

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do we stay?

Most nights are at caravan parks but occasionally at football grounds or on the river bank. If an overnight stop is on the riverbank, maximum of one night per year, toilets (and sometimes showers) are trucked to the site.

Do I have to camp?

Camping fees are included in the event entry fee. However if you wish to book cabin accommodation, this can be done direct with the caravan park and at your own cost.

Do we need maps?

A handbook is produced for each Meander and includes river charts, daily itinerary, contact details for participants and general event information.

Two copies are provided to each team, one for the boat & one for the vehicle.

It is recommended the skipper of each team thoroughly familiarizes themselves with the handbook, before the event, and communicates relevant details to the crew.

Some people become lost or disorientated on the river. This is usually those who fail to carry & read the maps. In an emergency it is imperative you are aware of your exact location, as delays in assistance can have disastrous consequences.

How will I know if there are changes?

At breakfast each day a notice board provides information on weather forecast, changes to itinerary, news, reminders, requests for drivers, food & fuel availability etc. This is your next most important source of information after the handbook.

What do we have for breakfast?

Breakfast is provided each day and the menu is varied during the event. Most days cereal, fruit, juice, tea, coffee & toast are provided. Additionally the menu may include bacon, eggs, sausages, mushrooms, baked beans, pancakes or toasted sandwiches. You won't go hungry.

We have a catering coordinator on the Meander who sets up for each breakfast.

Teams are encouraged to assist with cooking breakfast; it's a great way to meet the other participants.

Where do we stop for lunch?

Suggested lunch stops are marked in the handbook. Usually lunches aren't included in the entry fee and each team needs to make its own arrangements. Many teams have their road crew prepare a quick BBQ or rolls at the designated lunch spots

What dinners are included?

Most dinners are included with free night for 2016 at Swan Hill and there are plenty of dining options available.

The dinners provided may vary from a single course roast, to a three course restaurant quality meal.

Do I need to be an experienced boating person to participate in the Meander?

Experience with boats is certainly an advantage but lack of experience should not be a deterrent. However it is expected that each team has the skills to launch, drive, navigate and retrieve their boat. This includes backing a trailer. If you are unfamiliar with the boat we suggest time in it on the water before the event so you are confident & competent with its operation.

The conditions of the river changes considerably over the length of the event & in some cases, dependent upon weather conditions, can change quickly.

Fast flowing water needs to be respected. Boating experience counts for nothing if participants are complacent or not used to the conditions. A condition of entry is everyone, regardless of boat size, wears their PFD (lifejacket) when in the boat.

If you are in doubt or concerned about a situation on the river, ask another participant for advice, follow an experienced person and above all plan ahead.

What safety precautions are in place?

All boats are scrutineered before participating in the event. A list of equipment required will be provided prior to the event. These included all the safety equipment required by law, as well as a UHF radio for both boat & vehicle.

A sweep boat follows the field each day & **it's the participant's responsibility** to stay ahead of the sweep to ensure the field isn't scattered over a long distance, everyone arrives before the designated finishing time and that assistance can be coordinated to assist teams if a boat encounters difficulties.

Most of the organizing committee participate in the event & hold 1st Aid qualifications. The handbook lists committee members & other participants who have 1st Aid qualifications

What happens if our boat breaks down or we encounter difficulties?

The sweep boat or another participating crew will either assist in contacting your road crew to retrieve the boat & crew, or tow the boat to the nearest accessible retrieval point. For these reasons the responsibility of the boat captain to ensure their boat stays ahead of the sweep boat. The Sweep will average about 20kph and usually finish by 5pm each day.

Are there any special items we need to bring?

You will need plate, bowl, mug, knife fork & spoon for each team member. These are required for all breakfasts and outdoor catering.

Apart from mosquito repellent & earplugs (snorers), the really important spare is a PROPELLOR. The river is notorious for destroying props of even the most careful crews. Some have turned new props into aluminium artwork in seconds.