



**BREEDE RIVER**  
**MARATHON 2023**  
**9-10 SEPTEMBER**

presented by  
MILNERTON CANOE CLUB

# GENERAL INFORMATION

The annual K2 (doubles) Breede River Canoe Marathon will be held on 70 km of the Breede River between Robertson and Kambati Resort, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September, 2023. K1's and K3's are also welcome.

The event is in its 55<sup>th</sup> year and is the biggest river marathon in the Western Cape. There are some TOP crews on the starting line UP and this year the event doubles up as WCCU K2 Championships

Day 1	9th September 2023
Start	Mc Greggor Bridge, Robertson.
Batch check in	Check in and get safety band with emergency number
Safety & race briefing	09h30
<u>A</u> batch front row	There will be a separate compulsory race briefing from the starter for <u>A</u> batch front row at 09h15 i.e. before getting on the water for warm up.
Race start	10h00
Distance	37km
Finish	Riggton Farm, Bonnievale
Day 2	10th September 2023
Start	Riggton Farm, Bonnievale
Batch check in	30 minutes before batch start
Safety&race briefing	08h15
Elapsed time	08h30
Race start	NOT before 08h45 sms will confirm
Distance	33.5km
Finish	Kam'bati River Resort, Swellendam
Prize giving will start before 14h00	

Camping is available. Camping fees are payable directly to Riggton.  
Booking must be done in advance with Amy - 082 7822697

**PLEASE NOTE: While swift water rescue will be on standby on race day, it is the paddler's responsibility to know the dangers on the river and have sufficient skills to manage these dangers safely.**

# RACE DAY INFORMATION

Race Convener	Milnerton Canoe Club	
	Richard Allen	082 650 5798
Race Day Safety Officer	Lisa Scott	082 320 1918
Police Divers	Warrant Officer Boer	082 551 9123
<b>RIVER EMERGENCY - number on wristband</b>		<b>082 423 4419</b>

Chief Time Keeper	Janine Metelerkamp	072 416 2660
Time Keepers	Ilsa Marais	Fannie Roux
A & B Batch starter	Rob Hart	
C-... Batch starter	Fannie Roux	

Race Officials	
Janine Metelerkamp	Lisa Scott

Appeals Committee		
Rob Hart	Rob Mclean	Peter van der Merwe

## ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES

From mobile phone	112
Robertson Emergency	086 088 1111

## POLICE

Robertson	023 626 8340
McGregor	023 625 1600
Police - Flying Squad	10111

## AMBULANCE [contracted for the event]

Minor ailments such as bruises and scratches treated, no medicines supplied, transport to hospital for patient's own account

## HOSPITALS

Worcester Mediclinic	023 348 1500
State Hospital Robertson	023 626 8040

## DOCTORS

Robertson & Bonnievale	
Drs Perold & Fourie	
Sat: 8:00 - 12:00	023 626 3175
After hours:	083 227 6976

# BREEDER RIVER MARATHON - DAY ONE

## ROBERTSON TO BONNIEVALE – 37km

- The start is at McGregor Bridge, Robertson – see notice for your race start time. You must also make sure that you get to listen to the safety briefing before the race.
- After the start go carefully under the bridge and do not get squeezed on the bridge pillars
- At the left-right option after the bridge stay right
- Another two minutes down, look out for an overhanging tree and branches on the left hand bank as the river sweeps right
- At the 10km mark you come to Kekkle en Kraai weir. Shot on the left and head right after the drop.
- At 16km you arrive at Sliding Weir on a gentle right bend. Shot or portaged generally on the left hand side. [listen to safety briefing on race day]
- 100m below the weir is the causeway which will be shot or portaged left or right hand side. [listen to safety briefing on race day]  
If you portage, the right hand side is better. Another 400m below the causeway after a left turn and a rapid, you get to Bollard Bridge. Portage on the left where marshals indicate or paddle over on a high water level [listen to safety briefing on race day]
- After 18.5km you come to the RED IRON BRIDGE the gradient increases so will be quite rocky on a low level. Go under it keeping left. (Half Way Mark)
- The Secunda Weir is at 19.5km and is a concrete shoot in the center of the river. Be warned, at lower levels it can be a BIG drop, so make sure you are stable in your boat and tackle it with a bit of speed (Splashie on). Shoot left of center. Portage on the right if unsure.
- About 3km below Secunda Weir the river goes hard left and there is a sneak left that only works in very high water, you decide!!!
- 5 km before the end, you come to the Jonkeer Bridge [also called broken bridge or low level bridge]. You will see a road and farmhouses up on the right hand bank just before you get to the bridge. Shoot under on river left on a low level, aim for right hand pillar as the water will push you left. [listen to safety briefing on race day]. Paddle over on a high level.
- The last low level bridge is just two kilometers from the finish and can be portaged on left hand side (Low Level). Paddle over on the right (High level).
- The finish is at 37km Riggton Farm on the left bank on a gentle RH bend.



[www.riggtonfarm.co.za](http://www.riggtonfarm.co.za)

# BREEDERIVER MARATHON - DAY TWO

## BONNIEVALE TO SWELLENDAM – 34km

- The race starts in the pool at Riggton Farm.
- Within the first 2km there is a straight or right option. Straight is faster if the channel is clear.
- 3km into race you approach Blue Rock. It is made up of two ledges, the first on the left and the second on the right. Carefully pick your way through and mind the rocks. Portaging on the left is advised on a very low level
- Sweeping corners and long pools make up the balance of the river before Drew Bridge, which is the half way marker.
- On a low river you can go under Drew Bridge or portage on the left. If the bridge is a compulsory portage you may only portage on the side as advised at safety briefing. It is critical that you are prepared for the portage and move away from the portage area quickly.
- Please also note that Drew Bridge is a public road.
- About 2km below Drew Bridge after the dog leg bend, be aware of a tree that has fallen and is in the center of the river. There is ample space on the left or right to get through, give each other room.
- The river sweeps gently left and then slightly right before you get to the Waterfall Rapid at 7.1km. Look for the palmiet islands in the river. Go initially right and then cut back left to line-up and shoot the rapid. Remember it is a double drop so go in with lots of speed and do not brace too early. The Chicken Run on river right is NOT an option. There are 2 massive tree trunks blocking the exit. This may be a compulsory portage on a low level.
- After the Waterfall look for more palmiet islands – go between the biggest of the two and then go hard right. Straight looks tempting but it is slower than right.
- When you come out of the right hand channel there is a 3km flat section before you can take a LH sneak. Depending on the level, there may be tree blocks in play. Rather stay right on high level.
- Next is a long straight and you pass a BIG gum tree in the middle of the river - carry on straight and follow the main flow. You then go slightly left down a narrow channel.
- The finish is not far now, look out for the confluence of the Riversonderend and the Breede Rivers. The race finishes in the pool below, be careful not to spin out as you enter this final pool. Swimming to the finish is not an option!
- If you make it here, well done on completing the Breede River Canoe Marathon. Time to kick back relax and be thankful for the privilege of been able to paddle this pristine river!



[www.kambati.co.za](http://www.kambati.co.za)

## day one - FINISH AT RIGGTON FARM



The following will be on SALE at the finish on SATURDAY.  
Please support the charity organization "Touching Hearts":

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- Vetkoek
- Cooldrinks
- No Bar facility

## day two - FINISH AT KAM'BATI

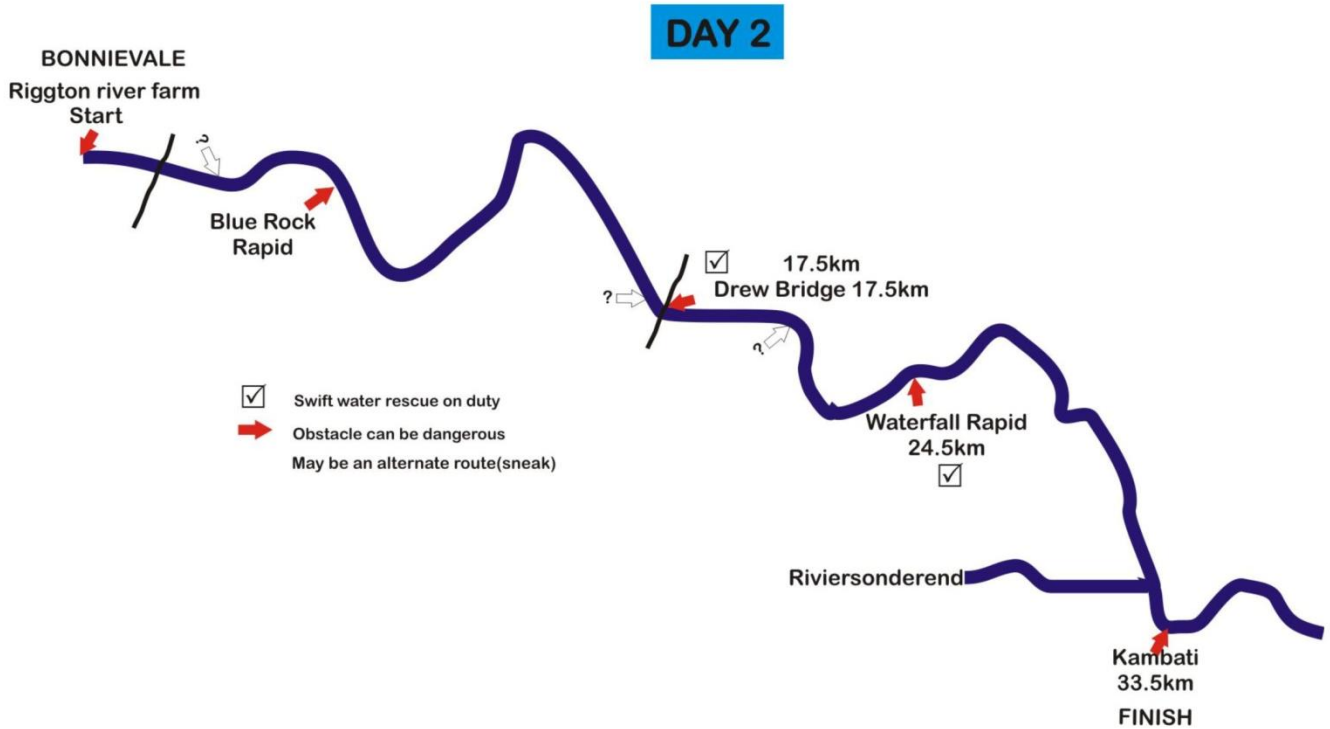
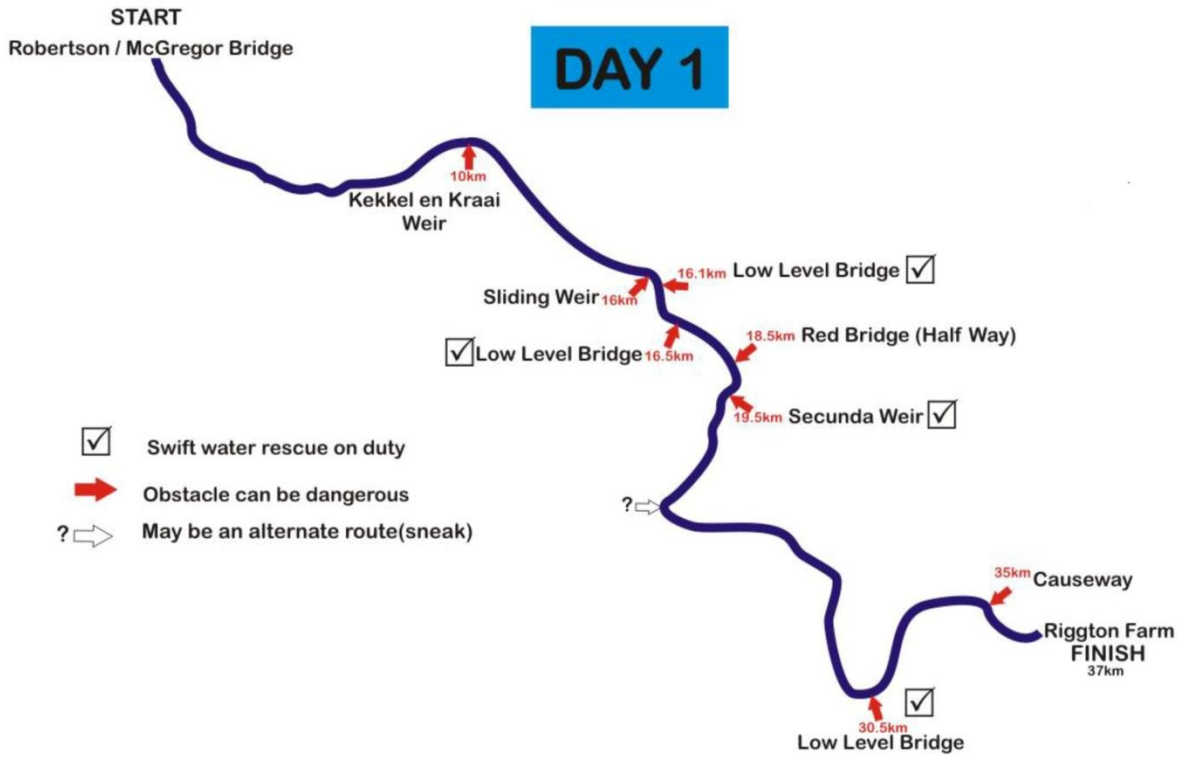


The following will be on SALE at the finish on SUNDAY:

- Pizzas
- Cash bar

**Oscar Chalupsky will be selling his book NO RETREAT NO SURRENDER at the finish of both days and will sign them for you! [R300]**

# BY RIVER



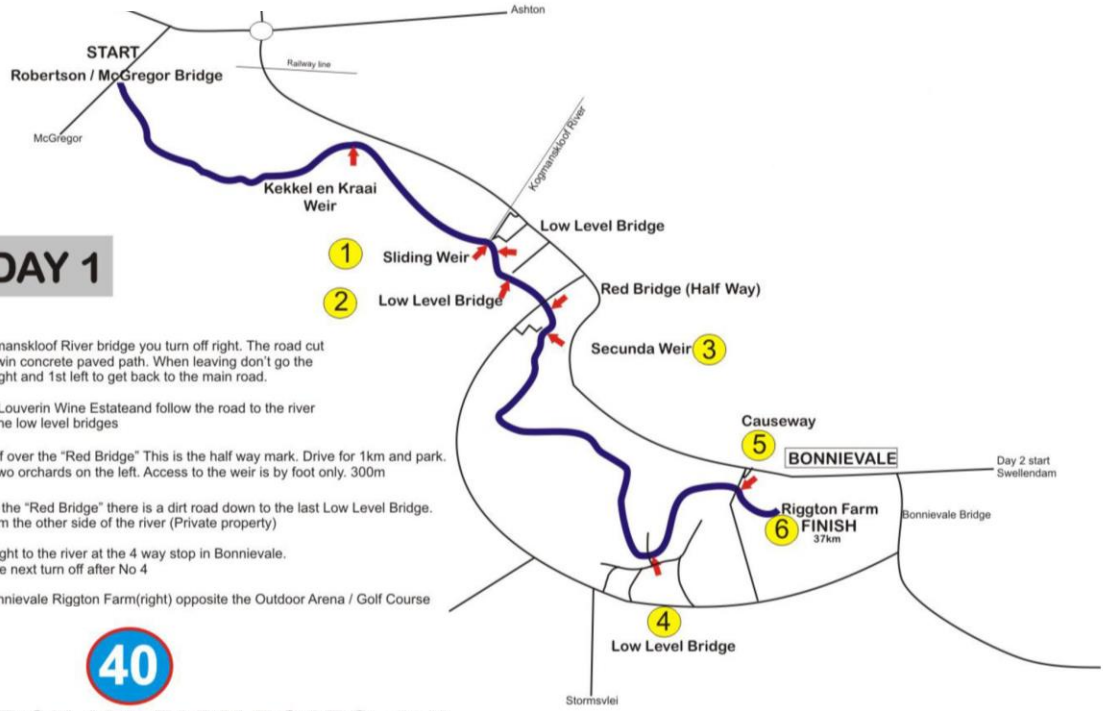
# BY ROAD

## DAY 1

- 1 Immediately after the Kogmanskloof River bridge you turn off right. The road cut back on itself. Follow the twin concrete paved path. When leaving don't go the same way back but turn right and 1st left to get back to the main road.
- 2 Take the 1st turn into Van Louverin Wine Estate and follow the road to the river. Here you can get to both the low level bridges
- 3 Take the Stormsvlei turn off over the "Red Bridge" This is the half way mark. Drive for 1km and park. There is a path between two orchards on the left. Access to the weir is by foot only. 300m
- 4 13.2km after turning off at the "Red Bridge" there is a dirt road down to the last Low Level Bridge. Do not use the access from the other side of the river (Private property)
- 5 From the main road turn right to the river at the 4 way stop in Bonnievale. From the other side it is the next turn off after No 4
- 6 After the 4 way stop in Bonnievale Riggton Farm (right) opposite the Outdoor Arena / Golf Course

**40**

**SPEED LIMIT ON ALL FARM ROADS pls!!**

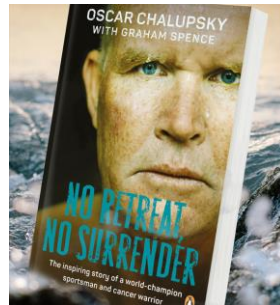


## DAY 2

**40**  
**SPEED LIMIT ON ALL FARM ROADS pls!!**







with gratitude to all our 2023 race partners