing

A representative from each entry must read the compulsory safety briefing at scrutineering or online. Participants must sign their acknowledgement of the information provided.

Power Craft Time Trial

Power craft time trials—Saturday 2 August, from 7am

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

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 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 2 August

Paddlers	0800 – 1700	Paddle craft to navigate Avon River from Northam to Posselts Ford and Bells Rapids reserve.
Minijets	0700 – 0850	Below Bells Rapid (carpark) to Middle Swan reserve MJWA to provide sweep of river until 8.50am
Power Dinghy	0900 – 1200	Below Bells Rapid (carpark) to Middle Swan reserve PDRC to provide sweep of river leaving Bells no later than 11.30am

All support vehicles out of Bells by 10.15am

Day two activities—Sunday 3 August

Paddlers	0700 – 1700	Paddle craft to navigate Bells Rapids to Middle Swan
Minijets	0800 – 1145 1200 – 1700	Wetherall Reserve to Cobbler Pool Northam to Julimar Road Bridge
Power Dinghy	0800 – 1145 1200 – 1700	Northam to Julimar Road Bridge Wetherall Reserve 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 8 August

Town Hall, Northam

12noon–6:30pm

Corner of Wellington and Gordon street

Parking available behind the building

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 Start Tower).

- For relay teams, this is the starting person's craft only.
- The start marshalling area will be open from 11am–7pm on Friday 8 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 7pm on Friday 8 August will not be permitted to start.

Be aware there will be fireworks in Northam on Friday 8 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 9 August 2025

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

- Minijet start at 7.30am
- Power dinghy start at 8.10am
- Paddle craft start at 8.45am

Day two start — Sunday 10 August 2025

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).

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. 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.

Sundry paddle

If you are registered as Sundry, then you may be permitted to change paddle craft throughout the event. This must be approved prior to Friday Registrations. You can only change over craft at designated changeover locations, as per the above instructions to Relay Teams.

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—display Support Crew Sticker on front windscreen of support vehicle.
- Paddle Relay Teams and approved sundry paddle only—Valley Access Sticker placed adjacent to your Support Crew sticker. One Pass per Team/sundry paddler.

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:

- The Day 1 #2 Team Changeover location has been changed to upstream of Extracts Weir to Millard's Pool.
- Ti Trees and Walyunga are now safety checkpoints.
- Upper Swan Checkpoint has been reinstated.
- Cut-Off time at Middle Swan Bridge is 3.30pm for Paddle Craft—4.30pm for Power Craft.
- Cobbler Pool (day 1) and Bayswater (day 2) finish line cut-off time is 5pm for all competitors.

Checkpoint	Location	Teams Changeover
Day 1		
1	Katrine Bridge	Yes #1
2	NEW—Millard's Pool	Yes #2
Safety	West Toodyay Bridge	No
3	Julimar Road Bridge	No
	Wetherall Reserve	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 and stay, parking fees may be payable.

Tracking



All competitors are encouraged to have their mobile phones with them when participating in the event, and to download the latest version of the **Avon Tracker** app. The App will be available from the Apple and Google stores.

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 + 1 hr 45min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3hrs 45min
Millard's Pool Checkpoint	Start + 5hrs
Julimar Bridge Checkpoint	When first paddle craft reaches checkpoint

Day 2 :	Power Craft Cut Off Times
Emu Falls Checkpoint	Start + 1 hr 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 + 1 hr 45min
Katrine Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 3hrs 45min
Millard's Pool Checkpoint	Start + 5hrs
Julimar Bridge Checkpoint	Start + 6hrs 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.

Competitor and Support Crew access to Toodyay

Competitors, Support Crews and Spectators are encouraged to avoid the town centre of Toodyay to limit traffic congestion. All are encouraged to travel to Toodyay via the Great Northern Highway to Extracts only.

Please avoid Duidgee Park in the centre of Toodyay.
Stopping or standing on any bridge is not permitted during the event.

Access to the river and 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 Campbell Chase only (in Estate). Public parking available — follow instruction. Adjacent farmland is strictly private property and no longer available for parking.
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	No public access outside of Avon Descent. Limited to event organisers, competitors and support crews.
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 Avon Descent 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. Early access can be arranged on request only.

The Campsite is under the management of the Shire of Toodyay and gates will be locked outside access times. Event approvals provide Northam's Avon Descent Association access on strict terms and conditions. All activities must comply with the Shire of Toodyay's local laws and regulations.

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 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 indicate paid passes, available for \$25pp (+ fees online) or \$40 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. Noise must be kept to a minimum to respect nearby residents and wildlife.

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.

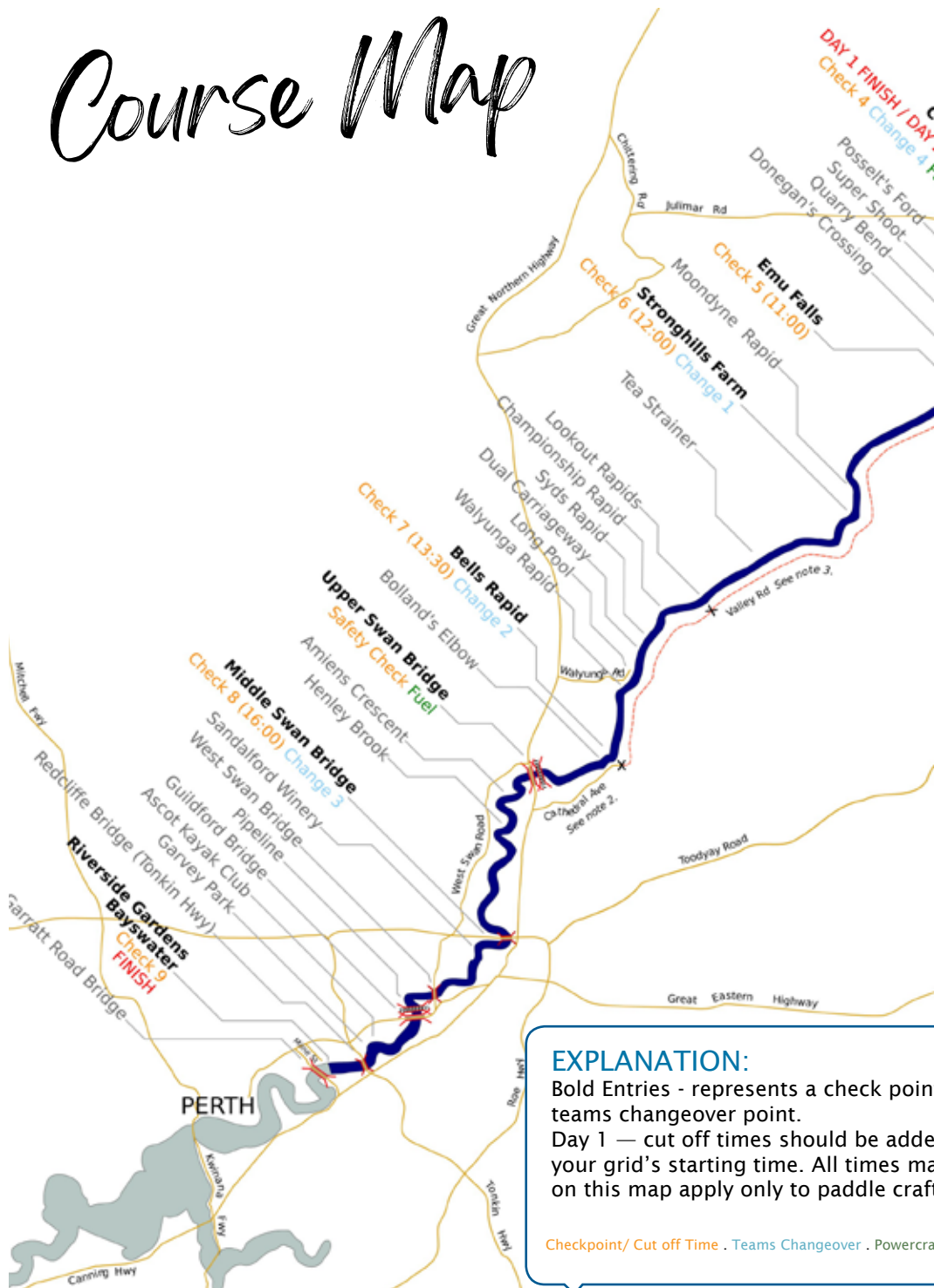
Trains continue to operate as normal over the Avon Descent weekend; please be extra vigilant around the railway. Whether in a vehicle or on foot, only cross the railway line at designated crossings.

- 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.

www.arcinfra.com



Course Map



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 Millard's Pool	10 km
Stage 3	Millard's Pool to Wetherall Reserve	12 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

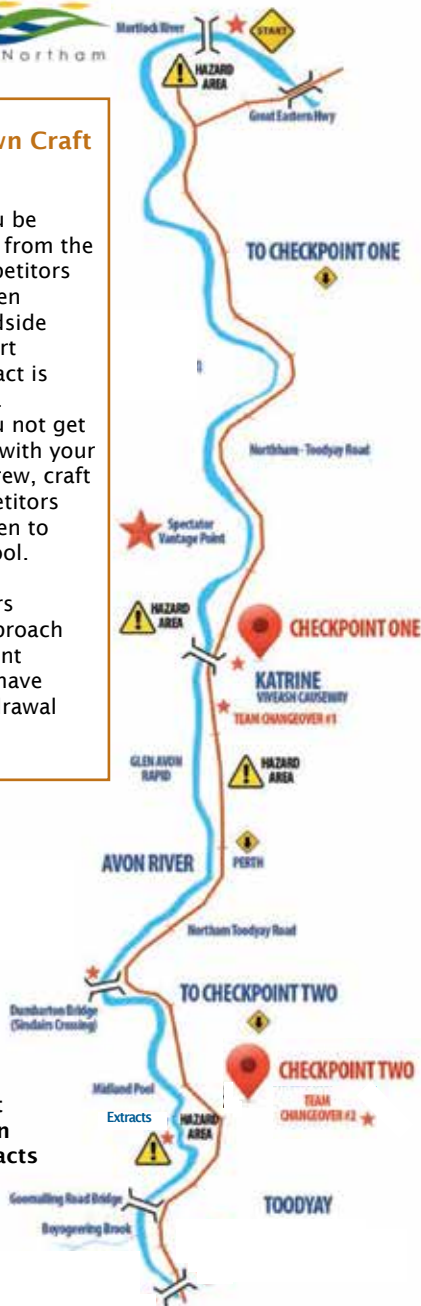
Grade 1	Not difficult, regular stream, regular waves, small rapids and simple obstructions
Grade 2	Moderately difficult, passage free, irregular stream, irregular waves, medium rapids, small stoppers, eddies/whirlpools and pressure areas. * Simple obstructions in stream and small drops
Grade 3	Difficult, 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.

Note: New parking at Williamson Weir/Extracts



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 Millard's Pool

10km | 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. **Note:** no parking available at Fergusson farm at Williamson Weir/Extracts. Follow signs to new parking areas.

Toodyay: Competitors and Support Crew are encouraged to avoid town centre. Parking is limited.

NEW Teams Changeover #2

Millard's Pool is the second changeover point for teams. The changeover area is on the left hand bank.



Stage 3: Millard's Pool to Julimar Road Bridge

12km | Grade 1 | from 8.30am

See bottom of previous map for Extracts to Toodyay.

After Duidgee Park, 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 Extracts: Support Crews can head directly through the town of Toodyay turning 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: Julimar Road Bridge to Cobbler Pool & Finish of Day 1

13km | Grade 1 | from 8.40am
(Cobbler Pool from 9am)

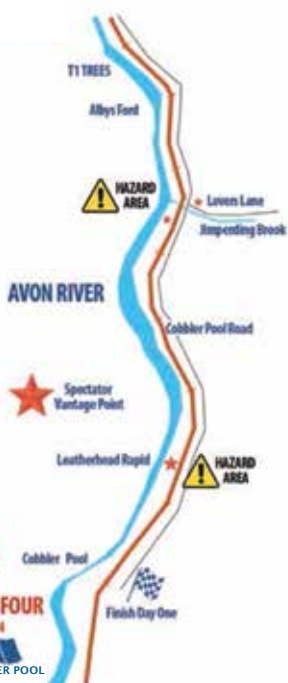
Albys Ford is reached just after entry to the Ti Trees. Water levels play a great part in the ease or difficulty with which the Ti Trees may be negotiated—channels do exist! Participants caught in the Ti Trees at nightfall must head for the left bank only and report to a race official. About 200m after 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 Cobbler Pool Road and head toward the overnight campsite. No dogs or other pets allowed. Alternate access to River Road is via Lovers Lane—if coming from Perth, turn left off Toodyay Road into Lovers Lane, care should be taken 5.9km along where Jimpering Brook crosses Lovers Lane as it may be hazardous when water levels are high. Travel for a further 1.4km turning left into River Road.

Cobbler Pool Start/Finish

It would be appreciated if movement of vehicles within the area is kept to a minimum. Please obey directions at all times. Police and security personnel will be patrolling the area.



Stage 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 Posselt's Ford. Depending on the water level, large boulders immediately above the Ford can be a bone jarring slide or virtually non-existent. Shortly after Posselt's 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.

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

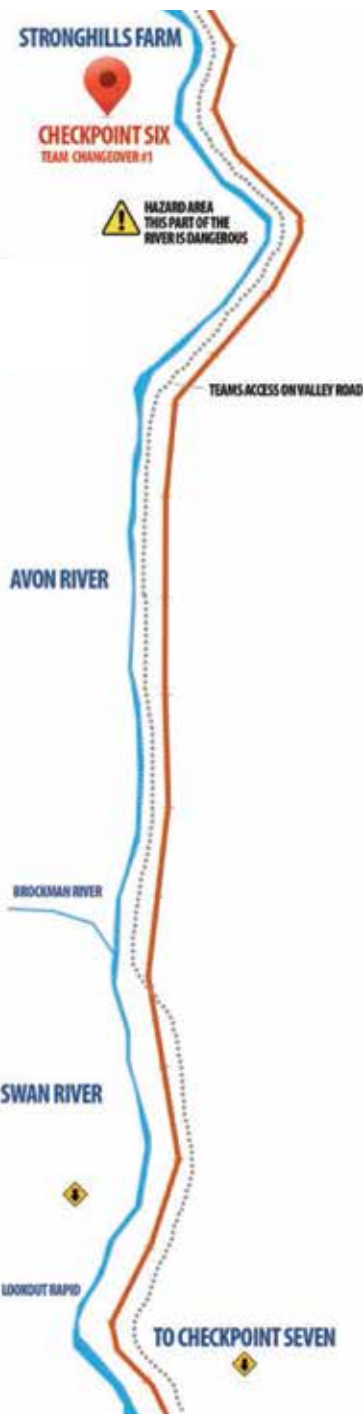
Remember, this sticker must be in the lower right corner of the front windscreen. Paddlers 2 and 3 should be in this vehicle and taken to Stronghills Farm and Bells Rapid.

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.

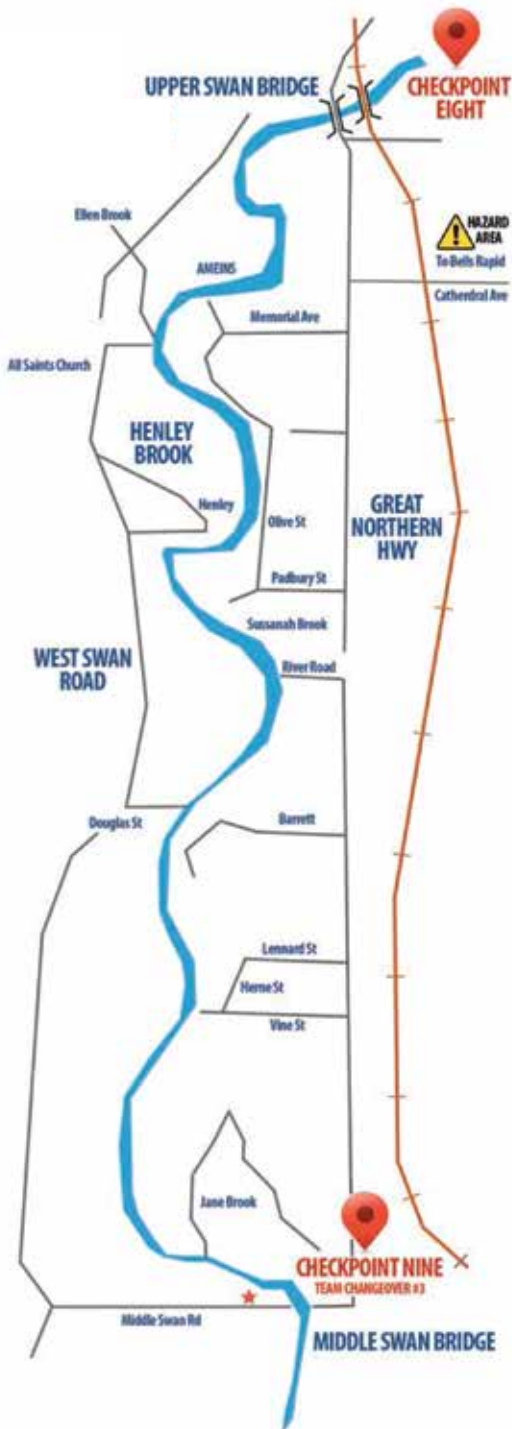
Teams Support Crews

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.

lotterywest

Avon Descent FESTIVALS



FREE EVENTS!

8 to 10 AUGUST

FRI **NORTHAM Bilya Festival**

SUN **CITY OF SWAN Avon Descent Festival**

SUN **CITY OF BAYSWATER Finish Line Festival**

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