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AVON DESCENT

SPECTATOR GUIDE 2024

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SWITCH
ON

PERTH

5PM



NEWS
FIRST

Inside

A word from the Chair.....	4
State Government Welcome Message	7
Partners	8
Day 2 short course action.....	9
Avon Descent Course Map	10
Festival Fun	13
Friday — Shire of Northam event	15
Saturday — Shire of Toodyay event	17
Sunday — City of Swan event.....	19
Finishline — City of Bayswater event	21
Volunteers	23
Access to spectator points.....	25
Camping at Cobbler Pool.....	27
When do the Boats arrive?	28

A word from the Chair



Once again as Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to welcome one and all to yet another rendition of our unique, iconic and legendary event that is Western Australia's Avon Descent.

After a successful 50th Anniversary event last year, culminating with our volunteer recognition event and presentation dinner where we acknowledged many of our stalwart characters who have competed, supported, volunteered and managed this great and popular event over its 50 years; it is great to be able to welcome everyone once again.

It could no doubt be the 'ultimate' challenge given the low rainfall experienced in the lead up months to this fabulous event, which is a test of stamina and endurance for those competing over the 124-kilometre Northam to Bayswater distance. However, I wish to also welcome those taking part in our many short course options such as the four person and two person team relays over two-days and 124km, and also the one-day Day 2 Challenge event participants.

We have now introduced several family orientated 'flatwater' challenge events starting on the upper reaches of the Swan River and finishing with the atmosphere of the Avon Descent Festival at our City of Bayswater finish line.

These events, together with our headline 124km race, provide options for families to participate in friendly competition, and 'experience' the festival atmosphere created by our host local government areas including Northam, Toodyay, Swan and Bayswater Councils.

Each Council provides their own unique festival event and activities commencing on Friday night in Northam through to Sunday afternoon in Bayswater.

I am also pleased to acknowledge this year that the WA Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, is a major supporter of the Avon Descent. Sport and recreation creates vibrant, inclusive and connected WA communities, and Northam's Avon Descent Association appreciates the recognition of our iconic event by the State government.

The Avon Descent remains a unique event in world whitewater competition pitting both paddle and power craft competitors not only against the elements; ranging from high and dry through to wet and wild; but also, against themselves as they try and beat race cutoff times and successfully get to the finish line.

This is in itself an achievement, for powered craft only first completed in traditional aluminium fishing dinghy back in 1972, a stark contrast to the specialised power dinghy racing craft now reaching speeds of up to 70 km per hour, and of course the recently introduced and exciting mini jets.

I hope to see you at one of the festival events, supporting our competitors, and celebrating the 2024 Avon Descent.

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



2023 City of Bayswater Avon Descent Finish Line celebrations.
From left, NADA Chair Greg Kaeding with 1) fastest overall paddle competitors, relay team of 2, Noah Boldy and Jesse Phillips; 2) fastest solo 124km paddler, Ben Carrick; and 3) fastest power craft team, Darren Green and Michael Prosser.

WHERE DREAMS EVENTS

HAPPEN

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.
- Soak up the sun and relax in one of the world's largest inner-city parks, Kings Park & Botanic Garden (Kaarta Koomba).
- Watch Mother Nature paint a fiery sunset over the sparkling Indian Ocean at one of Perth's 19 beaches.
- Feel the thrill of powerboating, skiing, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking in the region's otherworldly 295km long Avon River.
- Feel the thrill of Optus Stadium's Halo Rooftop Walk or Matagarup Zip+Climb.
- Discover Rottneest 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.
- Sip your way through the award-winning Swan Valley, home to more than 40 wineries and 70 restaurants and cafes.

Follow us @WesternAustralia | #WAtheDreamState



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AUSTRALIA
WALKING ON A DREAM

WESTERNAUSTRALIA.COM

Welcome



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



The Avon Descent 10-11 August 2024

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

RES was established to support event holders across the state 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 by showcasing and promoting the host region's unique and diverse attractions.

A total of 73 regional events across Western Australia have been funded through the 2024-25 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 Western Australian Government is proud to sponsor all these regional events, which help bring vibrancy to local communities and drive visitor spend, injecting millions into regional economies.

Tourism is a key part of the Western Australian 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 and also contribute to the vision for Perth and Western Australia to be the fastest growing events destination in the South East Asian region.

The Western Australian Government sponsors a range of sporting, cultural, arts and culinary events across the state, to attract visitors 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

Partners

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



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



WESTERN
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Official Media Partner



Merchandise Partner



10km Woodbridge Dash 17km Bayswater Belter 29km Swan Challenge

Flat water course options for Day 2 of the Avon Descent

For those who want to get on the water this Avon Descent — join us on Sunday 11 August. Starting at Woodbridge Riverside Park — short course options include a 10km, 17km or 29km. Medals for all participants, & top finishers recognised. Weekend paddlers welcome!

10km Woodbridge Dash

The Woodbridge Dash launches participants from Woodbridge Reserve Park in the City of Swan. This 10km flat water course, paddling downstream only, is ideal for those who want to enjoy a quick morning on the river for all types of paddle and rowing craft. The course concludes at Riverside Gardens, Bayswater.

17km Bayswater Belter

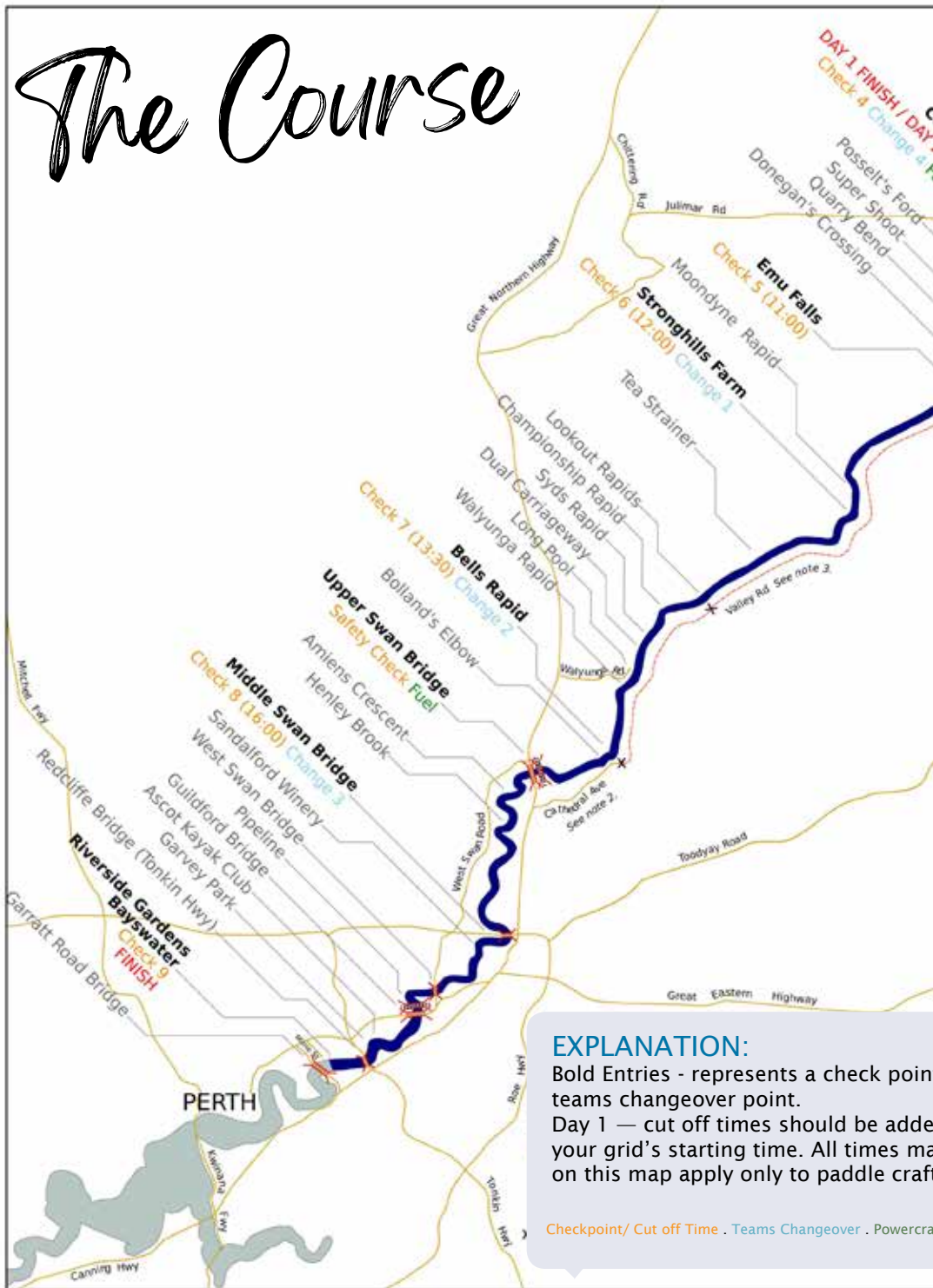
The Bayswater Belter launches participants from Woodbridge Reserve Park, with participants travelling upstream along the right bank to a 180 degree, left hand, buoy turn at Midland Brick (just before Whiteman Bridge) then travelling back past the starting point and onto Riverside Gardens, Bayswater. This 17km flat water course is perfect for those wanting a little more of a challenge.

29km Swan Challenge

The Swan Challenge is the longest of the short courses, launching participants from Woodbridge Reserve Park, with participants paddling upstream along the right bank to Maali Foot Bridge before turning around and paddling back along the right bank past the starting point and on to Riverside Gardens, Bayswater.



The Course



EXPLANATION:

Bold Entries - represents a check point teams changeover point.

Day 1 — cut off times should be added to your grid's starting time. All times marked on this map apply only to paddle craft.

Checkpoint/ Cut off Time . Teams Changeover . Powercraft

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Avon Descent FESTIVALS



FREE EVENTS!

9 to 11 AUGUST

FRI NORTHAM Bilya Festival

SAT TOODYAY International Food Fest

SUN CITY OF SWAN Avon Descent Festival

SUN CITY OF BAYSWATER Finish Line Festival

avondescent.com.au/festivals



**AVON
DESCENT**



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 and Bayswater family fun day 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



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Avon Descent FESTIVALS



FREE EVENT!

9 AUGUST

FRI
5-9PM

NORTHAM Bilya Festival

Bilya Koort Boodja Gardens
& Avon Mall, Northam

Street
Parade and
Urban Farming
display

avondescent.com.au/festivals



AVON
DESCENT

EMRC

Friday



NORTHAM BILYA FESTIVAL & AVON DESCENT START LINE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Date: Friday 9 August 2024
Time: 5:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: Bilya Koort Boodja Centre Garden, Avon Mall,
Minson Avenue, Northam

Supported by Lotterywest.

Come to Northam's Bilya Festival! Enjoy our spectacular community street parade and experience the wonders of urban farming, celebrating the 2024 Avon Descent. Offering the most exciting amusements, food stalls, and live entertainment that you'll find in the Avon Valley this year!

Come and celebrate the evening in style with the Shire of Northam.



Photo by Angie Roe Photography

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Avon Descent FESTIVALS



FREE EVENT!

10 AUGUST

SAT
10AM-4PM

Toodyay International
Food Fest

Stirling and Dudgee Parks, Toodyay

International
Cuisine and
Global Music

avondescent.com.au/festivals



AVON
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Saturday



TOODYAY INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEST SHIRE OF TOODYAY

Date: Saturday, 10 August 2024
Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Location: Stirling and Duidgee Parks, Toodyay

Supported by Lotterywest.

The Shire of Toodyay's International Food Fest will warm you up with international cuisine from all corners of the globe. Just an hour's drive from the CBD, come and soak up the international music, entertainment acts and activities for the kids to enjoy.

Combine the thrill of the Avon Descent with delicious international cuisine.



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Avon Descent FESTIVALS



FREE EVENT!

11 AUGUST

SUN
10AM-3PM

City of Swan Avon
Descent Festival

Lilac Hill Park, Caversham

Pop-up Artisan
markets and
Family Fun

avondescent.com.au/festivals



AVON
DESCENT



Sunday



AVON DESCENT FESTIVAL CITY OF SWAN

Date: Sunday, 11 August 2024
Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm
Location: Lilac Hill Park, Caversham

Supported by Lotterywest.

This year's City of Swan Avon Descent Festival is the perfect opportunity to get outdoors and experience the excitement of the race, which passes through the Swan Valley vineyard region, Upper Swan Bridge and Bells Rapids. At the Festival, spectators can sample delicious gourmet food and wine from local growers as you wander through pop-up artisan markets.

The Avon Descent Festival is proudly presented by the City of Swan and Perth Airport, supported by Plastic Free Riverpark program and supported by Lotterywest and VCMPerth Events.



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Avon Descent FESTIVALS



FREE EVENT!

11 AUGUST

SUN
11AM-5PM

City of Bayswater
Finish Line Festival

Riverside Gardens, Bayswater

Kids
Activities &
Avon Descent
entertainment

avondescent.com.au/festivals

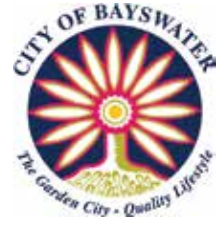
FINISH



AVON
DESCENT

EMRC

Finish line



AVON DESCENT FINISH LINE FESTIVAL CITY OF BAYSWATER

Date: Sunday, 11 August 2024
Time: 11:00am - 5:00pm
Location: Riverside Gardens, Milne Street, Bayswater

Supported by Lotterywest

Join support crews and spectators in welcoming competitors over the finish line of the Avon Descent. Enjoy a sensational day of free entertainment, children's activities, food and markets, while celebrating the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) and its cultural and spiritual significance to the Noongar people.

Nothing beats an exciting finish!





IMAGINE WHITE WATER ALL YEAR

High Adrenaline Sports Hub. City views.

- Year round white water course
- International events
- High Ropes | Parkour | Rock Wall
- and much more

Perth needs a White Water Centre.
Our climate is perfect for it. Combined with on and off water high adrenaline action it will be a hub for tourists, athletes and the community. Join us and be part of this exciting project.

**BE PART OF
THE JOURNEY**



DONATE
to project
development



CONTACT
for interested
Stakeholders

Access to Spectator Points

Competitors and spectators are advised to only access the river from publicly accessible locations.

Northam's Avon Descent Association is generously given permission to run the event by making use of private land and must ensure landowner wishes are respected at all times to ensure the event can continue.

All spectators must use common sense when assessing the suitability of their chosen viewing location, including distance from the river and likelihood of craft exiting the water.

Please note the following:

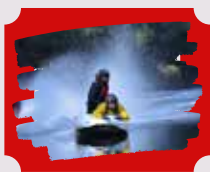
- **Katrine Bridge** — Please follow traffic management instructions.
- **'Glen Avon' Rapid** — Situated on private land and must not be accessed without explicit landowner permission.
- **Extracts/Williamson Weir** — Access via Millard's Pool only. Adjacent farmland is strictly private property and 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. Much of this area includes sensitive biological control areas and police will enforce attempts at trespassing.
- **Cobbler Pool** — Access during the Avon Descent is restricted and there is a fee to park.
- **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.
- **Emu Falls** — Walking access only.
- **Stronghills Farm** — private leasehold land and not open to the public.
- **Walyunga Pool** — This is a National park area and rules apply. A fee is applicable on entry.
- **Bells Rapids** — Access during the Avon Descent is restricted and parking is available at the State Equestrian Centre, Cathedral Avenue.



The Power Dinghy Racing Club was formed in 1978. Even though it is a highly competitive sport, the club is very much a 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 plays 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.



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.



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.



Adventure Class

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



Go to

www.DinghyRacing.com.au

To begin your racing journey

Volunteers

The Avon Descent has a long and intimate history with volunteering with more than 99% of its organising teams consisting entirely of volunteers.

Over its 50 year history, Northam's Avon Descent Association has engaged thousands of volunteers and hundreds of different volunteer groups to deliver our events.

Opportunities to get involved include:

- Parking Official
- Start Marshal
- Scrutineering Support
- Registration Volunteer
- Marketing and Social Media
- Race and Community Photographers
- Recovery Team
- Flag Marshal
- Rescue Boat Crew
- Rescue Swimmer
- ... and more!

Register your interest with volunteermanager@avondescent.com.au



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Camping at Cobbler Pool

Located in West Toodyay, the Cobbler Pool campsite is the finishline for Day 1. It is favoured by participants and support crews over the event weekend, and while it offers only basic infrastructure, it is a great place to revive and celebrate the half way point of the Avon Descent.

The campsite is available for camping both Friday and Saturday nights and site allocations will be managed on a first in/first served basis. Please be familiar with the campsite rules and the environmental policy available online at avondescent.com.au

Under no circumstances are dogs or any other pets permitted.

Campsite fees \$20+GST per adult pre-purchase online
 \$30 per adult at the gate

This allows for up to two nights camping (in Friday — out Sunday). Campsite Wristbands must be worn at all times around the campsite. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge.

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 such as gas, or diesel fuel heaters.

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.



When do the Boats arrive?

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

The above arrival times are a guide only. These indicate when the first paddle and power craft will pass by each spectator location at high, medium and low river levels. Many factors affect these times including rainfall and start times.

For instance, higher river levels means faster flowing water and faster moving participants... which could be the case this year! For more information on current and historical river levels visit water.thebeatentrack.org

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

Please visit the Avon Descent website for historical race times and current participant information www.avondescent.com.au