

STAGE ONE

Spectator Point 1 – Corner of Pokolbin Mountain Rd and Broken Back Rd, Pokolbin

The View – After leaving the picturesque surrounds of Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard and cruising in formation along McDonalds Rd, Riders will tackle the massive climb up into the Pokolbin State Forest. Cheer them on at this point on their way out then hang around for an hour or so to see them as they descend back toward the finish line.

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~8.10am and 12.30pm.

Getting There – Leave Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard on De Beyers Rd, turn right onto McDonalds Rd and head south for approx. 1km. Take the right turn into Pokolbin Mountains Road and follow this until you locate the Traffic Control at the corner of Broken Back Rd – continue to the left up Pokolbin Mountain Rd then turn around to park safely on the S / SW side of the road (to not block Riders for their return). Take care for Riders when leaving this point – follow the Traffic Controller's directions.

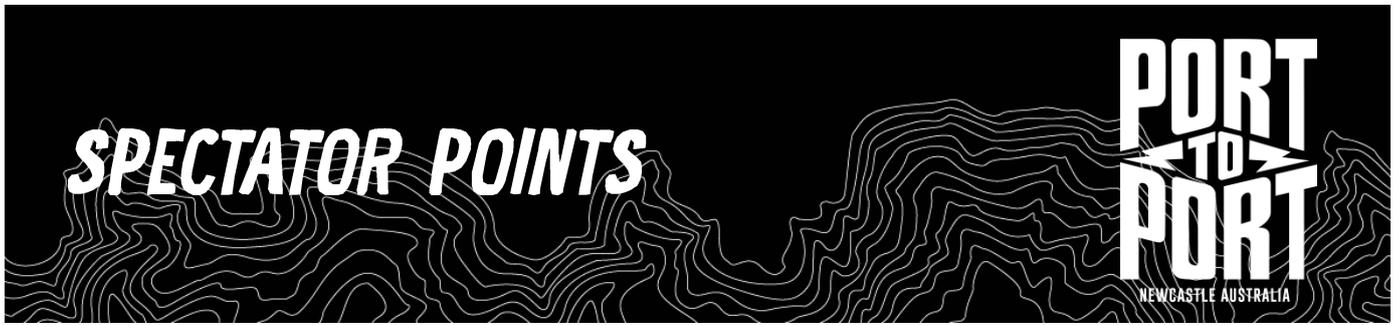
Spectator Point 2 – Campground on Broken Back Trail, Pokolbin (the Water Point)

The View – Greet riders as they have finished their massive climb up to the roof of the Pokolbin State Forest. At this location you will have the chance to see Riders twice as they first leave the area to complete a loop on moto trails and fast downhill fire trail before tackling another tough climb back to this Water Point for a refill. Riders will need some cheering on for their (mostly) downhill run back toward home.

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~8.40am and 12.00pm.

Getting There – Leave Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard on De Beyers Rd, turn right onto McDonalds Rd and head south for approx. 1km. Take the right turn into Pokolbin Mountains Road and follow this until you locate the Traffic Control at the corner of Broken Back Rd – turn into this road and start your slow 11km climb to the top – this road is for AWD and 4WD vehicles only due to the rough surface, especially if wet.

Special Note: Vehicles will be unable to access Broken Back Rd to enter Pokolbin State Forest after 8.00am. Crew vehicles heading for the Water Point will need to pass Spectator Point 1 prior to this time, and will be unable to descend Broken Back Rd until the last Rider has cleared this road, which could be 12.30pm. Alternative route to return to the start line will be via Broken Back Trail into Sawpit Rd then Cedar Creek Road to head toward Millfield.



Spectator Point 3 – Watagan Track, Pokolbin

The View – From high on the hill overlooking Pokolbin to the north Riders will tackle the short but challenging downhill run along the Watagan Track, with less than 10km until they reach the Finish Line. This is a great spot to offer them the final encouragement they need to complete Stage 1 of their Port to Port MTB journey.

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~9:15am and 12.45pm.

Getting There - Leave Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard on De Beyers Rd, turn right onto McDonalds Rd and head south for approx. 1km. Take the right turn into Pokolbin Mountains Road and follow this until you locate the Traffic Control at the corner of Broken Back Rd – continue up Pokolbin Mountain Rd to the left and locate the course markings indicating the left turn into the Watagan Track. Either park here and walk in or drive in to the lookout point and park safely to not obstruct Riders (remember to exit slowly as Riders will be coming toward you).

STAGE TWO

Spectator Point 1a and 1b – O'Donnelltown Rd

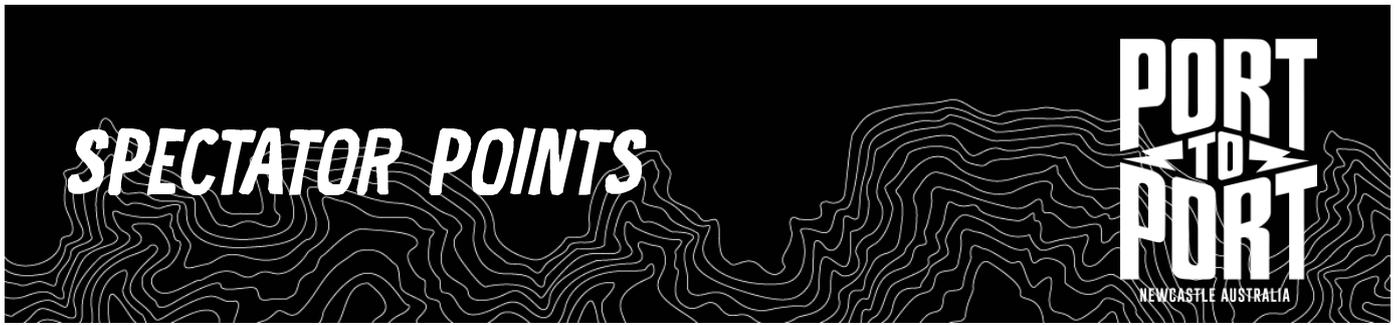
The View – You will need to be up here (1a) before the race starts to see Riders as they head up O'Donnelltown Rd in their wave formations before turning right to start their epic day of singletrack-squiggle riding. After all waves have been through you can then drive further along O'Donnelltown Rd and park before you hit the traffic control point (1b)– from there you will have access to bushland on either side of the road where Riders will wind in and out of shrubs and trees for the next hour or so.

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~8.00am and 9.15am.

Getting There – From the start line head north up Boundary Rd then west along O'Donnelltown Rd and you will see the trail markings and event staff. Park safely to not obstruct other road users or obscure traffic control signage. Best option for 1b would be to make a U-turn when you come to Traffic Control and park on the northern side of the road.

Special Note – You will not be able to head east along O'Donnelltown Rd from 1a until the last start wave has commenced the event and all Riders have turned right into the trail.

Spectator Point 2 – Junction of Boundary Rd and Killingworth Rd



The View – At the 28k mark Riders will have already tackled the raw old-school singletrack and fire trails of the Sugarloaf foothills and Killingworth areas before they emerge from the bush and line up for their assault on the singletrack mecca of Holmesville – dizzy anyone? Hang around here long enough and you will again see Riders as they complete their 18km loop of almost exclusively singletrack trails and gun it back towards Sugar Valley Golf Club – who will bring home the Bacon?

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~9:15am and 1:00pm.

Getting There – As Boundary Rd and Killingworth Rd will be closed to vehicles you will need to walk south from the start line along Boundary Rd for approx. 800m to the junction with Killingworth Rd. You will clearly see Course Markings and a Marshal (or two) at the correct spot.

Spectator Point 3 – Holmesville Trails - Kevin Evans Oval / Appletree Rd

The View – Riders will not be complaining about a lack of singletrack when they pass by here – the Holmesville Trails are all about winding and flowing through tight tree-lined tracks, and this means that there are no bad spots to watch Riders from. Park near the Skate Park and walk south to locate the trails – from here you can go in any number of directions to see more open areas or the tight sandy trails that local Riders love – but please keep on the dirt and off the plants.

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~9:45am and ~12:45pm.

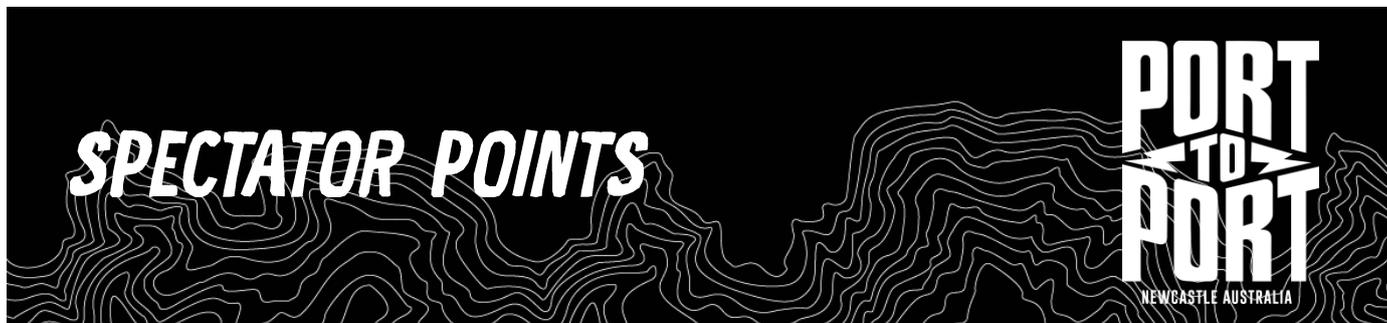
Getting There – From the start line head north along Boundary Rd and turn right into Bridge St then Teralba Rd / Powell St. Make a right turn onto Withers St then after approx. 500m turn right onto Appletree Rd. Follow this south toward Barnsley and park at Kevin Evans oval.

STAGE THREE

Spectator Point 1 – Awaba MTB Park

The View – Watch the grinning faces of Riders as they speed through the pristine twisting singletrack of the Awaba MTB Park, lovingly maintained by our friends at the Hunter Mountain Bike Association.

When – Riders will be in Awaba MTB Park from ~8:15am onwards. They will first enter the far southern section adjacent to the main gate, affectionately known as “Siberia” (1a), and commence their ~30 minute loop of the full trail network. There will be plenty of places to view Riders; however the best spot will be at the tunnel under the Downhill track (1b) where you will get to see Riders heading in both directions after tackling some of the venues newest trails. Riders will then return past the main trailhead



area into more winding singletrack and exit again at 'Siberia', turning right onto Mount Faulk Road to begin the lengthy climb to the top of the Watagans.

Getting There – From Cooranbong head northeast along Freemans Drive and turn left into Mount Faulk Road, following the signs to Awaba MTB Park. Be there before 8.00am and drive in the access road (Jenkins Rd) to the designated parking areas – there is one half way in and one at the main trailhead area. Explore the trails on foot but please be mindful of the flora (ask a local about the 'good spots').

Spectator Point 2 – The Pines Camp Ground and Forest Park

The View –After the long grind along the gravel road to traverse across the top of the Watagans, Riders will need some encouragement to pump them up as they once again begin to enter some challenging singletrack and commence their downhill run back toward Cooranbong. A refill of water will be available along the entrance road to the Pines Camp Ground (2a), where Riders turn right onto the access trail through to the Pines Forest Park area. Pushing a little further in Riders will come to the Abbots Falls Walking Trail (2b) where they will need to tackle the tricky steps and ruts of this well-used track.

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~9:45am and 12:00pm.

Getting There – From Cooranbong Park head west and turn right into Martinsville Rd then continue for several kilometres until you see the wooden sign to the Pines Forest Park (left turn in 50m). Turn left into Watagan Rd and follow this as it becomes Martinsville Hill Rd. Veer right onto Watagan Forest Road and continue for ~2km, turning right at Palmers Rd (sign for Pines Forest Park). Park safely so as not to impede any passing Riders – look for course markings – backtrack west along the trail to the Water Point or head east to the Abbots Fall Walking Trail. Alternatively, heading further west along Watagan Forest Rd will bring you to the entrance road to the Pines Camp Ground (look for course markings) to access the water point from this direction. These are dirt roads but a normal 2WD car will get you there.

Spectator Point 3 – Intersection of Martinsville Hill Rd and Watagan Forest Rd

The View – You won't see them for long at this spot as Riders are well and truly starting to point their noses downhill for the famous Dogs Descent and all the 'whoops' and 'hollers' that this part of the course brings. This is the last accessible spot for Spectators before the Riders hit the tar to take them back to the Finish Line so cheer on your favourites and wish them safe travels down the fast and rocky roads ahead!

When – Riders will be passing this point between ~9:45am and 12:30pm.

Getting There – From Cooranbong Park head west and turn right into Martinsville Rd then continue for several kilometres until you see the wooden sign to the Pines Forest Park (left turn in 50m). Turn left into Watagan Rd and follow this as it becomes Martinsville Hill Rd. At the Traffic Control turn left onto Watagan Forest Road – turn around safely and find a sensible parking spot so as not to impede any passing Riders. These are dirt roads but a normal 2WD car will get you there.



STAGE FOUR

Spectator Point 1a and 1b – Fernleigh Track – Whitebridge / Dudley

The View – Watch Riders getting giddy as they tackle some deliciously fresh and winding trails in the Whitebridge / Dudley area. The twists and turns of these singletracks can be seen from the Fernleigh Track on both sides, or go exploring on foot, taking care not to damage the flora.

When – The first Riders should pass at ~8:35am, with Riders continuing to come past until ~10.15am.

Getting There – From Blacksmiths, head north along the Pacific Highway through Bennetts Green and turn right into Oakdale Road. A left turn into Bulls Garden Road and right onto Dudley Road will take you through Whitebridge shops. Take the next right into Station Street and park down the end where you will see foot access to the Fernleigh Track. Walk in a northerly or southerly direction until you locate the course markings, keeping an eye out for other Track users.

Spectator Point 2 – Burwood Rd, Whitebridge – Water Point

The View – At the 24km point Riders will soon be rejoicing in the discovery that for the first time in the events history they will not be taking to the golden sands of one of Newcastle's beaches. Riders will instead traverse the grass verge along the eastern side of Burwood Rd, grab a quick refill of H2O at the Water Point then dive into a narrow bush trail that will see them descend toward the Dudley Beach Car Park area before commencing their loop of Glenrock. Cheer them on and let them know of the fun to come.

When – The first Riders should pass at ~9.00am, with Riders continuing to come past until ~11.30am.

Getting There – From Blacksmiths, head north along the Pacific Highway through Bennetts Green and turn right into Oakdale Road. A left turn into Bulls Garden Road and right onto Dudley Road will take you through Whitebridge shops. Turn left into Burwood Rd and follow this until you see the Port to Port Water Truck – park safely to not disrupt traffic or Riders.

Spectator Point 3a, 3b and 3c – Glenrock Trails

The View – At the mid-point of the Glenrock Loop Riders will have completed their last serious climb for the 2019 event and the thoughts of tasting their own personal victory “champagne” will be creeping into their minds. Remind them they are almost home and watch the smiles spread across their faces – 6km to go from the Gun Club Gates (3a).

When – Riders will be passing from ~9.30am to 12.45pm.

Getting There – Head to Merewether Heights along the Pacific Highway and turn into Fernleigh Loop / Gun Club Rd (at the Water Tower). Park outside the entrance gates to the National Park and walk in to your choice of several spots – aim for the bottom of Twisties (3b) or Seismick (3c), or ask a local for the best place.