

**SIX
STAGES,
FOUR
DAYS.
ALL GLORY**



event program

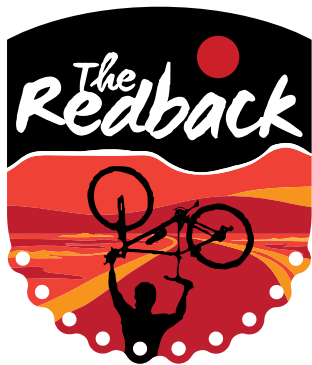
18-21 AUGUST 2023 | ALICE SPRINGS, NT

TheRedback.com.au



skraitch LABS





**IF YOU LIKE SINGLE TRACK
YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE THE
NEXT 4 DAYS!**

Welcome to 2023 The Redback MTB Stage Race.

Alice Springs is surrounded by kilometre after kilometre of hand built single track made by mountain bikers for mountain bikers... and you are about to ride it!!

The single track around Alice Springs has to be ridden to be believed and if you have not been to Alice Springs before you'll be blown away by the quantity and quality of riding as well as the incredible Red Centre landscape.

We express our thanks to the Central Australian Rough Riders and the extended Alice Springs MTB community for building and maintaining these fantastic trails and for welcoming us with open arms each year. If it were not for their passion for riding then this event would not exist.

Riders come from all over Australia to race here and we encourage you to chat to one another, compare notes and make new friends. This is a friendly event that, for most people, is equally based around having a good time as it is about racing hard and fast each day.

OFFICIAL EVENT PROGRAM: This is the official event program and should be your guide for the racing ahead as it includes all the details on where, when, why and how things are going to operate during the event.

Rapid Ascent Team.

Contacts during the event: **Race Director:** John Jacoby: 0408 035 261. **Event Manager:** Sam Maffett 0400 001 786



The Northern Territory Government welcomes you to The Redback!

Welcome to the stunning Red Centre and the 2023 Redback MTB Stage Race. This year, event organisers, Rapid Ascent, worked with local mountain club, the Central Australian Rough Riders to create new course options in the beautiful heart of Australia.

It is a thrill to have competitors from across the nation descend upon Central Australia for four days of racing between 18-21 August 2023 and we hope that you stay on and enjoy all that the Territory has to offer.

This six-stage race highlights the jaw-dropping landscape, from the red earth to tranquil waterholes and towering gum trees. With new short and long course options including friendly social events, this is a must-do for riders of all ages.

The Northern Territory Government is proud to support the 2023 Redback MTB Stage Race, through Northern Territory Major Events Company. Showcasing the beautiful Red Centre, attracting interstate visitors and supporting local businesses, this event delivers significant benefits for the Territory from a social and economic perspective.

With an abundance of incredible natural wonders and unforgettable tourism experiences, including a mountain bike race unlike any other, there's never been a better time to explore the heart of Australia.

Enjoy the 2023 Redback MTB Stage Race and all that this beautiful part of Australia has to offer!



Paul Kirby

**Hon Paul Kirby, MLA
Minister for Major Events
Northern Territory Government**



SCHEDULE - WHERE AND WHEN AND HOW

TIME ACTIVITY LOCATION AND NOTES

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST

ALL DAY	AIRPORT TRANSFER	Competitors arrive & airport shuttle operates (pre purchased transfers).
3:00pm - 6:00pm	REGISTRATION	Registration at The Mercure Alice Springs Resort.
3:30pm	SOCIAL RIDE	A 1hr social ride departing from The Mercure.
6:00pm	RACE BRIEFING	Competitors' race briefing and official welcome at The Mercure.
6:30pm onwards	DRINKS + DINNER	Social drinks and/or dinner at The Mercure (pre-bookings recommended).

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST

9:00am	STAGE 1	Westside XC Stage 1: starts at the Scout Hall on Larapinta Dve .
5:00pm - 5:45pm	STAGE 2	Rapid Ascent Stage 2: starts at ANZAC Hill in Central Alice Springs.
5:45pm	PRESENTATIONS	Presentations for Stage 1 and Stage 2 on ANZAC Hill

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST

9:00am	STAGE 3	Eastside XC Stage 3: starts opposite The Mercure next to Stott Tce
6:00pm	PRESENTATIONS	Presentations then mid event dinner and for Stage 3: Juicy Rump.

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

9:00am	STAGE 4	Individual TT Stage 4: individual starts and finish in front of Juicy Rump.
6:15pm	PRESENTATIONS	Presentations for Stage 4 at the Alice Springs Golf Club.
6:30pm	STAGE 5	Night Race Stage 5: A-Line race start at The Alice Springs Golf Club.
6:45pm	STAGE 5	Night Race Stage 5: B-Line race start at The Alice Springs Golf Club.
from 7:00pm	DINNER	Event dinner available at the Alice Springs Golf Club

MONDAY 21 AUGUST

9:00am	STAGE 6	Eastside Epic XC Stage 6: starts at Schwarz Cres / Todd Rover crossing
from 5:00pm	CELEBRATIONS	Meet for an end of race drink at The Mercure
6:00pm onwards	FINAL DINNER	Presentations then final dinner at The Mercure

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST

ALL DAY	AIRPORT TRANSFER	Airport shuttle bus operates from The Mercure to the airport.
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THE MERCURE ALICE SPRINGS RESORT - THE OFFICIAL EVENT HOTEL

The Mercure Alice Springs Resort is the official event hotel and welcomes all riders to come and enjoy their facilities at 34 Stott Terrace.

The Mercure has a large grassy courtyard with tables and chairs for us to enjoy, along with a restaurant, bar and pool making it a quiet oasis where we can all chill pre and post racing.

Registration, the competitor briefing and various event functions will also be conducted in the courtyard under the shade of the eucalypts and large shade structure. We will also set up the KRUSH bike wash at the far corner of the courtyard so you can wash and care for your bike after each stage.

Our partnered bike shop - The Alice Springs Bicycle Centre - will provide basic repairs and sales of essential items in the Mercure courtyard during the following times:

- 7:00am - 8:45am on Friday 18th August
- 7:00am - 8:30am on Saturday 19th August
- 7:00am - 8:30pm on Sunday 20th August
- 7:00am - 8:15am on Monday 21st August

(If your bike need additional repairs or attention outside these hours then visit The Alice Springs Bicycle Centre shop at Unit 2/30 Stuart Highway)

REGISTRATION AND COMPETITOR BRIEFING

Competitor registration - 3:00pm and 6:00pm - Thursday 17th August in The Mercure courtyard

- All riders must register in person
- Junior riders are required to attend registration with a parent or guardian
- Single stage riders are encouraged to register now as well
- If you are unable to attend registration during these times contact Adele via adele@rapidascent.com.au

At registration you will receive:

- **Number plate.** Fill out the emergency details on the back, then fix your personalised number plate to the front of your bike. Number plates cannot be trimmed or altered in any way, must remain on your bike for the duration of the event and have the Race Management emergency contact telephone numbers on the back
- **Timing chip** to be attached to your forks with the zip tie provided. (NOTE: these must be returned to us if you withdraw and/or after the last race. Misplaced chips will incur a \$100 replacement cost).
- **Event branded socks** for all competitors who have entered all 6 stages.
- A printed copy of this **event program**.

Competitor briefing - 6:00pm - Thursday 17th August in the courtyard (same location as registration). Riders are encouraged to attend the competitors' briefing for all final event information and details.



MERCURE ALICE SPRINGS RESORT

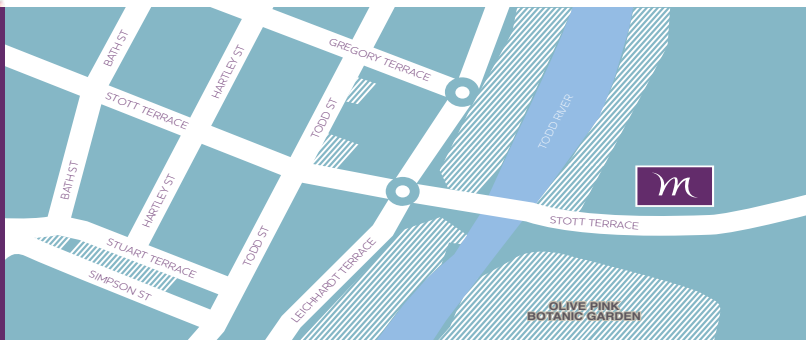
34 STOTT TERRACE, ALICE SPRINGS
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EVENT FUNCTIONS AND STAGE PRESENTATIONS

We encourage all riders to attend the various functions conducted throughout the event so you have a chance to relax, meet some other riders and enjoy the social scene as much as the riding itself.

We will conduct stage presentations each day to recount a few stories from the day's racing and hand out a few spot prizes. We will also award a stubby holder and beer to the stage winners in each category and the esteemed yellow number plate to the current GC race leaders. We'll also provide a few tips and suggestions for the following day's racing.

Thursday 17th August

3:30pm, Social Ride - departing from The Mercure

This will be a non-competitive ~1hr ride along a selection of trails so all riders can check the conditions and see what's instore for the days to come. It will be hosted by an Alice Springs local and will provide the opportunity to ask more about tyres and bike set up and how to handle the local conditions.

6:00pm, Competitor briefing & official welcome in The Mercure courtyard

We welcome all riders and spectators to join us for the event briefing where we will cover the event schedule, general procedures on the day and any last minute changes. All riders are strongly encouraged to attend.

6:30pm onwards. Welcome drinks and dinner at The Mercure - pre-bookings essential

An informal gathering to allow riders to meet up with friends old and new for a drink and a meal together before the race. The Mercure has a popular restaurant around the pool and is immediately adjacent the registration area. Restaurant bookings are essential so call 08 8951 4545 to book.

Friday 18th August - Day 1

5:00pm - ~5:45pm, The ANZAC Hill Climb Stage 2.

This may be a racing stage but its also a great social hang out with everyone cheering each other on as you go full-gas up this climb. Bring your cow bells and didgeridoos and make some noise to cheer them on!

~5:45pm, Stage 1 and 2 Presentations at ANZAC Hill

We will announce the results and award prizes to the category and overall winners of the first 2 stages - conducted immediately after the last rider up ANZAC Hill.

Saturday 19th August - Day 2

6:00pm, Stage 3 Presentations then dinner, at The Juicy Rump Bar at Lasseters.

Presentations will be held in the Juicy Rump Bar at Lasseters and followed by a casual dinner at this popular local restaurant and bar.

Sunday 20th August - Day 3

6:15pm, Stage 4 Presentations, at the Alice Springs Golf Club.

This is a shorter presentation to recognise our stage 4 winners held immediately before the start of stage 5.

7:00pm - 9:30pm, post race dinner, at the Alice Springs Golf Club.

The Alice Springs Golf Club will host a dinner that's available for anyone to attend. This is a great location for supporting friends and family to watch the start/finish of the night race. Stage 5 presentations will occur as winners cross the finish line.

Monday 21st August - Day 4

from 5:00pm, Celebratory drinks at The Mercure

A casual starter to the night with riders encouraged to meet beforehand for a drink or two before dinner

6:00pm, Stage 6 and Final Event Presentation Dinner in the courtyard at The Mercure

This is the final function of the event and a grand celebration of everyone's riding accomplishments plus presentations for stage 6 and the overall event. Entry to the buffet dinner is included for 6 stage riders and will include a mountain of food in a comfortable, social environment. TICKETS: Additional tickets for family members and supporters are available at race registration for \$45 each.

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN MAP



Start / Finish schedule:

- Stage 1 – Friday: Start at the Scout Hall on Larapinta Drive. Finish at the Old Telegraph Station.
- Stage 2 – Friday evening. Start & Finish: Anzac Hill.
- Stage 3 – Saturday morning. Start at The Mercure Hotel. Finish at the Old Telegraph Station
- Stage 4 – Sunday morning. Start and finish at The Juicy Rump.
- Stage 5 – Sunday night. Start and finish at the Alice Springs Golf Club.
- Stage 6 – Monday. Start: Schwartz Cres. Finish: The Mercure Hotel

**THE MERCURE
EVENT HOTEL**
St 3: Start
St 6: Finish

GOLF COURSE
**St 5: Start
& Finish**

LASSETERS / JUICY RUMP
**St 4: Start
& Finish**

LEGEND

- Main Roads
- Town Streets
- Railway
- Walking Tracks
- Walking & Cycling Tracks
- Parks/Reserves
- Hospital
- Police Station
- Ambulance/fire Brigade
- Post Office
- Visitor Information Centre

Information & Maps



ACCOMODATION

- 1 Desert Palms Resort
- 2 Heavitree Gap Outback Lodge
- 3 Alice Springs Plaza Hotel
- 4 Diplomat Alice Springs
- 5 All Seasons Oasis
- 6 Comfort Inn Outback
- 7 Todd Tavern
- 8 Alice Springs Heritage Caravan Park
- 9 MacDonnell Range Holiday Park
- 10 Stuart Caravan & Cabin Tourist Park
- 11 Alice Motor Inn
- 12 Kathys Place Bed & Breakfast
- 13 Aurora Alice Springs
- 28 Alice Tourist Apartments
- 29 Haven

MISCELLANEOUS

- 14 Horny Devils
- 15 Souvenir Warehouse
- 16 Royal Flying Doctor Service
- 17 Wicked Kneads
- 18 Hanuman Restaurant / Crown Plaza
- 19 Alice Springs Reptile Centre
- 20 Alice Springs Cultural Centre
- 21 School of the Air
- 22 Lasseter's Casino
- 23 Pulvers Wallis Fogarty Steakhouse
- 24 Workwear
- 25 Desert Dwellers
- 26 'Many Hands' Art Centre
- 27 Old Jail / National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame

WEST TO:

Alice Springs Desert Park
Flynn's Grave
West MacDonnell Ranges
Hermannsburg
Palm Valley
Merinee Loop Rd

SOUTH TO:

Old Timer's Museum
Alice Springs Turf Club
National Road Transport Hall of Fame
Ghan Preservation Society
Airport
Ayers Rock / Uluru
Kings Canyon
South Australian Border
Coober Pedy

ROSS RIVER HWY TO:
Arltunga
Ross River Resort
Frontier Camel Farm
East MacDonnell Ranges

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND DETAILS

Below is a detailed description of each stage of The Redback. These pages are designed so all information for each stage is on a separate page – directions on the front and map on the back of the same piece of paper - so you can cut out the page you need and take it with you for reference. The map of Alice Springs on pages 6 and 7 shows you the location of starts and finishes.

Stage start / finish summary:

- 1. Stage 1 - Friday (AM): Westside XC Race: A-Line: 36km and B-Line: 22km**
Start at the Scout Hall on Larapinta Dr (no toilets or water at start), Finish at the Old Telegraph Station
- 2. Stage 2 - Friday (PM): 300m ANZAC Hill Climb (all riders)**
Start & Finish: Anzac Hill from 4:30pm. (No toilets).
- 3. Stage 3 - Saturday (AM): Eastside XC Race: A-Line: 45km and B-Line: 25km**
Start: Opposite the entrance to Mercure Hotel. Finish at the Old Telegraph Station
- 4. Stage 4 - Sunday (AM): Individual Time Trial: A-Line: 22km and B-Line: 18km**
Start & Finish: Juicy Rump, Lasseters
- 5. Stage 5 - Sunday (PM): Night Race: A-Line: 22km and B-Line: 18km**
Start & Finish: Alice Springs Golf Club
- 6. Stage 6 - Monday (AM): Eastside Epic XC Marathon Race: A-Line: 52km and B-Line: 25km**
Start: Schwarz Cres on west side of river (no toilets or water at start). Finish: Mercure Hotel.

Race Starts:

- Stages 1, 3, 5 and 6 will be mass starts with all A-Line riders starting at the listed time and all B-Line riders starting 5 minutes later (15 mins later for stage 5 night race) .
- Please self seed yourself in the start chute with faster riders towards the front and slower riders further back.
- Stages 2 and 4 are individual time trials with riders starting in the designated order (B-Line then slowest riders first).

Course marking:

- Courses will be marked with **red arrows** pegged into the ground and pink surveyors tape tied to trees or bushes that mark where you should go.
- On all stages the B-Line course starts along the A-Line course but takes 1 or 2 'short cuts' to reduce the distance. Note the following:
 - The 'short cut' will be clearly marked with course split signs. The turn off to the 'short cut' will not be marshalled so it is up to the rider to see where to go.
 - The B-Line short cut course (where only B-Line riders proceed) will be marked with blue tape and blue arrows.
- Red and white barrier tape tied at ground level across a track indicates where not to go i.e. you should NEVER cross red and white barrier tape as this is the WRONG WAY.

All track intersections will be clearly marked. Track markings on the longer, straighter sections where there are no other options will be far more spread out.

Unless otherwise marked or directed, competitors should follow the most major track at all intersections. If there is no arrow at a minor track junction then continue along the major track (eg the other track could be just a kangaroo track).

Special notes:

- If you withdraw from a stage for any reason whatsoever then you **MUST** advise a marshal or member of the race management ASAP. This is really important as otherwise you will be assumed as missing and a search commenced.
- Normal road rules apply for all stages - traffic is not stopped during the race.
- All distances are approximate and may be +/- 2-3 km.
- It is up to you to get yourself to the start of each stage for the advertised start time. We encourage riders to set out to the start together and enjoy a social warm up.

WESTSIDE - STAGE 1

When: Friday, stage starts at 9:00am **Distance:** A-Line 36km, B-Line 22km

A-Line Course record: Rohin Adams 1:51.44, Leigh McGregor 2:23.23

Start location: Scout Hall on Larapinta Dve (near Cnr of Lovegrove Dve)

Finish location: Old Telegraph Station

Terrain and riding style: A varied ride starting on sandy tracks followed by long continuous sections of flowing single track. Some technical riding on the northern track.

Water point location: 12.2km point on the trail.

Course description - [CLICK HERE](#) to see course on Trailforks:

The 2023 Redback starts on the west side of town at the Scout Hall on Larapinta Dve where plenty of work has been done to reshape old trails and carve out new ones – making it the perfect introduction to red centre riding.

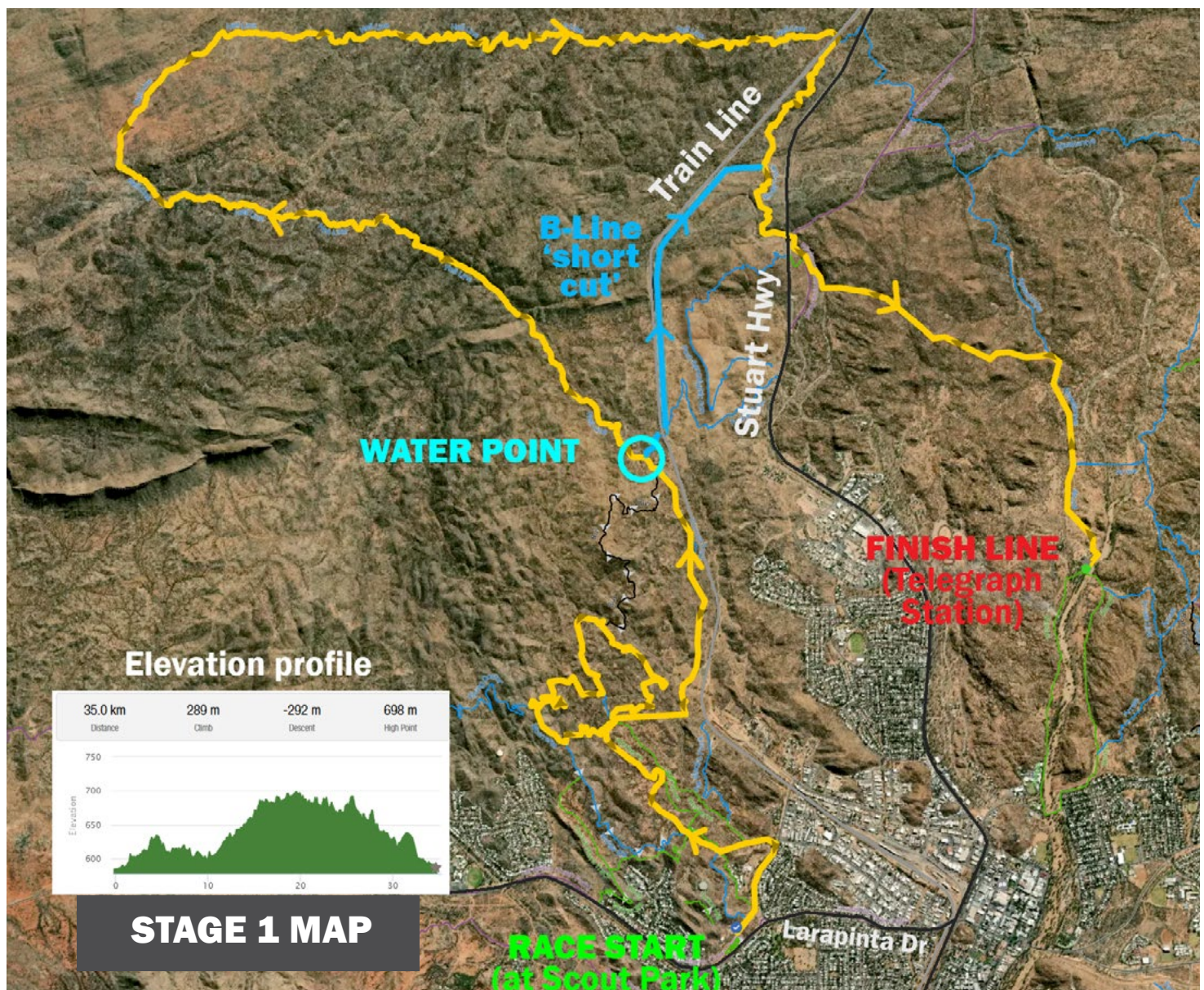
The full course will take in The Hell Line in a clockwise direction (rebuilt since the rough ‘early years!’), Road Train, Humpy, Nturrerte, and a heap of other trails before finishing at the Old Telegraph Station.

B-Line Notes: Ride the first 12.2km on the A-Line course to the water point, then turn right. Follow the blue course markings through a tunnel under the railway line and then along a 4WD track on the Eastern side of the railway line to rejoin the A-Line route at their 29km pt. The B-Line course avoids The Hell Line.

With almost ‘too much single track’ stage 1 sets the scene for a great weekend of riding to come.

Specific hazards / rules:

- Trains when crossing the railway line - they have right of way!
- Sandy sections and washouts on approach to any low lying land



Werte! Welcome!

Alice Springs Town Council
welcomes you with an
invitation to stay awhile
longer, explore your
magnificent country...

RAPID ASCENT HILL CLIMB - STAGE 2



When: Friday, individual starts from 5:00pm

Distance: 300m

Course record: Ben Mather 42sec and Rowena Fry 54sec.

Start location: Base of ANZAC Hill Rd at the corner of Schwarz Cres and ANZAC Hill Rd

Finish location: ANZAC Hill Summit.

Terrain and riding style: A pedal-to-the-metal hill climb up a sealed road to a scenic lookout at the top.

Encouragement: Bring your cow bells and didgeridoos and make some noise to encourage riders up the climb!

The start:

Riders will be set off, one at a time, at 30 second intervals. The start order will be the exact reverse of the results from Stage 1 with the slowest riders going first and fastest last. Start times will be posted on the Redback Website and on the event notice board at the The Mercure by 3:30pm and at the base of Anzac Hill at 4:00pm. All riders must report to the start 10 minutes before their advertised start time, and will then be placed into the starting order. If you miss your start then you must report to the starting officials and can only start at their command. Your time will start from your advertised start time (i.e. if you are 10 minutes late your time will be 10 minutes + time to climb the hill).

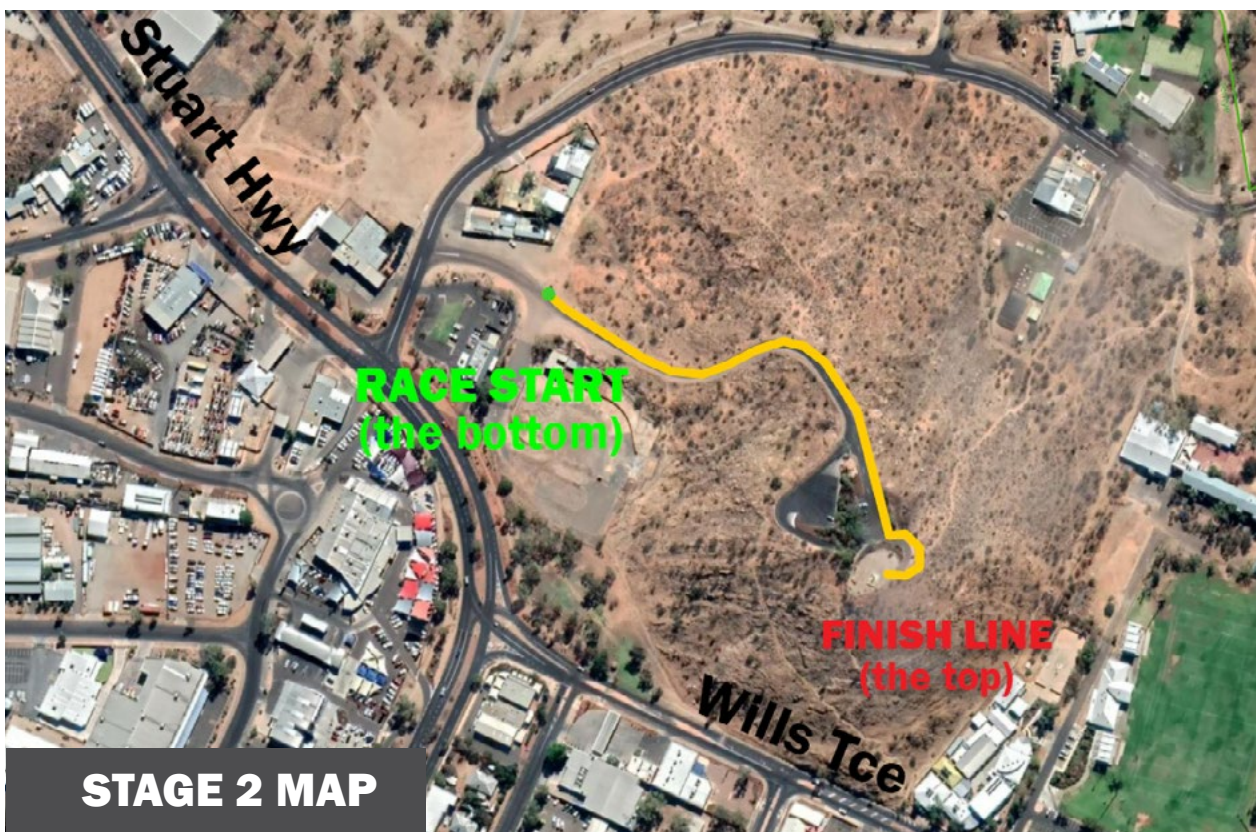
Although starts will continue for approximately 45min, all riders are encouraged to come for the duration of Stage 2 in order to cheer each other on, keep an eye on fastest times and create a friendly, enthusiastic atmosphere for all riders whilst the sun sets over the desert (bring your cow bells, didgeridoos and fancy dress!).

Course description: [CLICK HERE](#) to see course on Trailforks

The course is very obvious and goes straight up the sealed road to the car park and then continues up the short access ramp to the lookout at the very top.

Specific hazards / rules:

- You must use the same bike frame, shock, forks and bike build as for all other stages but you may change tyres/wheels if you wish.
- Your race time will commence from your published start time so don't be late!
- Be aware of other riders, the general public and spectators when racing. This is a popular spot.
- No pacing by fellow competitors is allowed. Riders must ascend alone.



SKRATCH NUTRITION EASTSIDE XC - STAGE 3

When: Saturday, stage starts at 9:00am.

Distance: A-Line 45km, B-Line 25km.

Course record: Tom Stockwell 2:10.58. Madi Russell 2:48.29 .

Start location: Opposite entrance to Mercure Hotel .

Finish location: Telegraph Station, next to the Todd River (on the green grass).

Terrain and riding style: A sweet course starting out on 4WD tracks but soon becoming an almost continual trail of single track through some of the region's best trails.

Water point locations: 19km and 34.5km points for A-Line riders and ~16.5km pt for B-Line riders.

skratch LABS

Course description - [CLICK HERE](#) to see course on Trailforks:

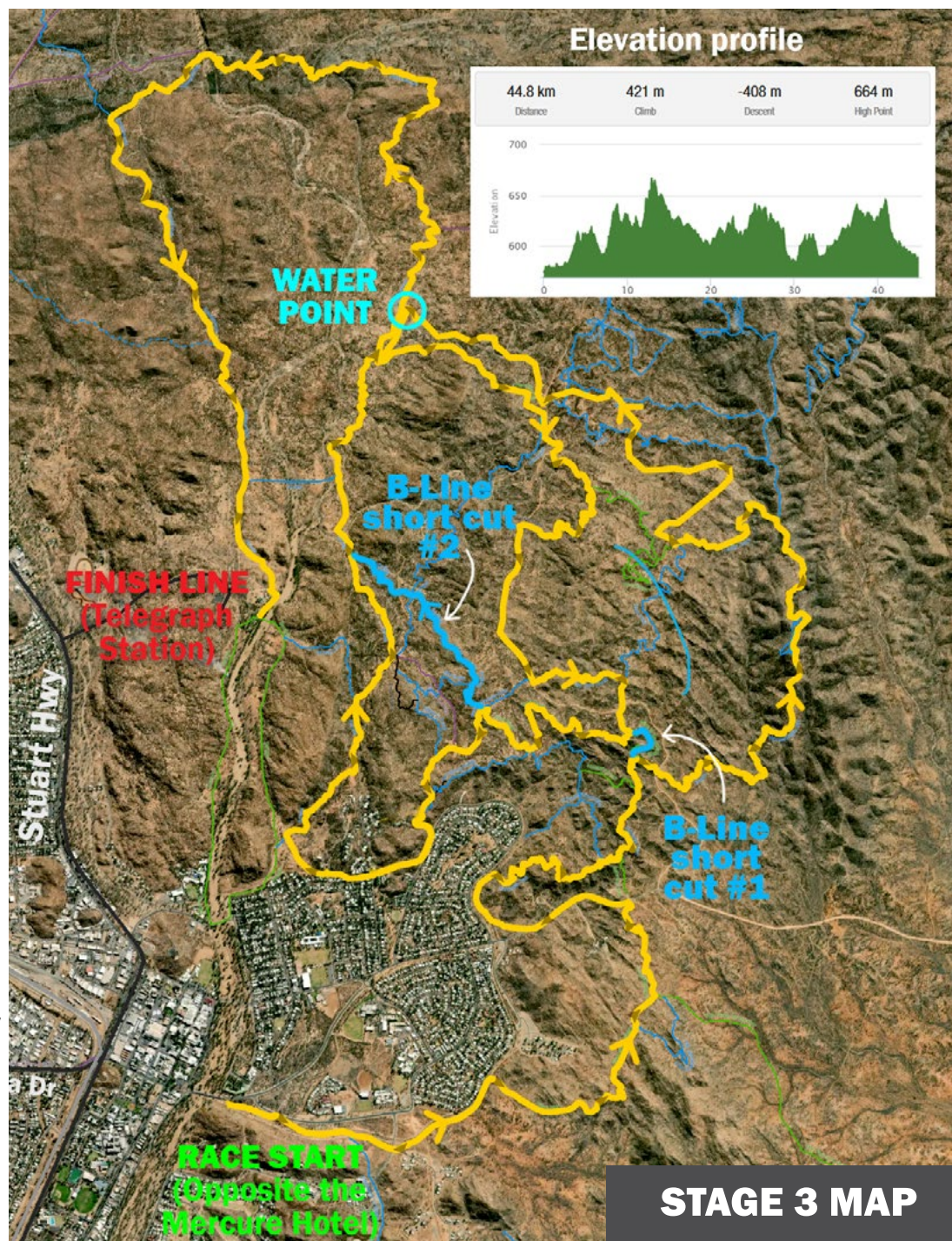
This is one of the highlight stages of The Redback and takes in some of Alice's best and most popular single track like a greatest hits sound track that you just want to put on repeat!

Diving deep into the Eastside trail network this course includes many highlight trails like Stimsons (our favourite), Perente, Carl's, Sink Track Eagle and many many more. Towards the closing stages, the course crosses the Todd River at Wiggley's Gorge before turning for home and descending on Apwelaytye to finish in the beautiful grass and ghost gum parkland next to the Todd River and the Telegraph Station. This is about as good as riding gets!

B-Line Notes: Ride the first 9.2km of the A-Line track and then turn left onto Short Cut #1 – a 500m short cut to the Sink Track. Join the A-Line for 2km and then B-Line riders turn right onto Short Cut #2 and ride 2.4km along the tough and technical Skyline Track before rejoining the A-Line course for the rest of the course to the finish.

Specific hazards / rules:

- Watch for traffic at all road crossings, particularly when using Undoolya Rd at 5km pt. Normal road rules apply, traffic is not stopped during the race.
- Keep an eye out for course markings and stick to the marked route at all times (you will get lost in the maze of tracks otherwise!).
- Be aware that the trails are still open to the public and other trail users – like walkers and runners. Please respect their rights as well.
- There are numerous sandy sections and washouts on approach to any low lying land.





Paul van der Ploeg
Skratch Labs rider

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- drink when thirsty
- don't drink when not thirsty

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INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL - STAGE 4

When: Sunday, stage starts from 9:00am

Distance: 22km for A-Line and 18km for B-Line

Course record: Tom Stockwell 56.37 and Madi Russell 1:12.47

Start / Finish location: The Grass in front of the Juicy Rump at Lasseters.

Terrain and riding style: An individual time trial with slowest going off first and fastest going off last (based on general classification). Riding is along a flowing mix of single track interspersed with sections of 4WD track.

Water point locations: Nil

The start:

The start order will be set after the completion of Stage 3 according to your place in the general classification, with last place in GC starting first in the time trial. The first rider to start through to the 10th last rider will be set off at 30sec time intervals. The 10th last through to the 5th last rider will start at 1min intervals and then the last 5 riders will be set off at 2min intervals.

The exact start order and times will be posted at the event website and the notice board at The Mercure Hotel by 8:00pm on Saturday. All riders must report to the start 10 minutes before their advertised start time, and will then be placed into the starting order. If you miss your start then you must report to the starting officials and can only start at their command. Your time will start from your advertised start time (i.e. if you are 10 minutes late your time will be 10 minutes + time to do the time trial course).

Course description - [CLICK HERE](#) to see the course on Trail Forks:

The stage starts along the concrete footpath beside Stephens Road (keep left), then crosses the two side roads (take care) and continues along the flowing trails in the Sunset Hill area south east of town. The A-Line course follows some of the fastest sections of single track in the Red Centre with plenty of fast straight-aways and high speed corners to keep you on the rivet the whole way whilst B-Line riders sample much of the same but take a short cut part way through. .

Riders return along the concrete footpath beside Stephens Road (keep left) and then race back to the grass in front of the Juicy Rump Bar and Grill.

B-Line Notes: Ride the first 11km of the A-Line track and then take a Short Cut by turning left and riding 2km along the '12hr track', rejoining the A-Line course on the climb up Sunset Hill

Specific hazards / rules:

- Keep an eye out for other riders on the two way section on the concrete footpath
- Take care crossing the residential side roads (twice) and only cross when it is safe. Normal road rules apply.
- If you get caught by the rider behind you then please let them pass so you don't hinder their progress.
- Be aware that the trails are still open to the public and other trail users – like walkers and runners. Please respect their rights as well.
- Be aware of eroded sections of track on steep sections and sandy patches and washouts in the low country.

RECOVERY TIME

Click to learn more about camel tours and other Alice Springs experiences



THUNDERSTRUCK NIGHT RACE - STAGE 5

When: Sunday evening, A-Line mass start 6:30pm. B-Line mass start 6:45pm.

Distance: 22km for A-Line and 18km for B-Line.

Course record: Tom Stockwell 56.44 and Madi Russell 1:10.52

Start location: Alice Springs Golf Course.

Finish location: Alice Springs Golf Course. Note: the Golf Club bar and restaurant will be open to serve food and drinks before, during and after racing and will be a great place for a beer and a meal after the race.

Terrain and riding style: The night race is the same course as stage 4 (except the first and last 2km) and commences with a mass start for all riders at night using their own lights. The course is a mix of single track with occasional 4WD track sections.

Water point locations: Nil

The start and course description:

The race will commence with a mass start in front of the Golf Club Clubhouse - A-Line mass start 6:30pm. B-Line mass start 6:45pm - and will then race 2km through the golf course to pick up the same course as for the Stage 4 Time Trial raced in the morning – refer to course description above. The majority of the single track section will be marked with reflective arrows and markers (of no particular colour) that will help you see the trail ahead.

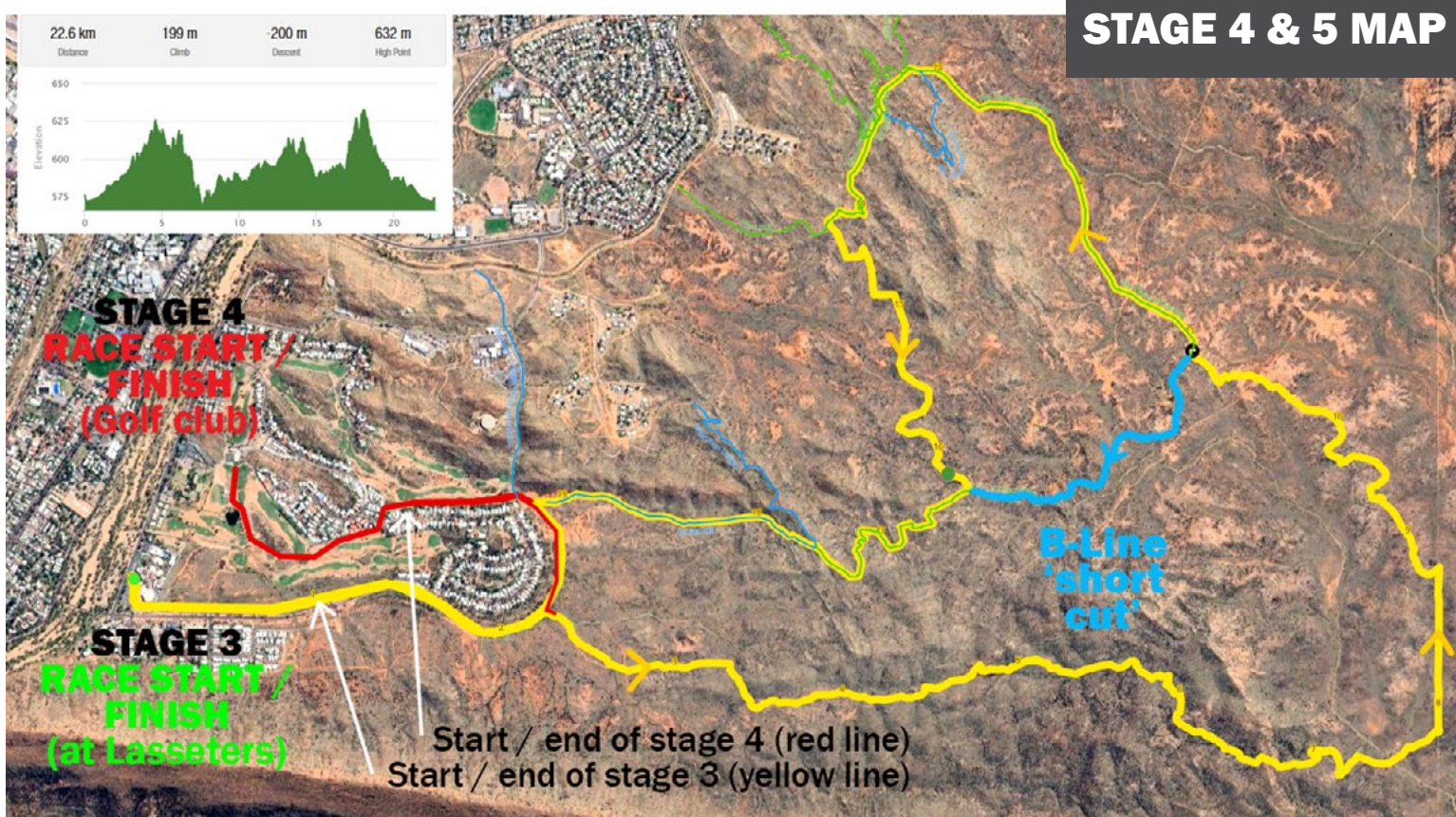
All riders **must have their own lights** sufficiently bright enough to see the trail and any hazards ahead of you (the brighter the better!) and must also have a solid red light facing backwards.

After the race: The Alice Springs Golf Course restaurant will be serving a range of tasty, well priced meals during and after the race and we encourage all supporters and riders to enjoy their hospitality after racing.

B-Line Notes: Start 15mins behind the A-Line mass start. Ride the same route as for stage 4 in the morning.

Specific hazards / rules:

- Keep an eye out for course markings and stick to the marked route at all times – especially since it is dark!
- Be aware of eroded sections of track on steep sections and sandy patches and washouts in the low country.



EASTSIDE EPIC MARATHON - STAGE 6

Incorporating the Tavis Johannsen Memorial Trophy

When: Monday, stage starts at 9:00am.

Distance: A-Line 52km, B-Line 24.9km

Course record: This stage has changed since 2023. Estimated 2hr35 for the fastest.

Start location: Schwarz Cres on west side of the Todd River.

Finish location: Finish at The Mercure Hotel.

Stage winner: The overall male winner of Stage 6 wins the Tavis Johannsen Memorial Trophy that has been struck in his memory, and kindly donated by the MacDonnell Ranges Holiday Park and the Johannsen and Heenan families.

Terrain and riding style: A varied ride with flowing sections of single track and 4WD tracks.

Water point location: 20km pt near 'Lower 5 Ways'.

The start:

Racing will commence with a mass roll-out start on the bike path leading to the Telegraph Station. Due to the narrow trail and risk to riders, this is a controlled start and racing cannot commence until you reach the grass at the Telegraph Station where riders can then put the hammer down.

Course description - [CLICK HERE](#) to see course on Trailforks:

Saving the best to last, stage 6 is commonly the race favourite as it takes in 'the best of the best' trails around Alice Springs to finish on a real high note – with a few extra kms of trail added for 2023.

The locals continue to turn out more and more quality single track with recent productions being simply masterful, many of which are included in this final stage to make it the jewel of the Redback crown.

So tune up your bike, fill up your water bottle and then get ready to empty the tank on some of the sweetest trails for a final race blitz of pure fun. Enjoy.

(Some of the trails used in Stage 6 were ridden in the opposite direction in Stage 3 - although they feel completely different being ridden in a different direction!).

B-Line Notes: Ride the first 20km of the A-Line course and then turn right to cut across to the water point (your 20.5km pt). Turn right again and continue ~2km along a 4WD track and then single track to rejoin the A-Line Route at their 36km pt.

Specific hazards / rules:

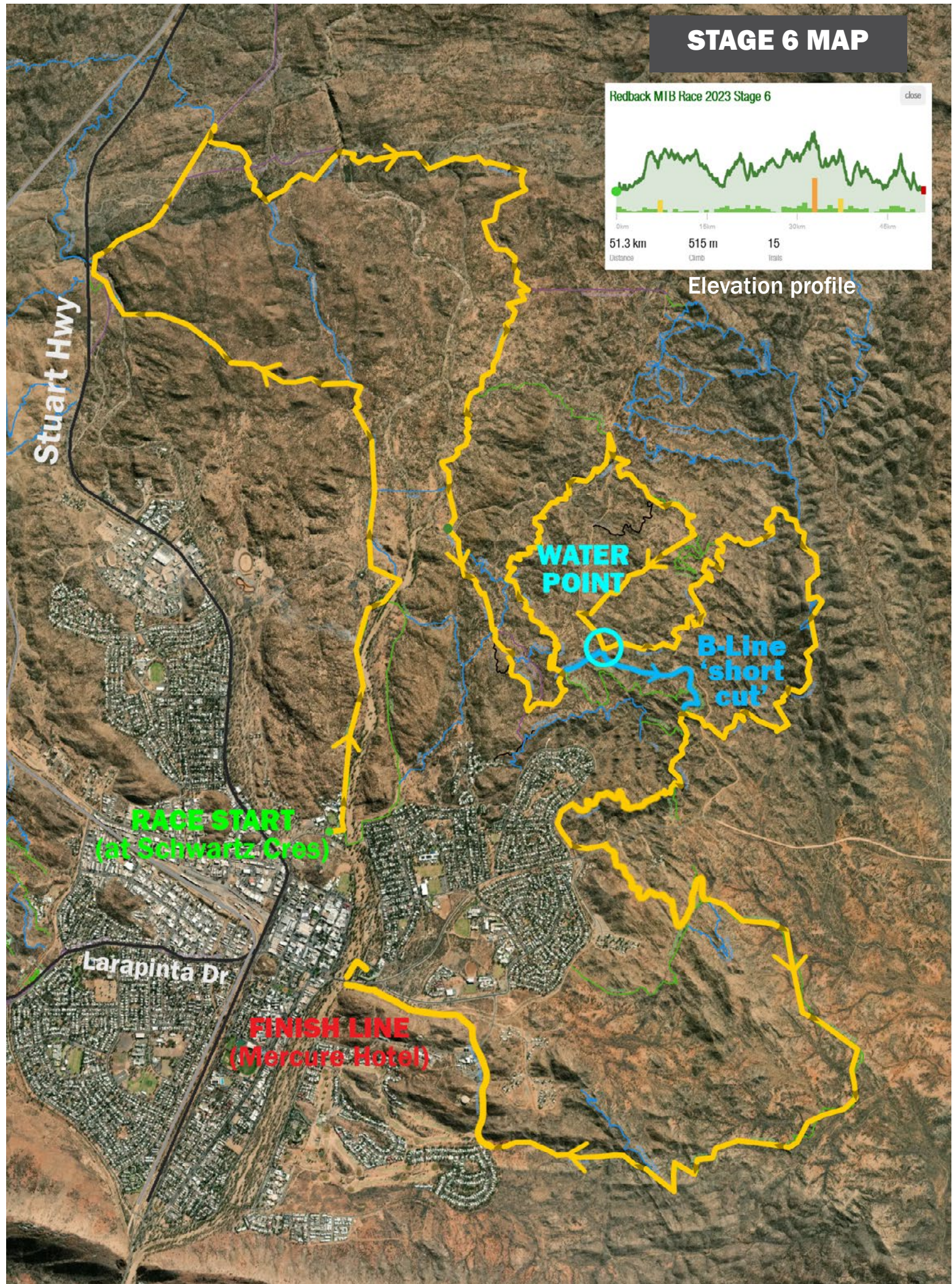
- Watch for traffic at all road crossings, particularly when using Undoolya Rd. Normal road rules apply \\
- Sandy sections and washouts on approach to any low lying land.



STAGE 6 MAP



Elevation profile



COMPETITOR SERVICES

Being mountain bikers ourselves, we know that sometimes it's not quite as easy as it seems to compete in a race, so we've come up with the following competitor services to make your participation in the event as easy, hassle free and fun as possible.

Airport shuttles:

We took bookings for airport shuttles as part of the entry process up until 8th August. If you booked a shuttle through us before 8th August then your details have been passed on to Alice Silver Passenger Services who will collect you and your bike at the airport. You should have received a confirmation e-mail from them to confirm your booking. If not then contact the Rapid Ascent office.

If you need an airport transfer but have not pre-booked one through us you must make your own bookings. We recommend speaking to Alice Silver Passenger Services who are familiar with the event, contact them via: 0477 245 941 or via e-mail alicesilverpassengerservices@gmail.com

Clothing transport:

As many stage start locations are different to the finish locations we will provide a clothing transport service and take your clothing from one to the other while you're racing. Just drop your clothing off to us at the race info marquee or vehicle at the start line and then collect it from the finish. Simply follow these instructions:

- label all your clothing with name and mobile number (do this now!).
- put all your clothing in a bag with your name, race number and mobile number on it. This makes it easier to transport and easier to find again at the finish line.
- whilst we will try our very best, we accept no responsibility for any items that may be lost. We recommend you do not give us any valuables.

Bike Wash

Together with our bike wash sponsor KRUSH – we will have a bike wash station set up at The Mercure Hotel for the duration of the event that's free for all competitors. With plenty of water and brushes on tap you can try out KRUSH's Premium Bike Wash, Foaming Wash and After Wash Bike Spray to keep your bike running its best. Just remember – *A clean bike is a fast bike!*



Bottle deposits:

The water point locations for each stage are listed in the stage descriptions above. All water points will have water and Skratch electrolyte available for you to fill up your water bottles and drinking system bladders, but we will also transfer your own water bottles to these locations so you can have your own 'special formula' whilst out on the track.

Bottles for transport to each water point need to be organised as follows:

- Bottles will need to be delivered to the event officials as per the schedule below.
- All bottles must be very clearly marked with your race number written around the top.
- Bottles will then be placed in numerical order at the water point for quick collection.
- Empty bottles can be collected from the Event Centre at The Mercure Hotel.

Bottles for:

1. Stage 1 - must be delivered to us at the The Mercure by 7:30am.
2. Stage 2 Hill Climb - no water points so no bottles transferred.
3. Stage 3 - must be delivered to us at the The Mercure by 7:30am.
4. Stage 4 ITT - no water points so no bottles transferred.
5. Stage 4 Night Race - no water points so no bottles transferred.
6. Stage 6 - must be delivered to us at the The Mercure by 7:30am.

EQUIPMENT FOR YOU AND YOUR BIKE

Compulsory equipment to carry:

The following equipment **MUST** be carried with you for all stages (except Stage 2) from the start to the finish of the event as outlined in the race rules:

- Emergency safety blanket (for sale for \$7 at registration).
- A First Aid Kit comprising at least: 2 x crepe bandages, 2 x non-adhesive wound dressings, 6 x steri-strip wound closures, 1 x triangular bandage and a pair of surgical gloves (for sale for \$20 at registration).
- Mobile Phone (please store the emergency phone number: John Jacoby (Race Director) 0408 035 261).
- Stage 5 - Bright white lights facing forwards and a red light facing backwards.

We will be conducting random checks for First Aid Kits and other compulsory equipment during the event. Any competitor found not having the required equipment at any point will be given a 1 hour time penalty.

Recommended equipment:

- tubeless tyres with a sealant inside.
- tyre patches or plugs in case you do get a hole in the side wall that is too big for the sealant to seal.
- bike computer. We do not put out KM markings so this is helpful to know how far you've gone.
- 2 bottle cages or a 2lt hydration backpack - refer notes below.
- sunglasses and a small tube of sunscreen.
- multi tool with chain breaker.
- spare tube – with sealant or Goo inside!

TYRE AND BIKE SET UP

The riding terrain around Alice Springs is likely to be quite different to any you have previously experienced and we highly recommend that you set your bike up for the local conditions. Most of the single track and 4WD tracks around Alice consist of sandy gravel and small sharp rocks on a firm base which makes for fun, fast riding but can also cause havoc with your tyres due to a) the sharp rocks that can cut the tyre's side-walls and b) the prevalence of 'cat head' thorns that will puncture your tyre.

The locals recommended tyre set up, and one that we **RECOMMEND YOU FOLLOW TO SAVE PUNCTURES**, is to use sturdy, tubeless tyres with a sealant inside on tubeless rims. This set up works best as the sealant will fill any punctures you get from the thorns, the tubeless tyres have a tougher side wall and are more resilient to sharp rocks cutting your side walls. We strongly recommend that you do not use tubes or a thin, light weight tyres as the rocks will eat them up for breakfast and you increase your likelihood of punctures and side wall damage.

For more information on our recommended bike set up, read the [equipment page on the event website](#) or speak to the guys from the Alice Springs Bike Centre as noted below.

BIKE SERVICING AND MECHANICAL REPAIRS

The Alice Springs Bicycle Centre are our retail partner and preferred bike shop. They have a wealth of information and accessories to help ensure your Redback race is not compromised because of your bike!



They will have a temporary bike workshop set up in the 'Courtyard' at The Mercure where they will be offering basic repairs and sales of essential items during these times:

- 7:00am - 8:45am on Friday 18th August
- 7:00am - 8:30am on Saturday 19th August
- 7:00am - 8:30pm on Sunday 20th August
- 7:00am - 8:15am on Monday 21st August

For more complex issues or for help outside these times visit their permanent shop Unit 2/30 Stuart Hwy, Alice Springs. Phone: (08) 8953 7297 between 9:00am – 5:30pm each day.

EVENT VOLUNTEER TEAM

Events like this can only operate with the assistance of a number of volunteers. We welcome non-riding partners, parents, friends and family to join the Event Volunteer Team. This is a great way to be part of the event and get to know others too. Roles vary from 30 minute to 3 hour time slots on one or more days. In all honesty, volunteers draw great enjoyment from being part of the event (without having to go through the pain of racing!) and find it a valuable experience. We happily provide you with lunch on the day, supervision and instruction and make sure you are comfortable doing the role asked. All help is greatly appreciated so if you or your family/friends can help, please contact John Jacoby at Rapid Ascent via john@rapidascent.com.au or 0408 035 261.

ALICE SPRINGS CLIMATE AVERAGES FOR AUGUST

The climate in Alice Springs for the month of August is not nearly as hot as you'd imagine and is ideally suited to mountain biking, with cool mornings warming up to approximately 25 degrees in the middle of the day and then cooling off in the evenings. It is likely to feel quite cool to cold in the morning so make sure you bring a warm layer or two, but be ready to strip off as the day warms up (cycling arm and leg warmers ideal).

- Average daily max 25°C in the shade
- Mean 9:00am temp 16°C in the shade
- Average night min 8.3°C
- Average rainy days 3.1
- Average cloudy days 7.6
- Ave sunrise 7:00am
- Ave sunset 6:00pm

Also be wary of sunburn. You will likely be outside in the sun for most of the day. There is not a lot of shade around so make sure you put on sunscreen before you head out.



BY RIDERS | FOR RIDERS

BIKECORP

sales@bikecorp.com.au
Tel 03 9518 5400

WWW.KRUSHOZ.COM

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RACE RULES

Please read, be aware of and follow the race rules during the event.

- If you withdraw from a stage for any reason whatsoever, you **MUST** advise a marshal or member of race management as soon as possible. This is **VERY** important, as otherwise you will be assumed missing and a search commenced.
- Competitors must complete the full course on a non-motorised bicycle - unless competing in the e-bike category.
- Competitors must ride the complete course as marked and directed, passing through all checkpoints. Taking shortcuts or using any unfair means of obtaining an advantage over other competitors will result in disqualification. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that the correct course is followed!
- All competitors must wear a certified bike helmet at **ALL** times.
- Individual competitors must use only one bike frame for the entire ride, although wheel changes are permitted.
- All competitors must carry the listed compulsory equipment.
- Race numbers must be displayed on the front handlebars at all times and cannot be modified or cut down in size in any way.
- First place overall male and female in each stage will receive a 20 second time credit for that particular stage that will be applied to their cumulative race time. 2nd place overall male and female will receive a 10 second time credit for that particular stage that will be applied to their cumulative race time.
- Riders may accept mechanical assistance on the course only by other registered racers and Race staff.
- A competitor cannot provide assistance in forward progression (pushing, pulling, towing) or food or drinks to another competitor in another category except in emergency circumstances.
- Prior to being accepted into the event, all participants must read and sign the Terms of Entry and Waiver in person at the event registration.
- Australian Road Rules apply at all times on all roads, tracks and trails.
- Only registered riders or Race Officials may ride on the course.
- Riders are only eligible to win prizes in the category in which they register.
- Failure to abide by rules may result in time penalty or disqualification.
- Rapid Ascent has sole discretion to alter or amend the race format or the rules in order to increase the safety of participants or for any other reason deemed appropriate.
- All protests must be lodged in writing with the Race Director within 15 minutes of the official results being posted. A judging panel of three Rapid Ascent staff (including the Race Director) will adjudicate on all protests and other contentious matters, and their decision will be final.
- If the race is cancelled after it has started, as soon as you have been notified of the cancellation, it is each rider's responsibility to get themselves back to either the Start or Finish areas.
- Littering the course with inner tubes, food wrappers or any other litter will result in instant disqualification.
- You will race in the age group category according to your age on the first day of the event
- Only entrants entered as a Six-Stage Rider prior to Stage 1 are eligible for the General Classification awards and prize money
- Pedal assisted e-bikes may be used provided they do not have a power output greater than 250watts or a powered speed faster than 25km/hr. E-bikes will have their own category and will not be eligible for age group or overall prizes or prize money.

Compulsory equipment:

The following equipment **MUST** be carried with you for all stages of the event (except Stage 2):

- Emergency safety blanket
- A First Aid Kit comprising at least: 2 x crepe bandages, 2 x non-adhesive wound dressings, 6 x steri-strip wound closures, 1 x triangular bandage and a pair of surgical gloves. (First Aid Kits and Safety Blankets will be available for sale at Registration.)
- Mobile Phone.
- For Stage 5 only, you must carry working headlights and a rear red light.

We will be conducting random checks for First Aid Kits and other compulsory equipment during all stages. Any competitor found without the required equipment at any point will be given a 1 hour time penalty. This will be strictly enforced.

If you withdraw from a stage, accept external assistance to get to the finish line, or if you do not start a stage in the race you will be listed as an unranked competitor. However, you may still race all following stages. You will not, however, have an overall standing and cannot win an overall prize.

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

DAILY PRESENTATIONS

Stage Winners via Category: The following categories will be acknowledged after each stage as a 'Stage Winner'. Six-Stage Riders and Single-Stage Riders are eligible.

- Junior (Under 18) - male & female - A-Line and B-Line.
- Prime (18-39) - male & female - A-Line only.
- Veteran (40-49) - male & female - A-Line only.
- Vintage (50-59) - male & female - A-Line only.
- Masters (60+) - male & female - A-Line only.
- Open (18-49) - male & female - B-Line only.
- Vintage (50+) - male & female - B-Line only.
- Pedal assisted E-Bike - male & female - A-Line and B-Line*

* Pedal assisted e-bikes may be used provided they do not have a power output greater than 250watts or a powered speed faster than 25km/hr. E-bikes will have their own category and will not be eligible for age group or overall prizes or prize money.

Race Leader (General Classification) - Presentation of the yellow number plate to the overall leading male/female after each stage.

FINAL PRESENTATIONS - OVERALL (Monday Evening)

The following will be recognised at the Overall Presentations.

- Top 3 male/females in the General Classification who entered as a Six-Stage Rider prior to Stage 1 - A-Line only.
- Top 3 male/female in **Each Category** (listed above) who entered as a Six-Stage Rider prior to Stage 1

The Tavis Johannsen Memorial Trophy

The male winner of the final stage of the event, Stage 6, will be awarded with the Tavis Johannsen Memorial Trophy. *(The trophy has been donated by Brendan Heenan from the MacDonnell Range Holiday Park – who was Tavis's father in-law.)*

Paul Darvodelsky Memorial Medal

In memory of a passionate local rider who committed his heart and soul to the sport of mountain biking – especially in Alice Springs – we will be awarding the Paul Darvodelsky Memorial Medal to the first placed female rider from Alice Springs.

(Eligible riders must be either a full time resident of Alice Springs or member of the Central Australian Rough Riders and have resided in Alice Springs for a minimum of 6 of the last 12 months).



EVENT MERCHANDISE - FOR SALE AT REGISTRATION



Hoodie \$30 Poly cotton fleecy hoodie - ideal for the cool evenings and mornings in Alice Springs! Originally from the (cancelled) 2021 event but still perfectly fine. Limited sizes available. 320gsm



T-Shirts \$15

A quality cotton t-shirt with event print on front and back. Originally from the (cancelled) 2021 event but still perfectly fine. Limited sizes available.



Trucker hat \$15



Bitumen is Boring Socks \$25

These high performance technical running socks are custom made by Geelong based business Steigen. 'Half' length, one-size-fits-all with elasticated midfoot and cuff.



Cow Bell \$10

Ring it loud and proud and cheer on your mates at the finish line and up the stage 2 Hill Climb!

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

These items are mandatory equipment for all riders on all stages (except stage 2 the hill climb)

First Aid Kit \$20

First Aid Kits are required to be carried on all stages (except stage 2), comprising as a minimum: 2 x crepe bandages, 6 x wound closure strips, 1 x triangular bandage, 2 x non-stick wound dressing pads and a pair of surgical gloves.

(Riders without a backpack often squash the air out of the bag and then gaffa tape it to their seat tube, top tube or stem.)



Safety Blanket \$7

A reflective blanket is also required to be carried on all stages (except stage 2).



WANT MORE ACTION?

Then check out these other Rapid Ascent races taking place all around the country in 2023-2024

Surf Coast Century

Anglesea, VIC. 16 September, 2023. www.SurfcoastCentury.com.au

A spectacular 100km trail run along Victoria's surf coast and wildflower hinterland with the promise that no two steps will be the same. Do it either as an individual and click over the whole 100km solo or join up with some friends in a relay team of up to 4 and run 25km each.



Eagle Bay Epic Adventure Race

Eagle Bay, WA, 4 November, 2023. www.EagleBayEpic.com.au

A spectacular challenge at WA's birth place of adventure. The Eagle Bay Epic is designed as the ultimate mix of off-road adventure racing with MTB, ocean swim, kayak and trail running legs that traversing the pristine coastline in south-west, Western Australia. New format single distance adventure event on Saturday



Great Southern Stage Run

Albany, WA. 16 - 18 November 2023. www.GreatSouthernStageRun.com.au

A 3 day stage race through the wild and rugged Great Southern region of WA. Featuring a 200km course from Walpole to Albany, runners traverse a rugged coastline of remote beaches, windswept horizons and sheer granite cliffs. Designed for relay teams of 4 and some solos.



Otway Odyssey and Great Otway Gravel Grind presented by Focus

Forrest, VIC. 24 - 25 February, 2024. www.OtwayOdyssey.com.au

The Otway Odyssey is the most respected MTB marathon in Australia, comprising 100km, 50km 30km and 10km courses on flowing single track through the spectacular Otway Ranges. Sunday includes the Great Otway Gravel Grind for roadies and gravel / CX riders with 97km or 49km gravel grinds on the A-Grade roads through the region's magnificent tall timber forests.



X-Adventure Dunsborough

Dunsborough WA. 20 - 21 April, 2024. www.xadventure.com.au

An off road triathlon event through the stunning scenery around Dunsborough in South West WA. With long course and short course triathlons, NEW trail running events and kids triathlon, this is the biggest off-road triathlon in Australia held in adventure paradise.



Margaret River Ultra Marathon

Margaret River WA. 5 May, 2024. www.MRultramarathon.com.au

Providing a spectacular 80km journey for solo runners and relay teams (with up to 5 runners), the Margaret River Ultra Marathon provides runners with an incredible race in Western Australia's Cape to Cape coastline.



The Trail Running Series

Three wilderness locations within 1 hour's drive of Melbourne, www.TrailRunningSeries.com.au

Trail running races for everyone... The Trail Running Series includes 5 different race venues all within one hour's drive of Melbourne with short (~6km) / medium (~15km) / and long (~21km) course runs through spectacular wilderness. Make sure you are part of this revolutionary series in 2024.



Run Larapinta Stage Race

Alice Springs, NT. August, 2023 www.RunLarapinta.com.au

A four day, four stage trail running race along the most spectacular sections of the iconic Larapinta Trail in Central Australia. Race either the Malbunka with 20km - 45km stages or the Namatjira with 10km - 30km stages for an incredible event experience in the heart of Australia.



www.RapidAscent.com.au

