



RIDE GUIDE

7 -9 MARCH 2025

NEWCASTLE &
LAKE MACQUARIE

NEWCASTLE
LAKE MACQUARIE



NAVIGATING THIS GUIDE

The event information in this guide is organised to assist you with planning your Quad Crown MTB 'The Black Pearl' experience and ensuring a fun time in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

Our stages are detailed as accurately as possible, however last-minute course changes do occur for a variety of reasons. Please check our Socials for any changes and updates to course alignments.

Toward the back of this Guide, we outline everything you need to know in anticipation of your ride, including timing, awards, accreditation and safety. Please take some time to familiarise yourself, particularly with our start line systems and etiquette.

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DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome back, riders! It's fantastic to see you all for the third season of the Quad Crown! We're absolutely stoked to kick off the first event of 2025 here in the stunning Newcastle and Lake Macquarie regions with the Black Pearl. The trails are ready, the vibe is electric, and we couldn't think of a better way to start the season than with all of you.

We've given our logo suite a little freshen-up, adding a bit more edge to match the spirit of the ride. We're stoked about the new look and we hope it gets you as pumped as we are. We think it's got the personality to match the vibe of this event, and we can't wait to see you rocking it out there.

In today's world, where the events industry is facing a downturn, we want to take a moment to truly thank each and every one of you for being a part of the series. Your passion and support are what keep us going, and it means more than words can express.

This year's course has been finely tuned since 2023, with some exciting changes to elevate your experience. We've kept all the epic elements you loved, but we've listened to your feedback and taken out the punishing climb and a worked in some awesome new additions. Our goal is simple—create the best weekend mountain bike experience possible, combining a great ride with the beauty of the region all while keeping the Weekend Warrior as the hero of the event.

A huge thank you to the local mountain bike groups who've supported us and who are caretakers of the great trails you are about to enjoy. A special shout-out to the Cogheads and the

Hunter Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) for their ongoing efforts in maintaining and enhancing these incredible trails we get to enjoy. Your hard work is truly appreciated.

We also want to express our gratitude to the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie City Councils for their unwavering support of the event. It's because of them that we're able to welcome you to such a welcoming and vibrant region.

We couldn't run this event without the amazing local venues, so a big thank you to the Beach Hotel, Mist in the Gums, and The Royal Crown for being the perfect spots to rest, refuel, and recharge. And of course, we're thrilled to have TREK onboard again as our bike partner, providing quality gear for an unforgettable race.

This series is all about the MTB community. It's not just a race—it's an opportunity to enjoy a MTB holiday, to connect with like-minded riders, and to experience the best trails with some incredible people. We want to create lasting memories, and that's only possible because of you.

Last but certainly not least, a shout out to the small and mighty team and volunteers for all you do. It does not go unnoticed and we are so appreciative.

So, as you roll up to the start line, remember to enjoy yourselves, ride safe, and make the most of the experience. Thank you again for supporting the Quad Crown and helping us grow this incredible series of events.

See you at the Start Chute!

SALLY, LIAM, CHRIS AND JASON

Directors



EVENT TIMES

7-9 MARCH 2025

FRIDAY 7 MARCH

- 1.00 PM **REGISTRATIONS OPEN**
Glenrock State Conservation Area,
Gun Club Road, off Fernleigh Loop,
Merewether
- 3.00 PM **PRELUDE RIDE 9KM TIME TRIAL**
Glenrock State Conservation Area,
Gun Club Road, off Fernleigh Loop,
Merewether
- 5.00 PM **WELCOME DRINKS & PRESENTATIONS**
The Beach Hotel
99 Frederick St, Merewether NSW 2291

SATURDAY 8 MARCH

- 8.00 AM **REGISTRATIONS OPEN**
Mist In The Gums
234 Mt Nellinda Road, Cooranbong
- 9.00 AM **STAGE 1 - RACE START**
Mist In The Gums
234 Mt Nellinda Road, Cooranbong
- FROM 12.00 NOON **SOCIAL FUNCTION & PRESENTATIONS**
Mist In The Gums
234 Mt Nellinda Road, Cooranbong

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

- 8.00 AM **REGISTRATIONS OPEN**
Royal Crown Hotel,
94 Ocean Street, Dudley
- 9.00 AM **STAGE 2 - RACE START**
Royal Crown Hotel,
94 Ocean Street, Dudley
- FROM 12.00 NOON **SOCIAL FUNCTION & FINAL PRESENTATIONS**
Royal Crown Hotel,
94 Ocean Street, Dudley

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FRIDAY 7 MARCH



REGISTRATION, PRELUDE AND WELCOME FUNCTION

FROM 1.00pm Registration Opens // Glenrock State Conservation Park, Fernleigh Loop, Gun Club Road

Registration will clearly be set up at the top of Gun Club Road where the prelude will start and finish. Here, you'll receive your plate, transponder, event T-shirt and complimentary beer token for the welcome function at the Beach Hotel, just down the hill on Frederick Street opposite Merewether Beach.

From 3.00pm Onwards - Prelude Starts // Glenrock State Conservation Area, Gun Club Road off Fernleigh Loop

Get into Newcastle early on Friday afternoon so you are ready to kick off a great weekend and grab a light lunch by the beach. Limited parking is available at Gun Club Road, however Scenic Drive provides plenty of road side parking and a bike path that will lead to right to the start line. The time trial is a "must do" on Friday as it not only sets your handicap for the weekend stages but also gives you a taste of the incredible single trail that will keep you smiling all weekend long.

Allocated start times will be between 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm so riders need to arrive no later than 3:00pm. You will then start

in 30 second intervals, heading out for a short 9km single track blast at your own pace before heading back down the hill to the Beach Hotel on Frederick Street Merewether.

From 5.00pm Social Function // The Beach Hotel, Merewether

99 Frederick Street, Merewether
www.thebeachhotel.com.au

Newly renovated, the Beach Hotel is an old favourite for locals. Directly opposite Merewether Beach is where you'll find The Beach Hotel, only three kilometers from Newcastle CBD. The place where good friends come together. A welcome return to the classics, a nostalgic celebration of the lifestyle that's shaped newy local culture, enjoying panoramic views of Merewether Beach. The perfect way to start a fun weekend ahead for all our riders!



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO GET DAILY RESULTS

SATURDAY 8 MARCH



REGISTRATION, STAGE 1 AND PRESENTATIONS

8.00am Registration Opens // Mist in the Gums, 234a Mount Nellinda Road, Cooranbong

Registration will be set up on the Mist in the Gums Property. If you haven't registered yet, here's where you'll receive your plate, transponder and event T-shirt.

This beautiful spot in Cooranbong Lake Macquarie is your start and finish line for the day. Coffee Cart WILL be on site along with a Pizza truck and Can Bar on return. Parking is available on site, just follow the arrows

9.00am Stage 1 Starts // Mist in the Gums

Saturday morning will see riders eagerly assemble at our new start line at Mist In The Gums, an eco-event venue located conveniently just to the south of Awaba Mountain Bike Park. Ahead lies a wonderful stage that includes some of the most iconic trails in Australia, with Awaba featuring a diverse mix of trails to suit riders of all abilities.

Our Course Director has made a number of changes to our 2023

debut course, with the new start location offering the chance to remove the brutal climb in the middle of that old course. Instead rider this year can expect an easier stage with an overall distance at around the 30km mark, with approximately 600m elevation. If you have ridden Awaba before you will know the sweet single track that awaits. If you haven't you are in for a treat and we know the course we have put together is going to leave you with a big smile on your face! To cap it off the new venue offers beautiful grounds for the Finish Line, where riders can swap stories, enjoy something to eat and drink, and even take a refreshing dip!

From 12 noon: Social Function & Presentations // Mist in the Gums

Mist in the Gums
234a Mount Nellinda Road

Nestled in the beautiful countryside of Cooranbong, this awabakal land has been newly crafted into an event site. We have organised Pizza and a Beer on your return as well as some music so feel free to chill out post ride and enjoy! There's even a pool if you fancy a dip to cool off!

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

35KM

STAGE 2 FROM THE ROYAL CROWN DUDLEY

8.00am Registration Opens

Registration will be set up on Pit Street Dudley. We will have the road closed so park at the Footy Oval next door and stroll over to the pub for the start line.

9.00am Stage 2 Starts // The Royal Crown Hotel, Dudley

The final stage of The Black Pearl is awaited with anticipation as the course that was put together for our debut event went off with a bang! Now with a few little touch ups, riders can expect the 2025 finale to be even better.

The stage will again start and finish at the aptly named Crown Hotel, allowing the stage to be built in an out and back format to include the best of the surrounding trails in Whitebridge, Dudley and Glenrock MTB Park. This course is going to be a Blast, as riders can expect an intertwining myriad of trails that features everything from machine crafted berms and flow tracks, through to the old school ribbon trails that this area is renown for. Buckle up as a swashbuckling adventure awaits!

From 12noon: Presentations // The Royal Crown Hotel Dudley

94 Ocean Street Dudley

<https://www.royalcrownhotel.com.au>

The Royal Crown Hotel is an easy going neighbourhood pub which attracts locals and tourists alike.

The interior reflects the local flora and fauna with food and drink offerings to rival any other pub in Australia. Newcastle's best beer garden is extremely popular with families whilst the Front Bar offers a loud hub of racing, ping pong and local characters.

Many visitors swing by after bushwalking, surfing, biking and climbing through Glenrock State Conservation Area. We have a huge range of classic and craft beers available coupled with an extensive wine list.





EVENT MAP



STAGE ONE
AWABA
DIST 30km
ELEV 600m

STAGE TWO
REDHEAD
DIST 35km
ELEV 700m



PRELUDE
GLENROCK
DIST 9km
ELEV 200m



RIDE | EXPLORE | COMPETE | REPEAT



FRIDAY 7 MARCH

PRELUDE COURSE MAP

9KM



SATURDAY 8 MARCH

STAGE 1 COURSE MAP

30KM



SUNDAY 9 MARCH

STAGE 2 COURSE MAP

35KM



RIDE | EXPLORE | COMPETE | REPEAT

HANDICAP SYSTEM

Our unique Quad Crown handicap system is one we have continued to revise across our first year and a half of events. We are now really confident that we have nailed it and our overall goal is achieved - to identify and crown the Weekend Warriors who ride to the best of their ability at each of our events. This award is open to the whole field of riders (other than the Elites) and in essence you are riding the stages against yourself, much like a golf handicap system works! Each rider will be given a handicap from the Prelude based on their own time versus the average time for all riders. So it is VERY IMPORTANT that you ride the Prelude if you want to be included in the race for the Warrior Crown!

The Prelude handicap will produce an expected time for Stage 1 which will be compared with your actual time. The rider who gets as close as possible to their expected time will be deemed the Stage winner. So you simply need to ride to your own ability! The same will then happen for Stage 2, with your overall comparison times leading to a final placement on the Weekend Warrior Leaderboard. The aim is to identify the “most consistent rider” who can ride to the best of their own ability over each of the stages at The Black Pearl.

Keep an eye out for the Weekend Warrior Leaderboard after both Stages 1 and 2 as we will present stage winners for both male and female Warriors. At the conclusion of Sunday’s Stage, we will award an overall Warrior King and Queen, which will be the riders in the field who raced closest to their handicap time over the two weekend stages. In the end this award is meant to be fun and create some banter amongst mates across various abilities too.

We can’t be called the Quad Crown without some actual crowns, right? The main goal of Quad Crown events is to have FUN. Part of that is our unique handicap system, which helps us search for the riders in our events who have their best race, based on their ability to begin with. This pretty much means that EVERY rider can be in it to win it. Best of all you can compare yourself at the end of the race against the best of the elite riders using our handicap system!

WEEKEND WARRIOR - HALL OF FAME

Event	Male	Female
The Mystic Yak - 2024	Matt Low	Steff van Amerongen
The Orca - 2024	Oliver Bradley	Kate Mitchell
Sunny 80 - 2024	Kirk Pushie	Hannah-Lee Young
Wild Penguin - 2024	John Flood	Catherine Breakspear
The Black Pearl - 2023	Adrian Azzopardi	Katrina Skellern
The Orca - 2023	Graham Smith	Jordyn Hassett
Sunny 80 - 2023	Rusty Mark	Jayne Rutter
Wild Penguin - 2023	Timothy Eagling	Melissa Britt



CATEGORIES & AWARDS

The Black Pearl is less about prize money and more about good times and an epic three days of riding. However, we do wish to acknowledge the riders who perform to the best of their ability and cross the finish line ahead of their cohort.

Our Handicap system ensures that everyone and anyone is in the mix to be crowned the overall winner of The Black Pearl (Male and Female) and proclaimed King and Queen. Podium glory,prizing and a taste of royalty await the Male and Female who finish with the fastest adjusted time. A total prize pool of \$2,000 will be spread amongst the top 3 Elite Male and Female place getters, with all other category winners receiving prizing and podium recognition after the final stage.



ELITE RIDERS - IN IT TO WIN IT!

We all know elite riders are going to be up the front and smashing it like they do at every event. There will be yellow and pink jerseys for the leading male and female riders as well as podiums at the end to recognise the best of the best.

Furthermore, we allocate ranking points from each of the Quad Crown events. At the conclusion of the 2025 Series, an overall winner in the Elite Male and Female categories will be announced.

Points are allocated at each event based on the Top 10 places in both the male and female elite categories. The overall 2025 winner will be announced at the conclusion of The Wild Penguin.

OVERALL WINNERS - ELITE CATEGORIES

2023

MALE - Dan McConnell

FEMALE - Katherine Hoskins

2024

MALE - Cam Ivory

FEMALE - Izzy Flint / Katherine Hoskings (tie)

IMPORTANT RIDE INFORMATION

RIDER REGISTRATION

Prior to riding all riders are required to collect their rider pack. This pack contains your bike plate, transponder, cable ties, and a beer voucher for welcome drinks at The Beach Hotel on Friday Evening.

Rider pack collection will be open from 1PM on Friday 7th March at Glenrock State Conservation Park and again at 8AM at Mist in the Gums on Saturday 8th March. It is highly recommended that riders collect packs on Friday so that your bike is setup correctly in advance to avoid time delays.

E-BIKES

Beginning from 2025 we will be starting all of our stages in waves, with those riding E-Bikes to begin in the final wave. This is to minimise any potential impact on those competitive riders at the front of the field and to also allow event officials to better manage the overall ride time for each stage. By entering the event all E-Bike riders agree to ride a bike that meets Australian manufacturing standards and that the E-Bike has not been mechanically altered (ie:“chipped”). The onus sits with each individual E-Bike rider to meet this requirement, otherwise their rider insurance may be effected. E-Bike riders are not permitted to change batteries during any of the stages and must manage their power reserves as part of the challenge of riding each day. All E-Bike riders are eligible for the Weekend Warrior Award under the exact same handicap system as other riders entering the event.

TIMING

The Black Pearl is timed electronically by OneTime. You will receive a bike plate, transponder and cable ties in your rider pack. These need to be fixed to your bike for the duration of the event. Please affix your transponder as per the below image. You cannot change transponders with another rider as it is unique to your registration. The transponders must be handed back at the finish line of your final day of riding. You may keep your plate as a souvenir. If you have a timing issue, please have a chat with our staff at the Race HQ tent.



IMPORTANT RIDE INFORMATION

ACCIDENTS ON COURSE

If a rider in front of you crashes, this is not an opportunity to pass! Please stop immediately and ask if they need assistance. The first rider on the scene should remain with the rider, if the rider requires medical assistance the second rider on the scene is to remember the rider number and move forward to the next marshal check point with a radio. This will allow for medical assistance to be called and first aid to respond.

RIDER ETIQUETTE

Riders are to be reported to the Event Director if they:

- Disobey road rules;
- Be rude or disrespectful to other riders or marshals;
- Who behave in a way that puts any rider or marshal in danger;
- Is reported to litter on course;

Quad Crown believes in the honest and supportive culture of Mountain Biking and holds the safety of our riders a priority. If you stop to assist a rider with a mechanical or injury, please report to HQ and you will be awarded a time credit for the time spent helping out a fellow rider.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whilst there is a portion of the course that is managed by our Traffic Controllers, the majority of it will have live traffic, meaning road rules will apply. Riders must NOT ride in a bunch on the road or take over the lane. It is important to understand that while traffic management is in place, roads remain open to vehicles. Riders must always give way to cars.

Riders who have medical conditions (eg Asthma) must carry their own medication for the duration of the event. All riders should carry enough food, water, basic first aid and a tool kit in their daily ride kit. There will be basic feed stations on the course to allow riders to adequately rest and refuel.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE RIDE

Should a rider decide to withdraw from the ride, they must notify official marshals on course, who will then communicate to the SAG vehicle to come and pick up the rider or alert timing so we're not waiting for you to finish while you're chilling at the after party!

IMPORTANT RIDE INFORMATION

START LINE – PRELUDE

The Prelude will see riders go out onto the course one by one with a 30 second gap between riders to ensure a clear run. All riders should be on location, checked in and ready to start by 3pm. There are overtaking points along the course should you need them and be sure to let a rider overtake should this happen to you.

Everyone should ride the Prelude as firstly it is a short, fun course and secondly it sets your handicap for the Weekend Warrior results and overall category rankings.

START LINE – STAGES 1 & 2

Both stages for the 2025 Black Pearl will be group rollouts, self seeded with current leaders at the front 9AM sharp for both Stages 1 and 2. Please be at each start line at 8:30AM for each stage to start at 9AM.



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EXPLANATION OF SERVICES

ITEM	CONTENT
Bag Drop	The Black Pearl has limited storage available. It is strongly recommended to not leave any belongings at the start or finish lines.
Bike Wash	Unfortunately, bike wash facilities are not available at the event start/finish lines.
Bottle Drop	The Black Pearl will have a bottle drop service on Saturday and Sunday of the race. Please ensure your bottle is dropped in the crates at the information tent prior to 8:30am and it will be taken to the water point for you. Bottle collection will be available at the finish line after each stage.
Coffee & Food	Coffee will be readily available at both venues with a Coffee Cart at Mist in the Gums and ample local coffee shops for Sunday's Stage. Bar Sole, Pizza Van will be on site for the Saturday Stage Lunch and offer Gluten and Dairy Free as well as every option for Meat Eaters and Vegetarians! Lake Mac Brewing Co will also have a Can Bar for a refreshing ale post ride
Information/Registration Tent	Got a question? Visit our friendly Quad Crown team at the information tent for answers. Information services open at 1 PM on Friday, and from 8 AM on Saturday and Sunday.
Parking and How to Get There	Please refer to our Parking and How to Get There information on the following page.
Rider Packs	Rider packs will be available for collection at the information/registration tent. Your pack will include your transponder and rider plate, event T-shirt, Welcome Drinks at The Beach Hotel when you register on the Friday.
Water Points	Stage 1 and 2 water stations will be located at approximately the halfway point of each stage. There is no water station at the Prelude. We strongly advise you to carry enough water for the course however there will be a bottle drop and water stations on the course for both Stage 1 and 2.

PARKING & HOW TO GET THERE

PRELUDE

The Prelude is located at Glenrock State Conservation area, Gun Club Road off Fernleigh Loop. There is parking on site however limited. You can park along the Ferleigh Loop residential area and ride up, alternately on Scenic Drive and take the cycle path alongside the Pacific Highway to get to the site.

STAGE 1

Mist in the Gums has ample on site parking. You will enter the first driveway of the property marked for parking.

STAGE 2

Stage Two leaves from right out front of the pub. Parking is best alongside Lydon Oval and you can cross the footy field to the start/finish line.

Keep an eye on our socials for drop off options for spectators and/or riders closer to the event.



RIDE | EXPLORE | COMPETE | REPEAT



A woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a pink top is sitting on a dark, textured ledge, looking out over a coastal pool. The pool is surrounded by a metal railing and reflects the sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background shows a rocky coastline and the ocean under a sky filled with soft, wispy clouds.

SEEK OFF BEAT

SEEK OFF BEAT

SEEK OFF BEAT

SEEK OFF BEAT

Find the unexpected
around every corner
and reward your curiosity.

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CENTRAL COAST


SYDNEY


- 174km of lake foreshore
- 32km of stunning coastline
 - Vast bush hinterland



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#VisitLakeMac #LoveLakeMacquarie

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