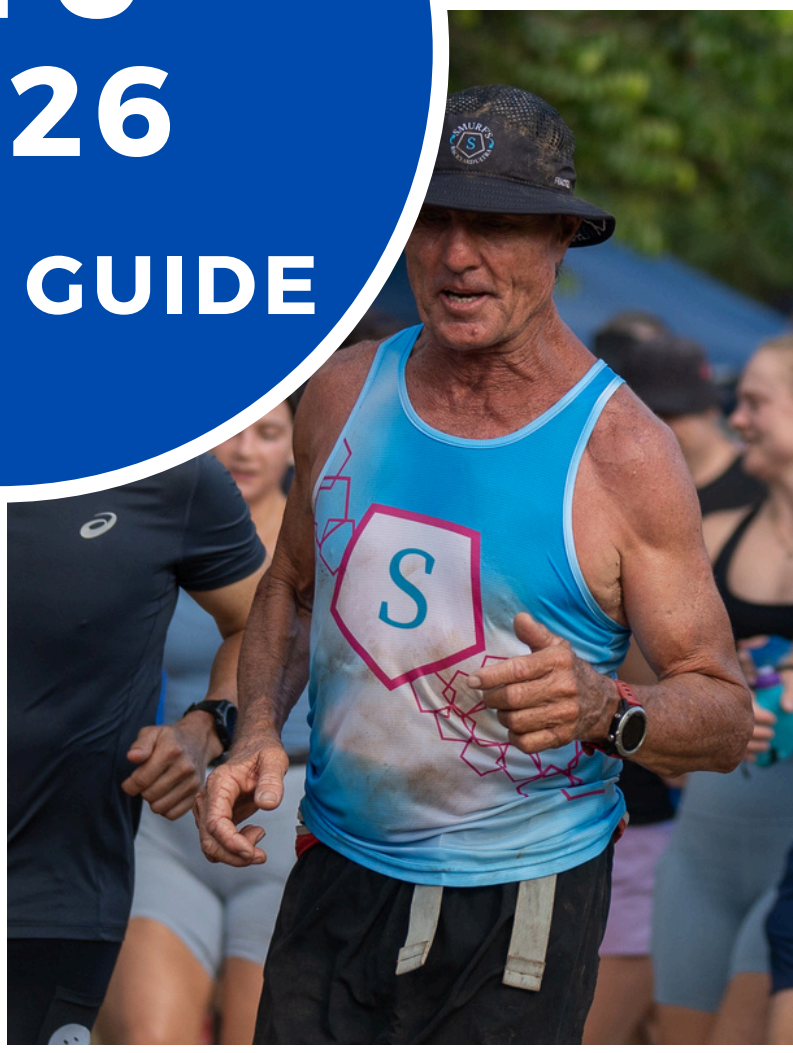




SMURF'S BYU 2026

EVENT GUIDE





SMITHFIELD MTB PARK

OCTOBER 22-25, 2026

WELCOME!!
FROM THE RACE DIRECTOR

Hi and welcome to our fifth Backyard Ultra - the fourth as Smurf's BYU.

We are excited to be back at Smithfield MTB Park for Far North Queensland's only official BYU. It's a pleasure to be able to bring you this event again with a course that gives you a taste of what FNQ trails have to offer, and with record numbers again in 2026.

As always, there is a significant amount of work that goes in to making an event like this happen. Smurf's BYU is only possible thanks to the support of James Cook University, Cairns Mountain Bike Club, QPWS and Cairns Regional Council. But then there are the many volunteers who will be there over the weekend to ensure you have a positive experience and enable you to get the most out of yourself. Please make sure you thank the volunteers!

Whether you are a local running in your (almost literal) backyard or have made the trip from abroad. This year we have participants from all across Queensland including Cloncurry, Weipa, Tully, Innisfail, Townsville, Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Then many from interstate including the Northern Territory, Victoria, Western Australia, and even one participant from France!.

But now its time to lace up those shoes, prepare your nutrition and psych yourself up for what is going to be an epic weekend. Thanks for coming - now get out there, get loopy and don't quit in the chair!!

Joshua Duff (Smurf)
Race Director

Smurf
Endurance Sports Pty. Ltd.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24

3pm-6pm: Check-in and collection of race pack for runners. Set up of runners gazebos

4pm-6pm: Run course open for course recce (crews and supporters welcome to run/walk a lap of the course)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25

5:30am-6:45am: Final check-in, registrations and gazebo set up

6am-2pm: Food & Coffee available

6:50am: Pre-race briefing at the starting corral

7am: BYU and Mini Backyard START!

9am: Smurf Dress Up Lap (LAP #3)

12pm: Speedy Smurf Lap (LAP #6)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26

6am-9am: Food & Coffee available (if sufficient participants still competing)

Backyard Ultra continues until last person is left standing

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Backyard Ultra and Mini Backyard

Both the BYU and Mini Backyard start at the same time and follow the same rules. However, those signed up for the Mini finish at 6 laps (unless already DNF'd). **After 6 laps, those participating in the Mini may choose to continue, but must pay the difference before (or after) continuing.**

During the BYU and Mini Backyard, there are some "special" laps where we ask participants to dress up and get stuck in to the festivities!

LAP 3 - *Smurf Lap...Dress as a Smurf, in blue, blue zinc or whatever takes your fancy! There will be prize packs for the best dressed male and female! So get creative and show us your best Smurf costumes!*

LAP 6 - *Speedy Smurf Lap...First male and female across the line on this lap take home a $200 cash prize!*







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EVENT CHECK-IN

WHEN?
Check-in is available on Friday October 23 between 3pm and 6pm at the event precinct. Check-in will also be available on the Saturday morning before the event begins between 5:30am and 6:45am.

CAN I CHECK-IN FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
Preferably not. We prefer participants to check-in themself so that we can talk them through any event updates and there are some pre-race “rituals” for participants to take part in.

WHEN DO I SET UP MY SPACE?
Setting up your own gazebo space: once you have checked in, our volunteers will show you where you can set up your space. You are welcome to set this up once you have checked in on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

Using the communal space OR under a shady tree: there will be a small communal space available for those not bringing a gazebo (particularly if planning on a few hours). You can set up in the communal space, or under a tree Friday or Saturday (but be aware you will need to share the space)

TRAVEL/PARKING

GETTING TO THE THE VENUE

For those coming from Cairns or the airport, Smithfield MTB Park is a short 15-20 minute drive north of Cairns City.

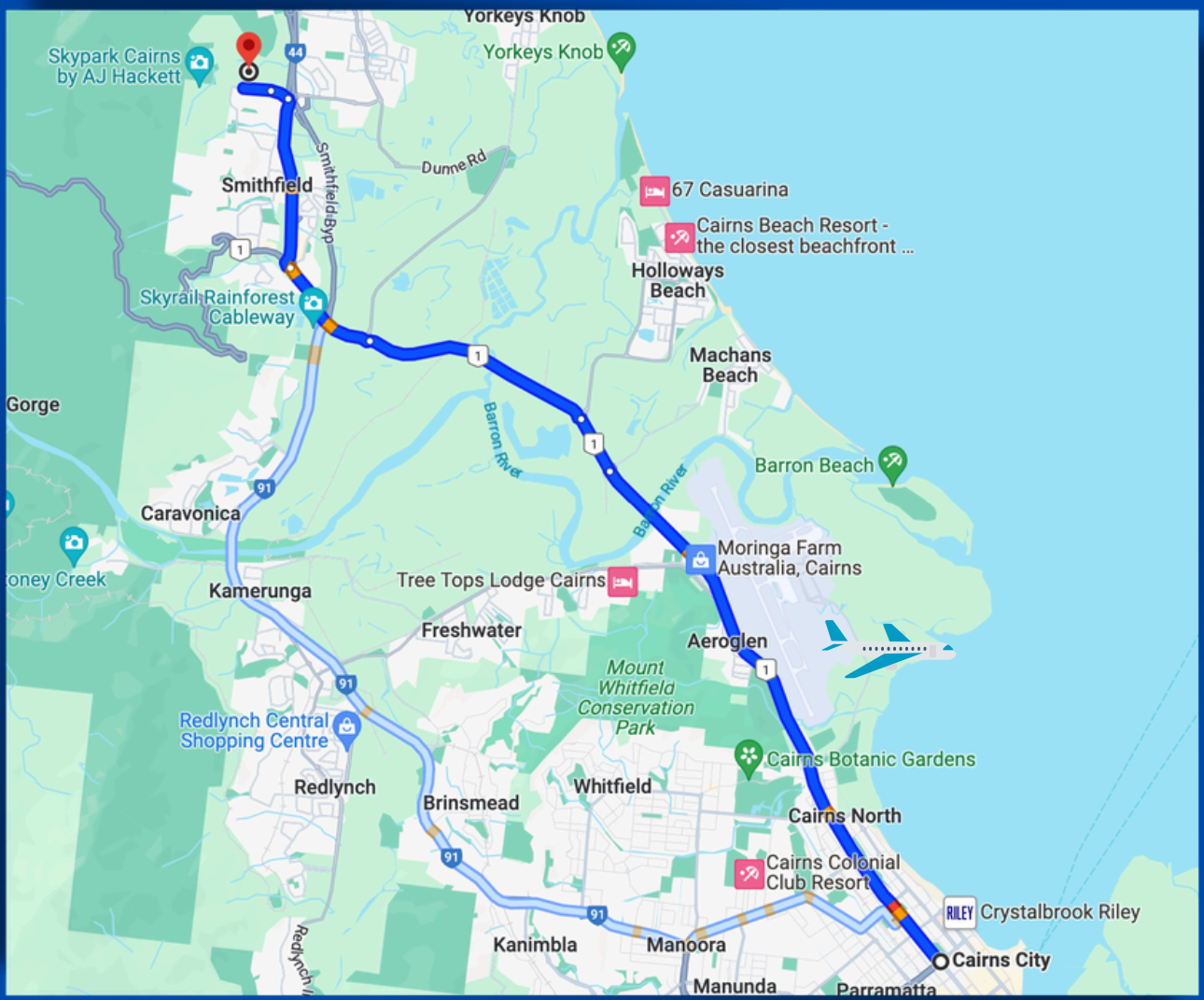
IN YOUR GPS, PUT "CRANKWORKZ CAIRNS" TO GET TO THE RIGHT PLACE

EVENT PRECINCT - GEAR DROP OFF

A "stop/drop/go" area will be approximately 300m from the main event precinct for you to drop off gear (eg. gazebo, eskies etc.). Please limit your time in this area to 5 minutes then move your vehicle to a car park. The car park itself is also only approximately 500m from the main event precinct (there is **no vehicle access** to the event precinct except under exceptional circumstances with permission from the event director)

CAR PARKING

Free parking is available in the JCU carpark closest to the event precinct. Parking over Saturday and Sunday is free throughout JCU. However, be aware some of the carparks are paid parking on the Friday afternoon.



TRAVEL/PARKING

IN YOUR GPS, PUT "CRANKWORKZ CAIRNS" TO GET TO THE RIGHT PLACE



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EVENT PRECINCT

EVENT SERVICES

A number of services will be provided for athletes and crew in the event precinct. This will include;

- First Aid
- Control Tent (race pack collection, merchandise, questions, DNF's)
- Aid Station (including a selection of food such as muesli bars, chips, lollies, noodles, fruit etc., water, kettle)
- Charging Station (a small charging station will be provided for participants to charge devices as needed)
- Food, Drink & Coffee (Food by Smok'n'Steel. Coffee Van)

STARTING CORRAL

The starting corral is only to be accessed by runners. This area will be fenced off to ensure the safety of runners

COMMUNAL TENT

We will provide a small communal tent space for runners and their crews to use throughout the event. This saves runners bringing their own shade (particularly if planning to run less than 6 hours). We ask all runners and crews to be considerate of others in the space and keep their area clean and tidy

SHADE

Throughout the event precinct, there are also shady tress where runners and crews are more than welcome to set up for their event

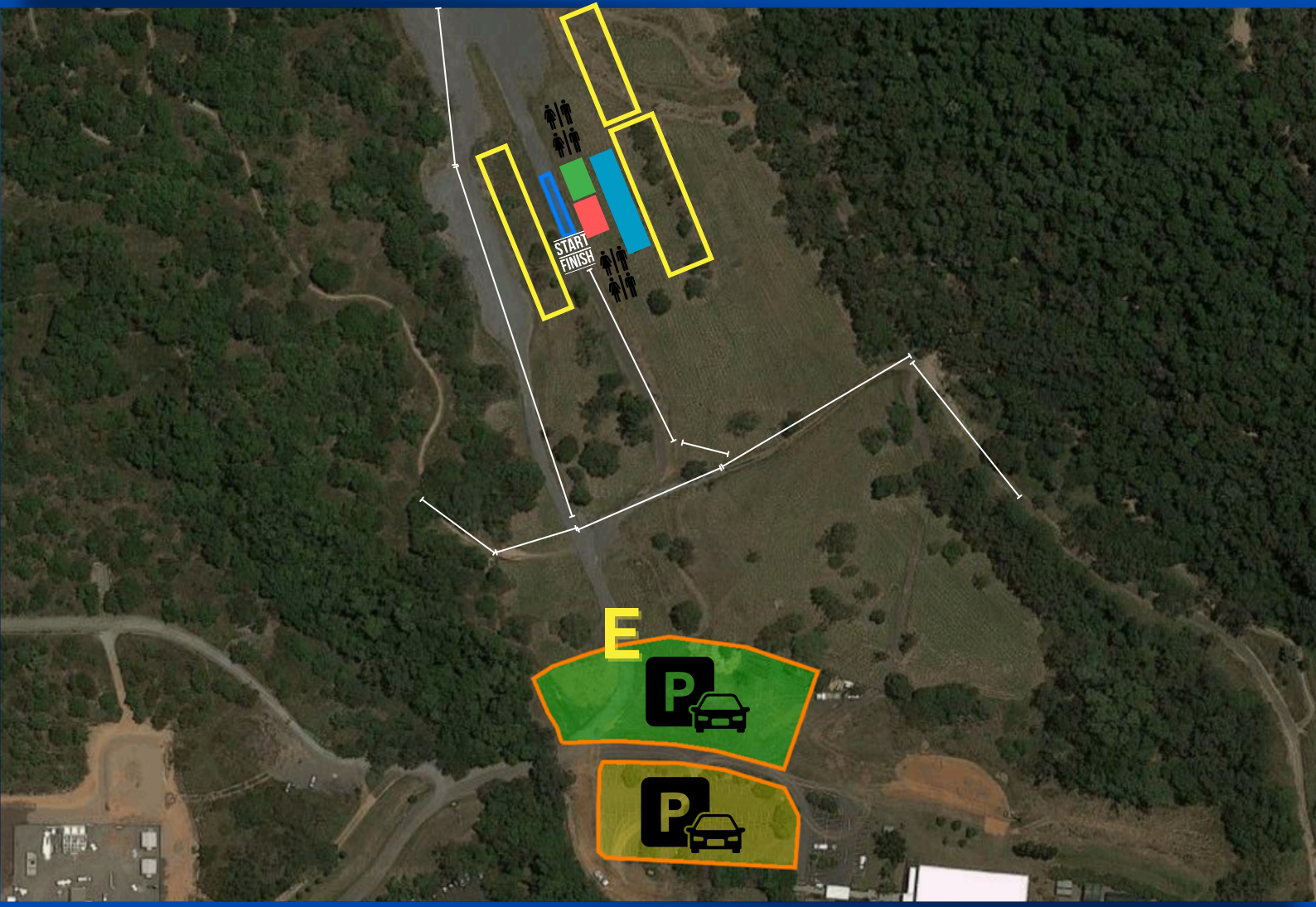
GAZEBOS

There is plenty of space for runner and crew gazebos. 3m x 3m or smaller gazebos are allowed for single runners and their crew. Groups of 2 or more runners sharing a space may use larger gazebos.

Your gazebos **MUST be secured with weights or pegs**. Do not use guide ropes - this will create a trip hazard.

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EVENT PRECINCT MAP #1



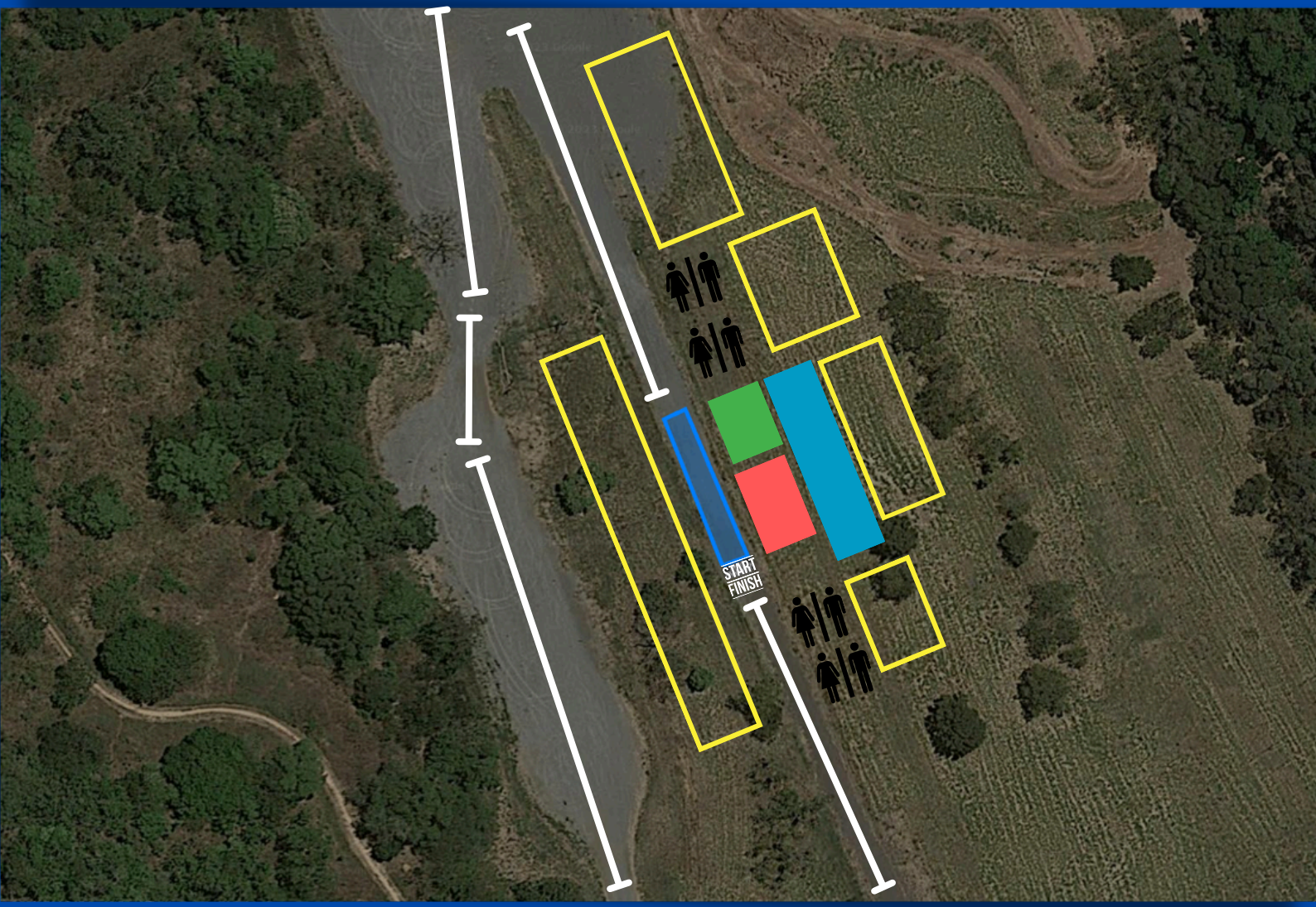
KEY

- Control Tent (Check-In, Aid Station, First Aid)
- BBQ/Coffee Van
- Starting Corral
- Communal Gazebo
- Runner Gazebo space
- Entrance
- Parking
- Toilets
- Water (on course)
- Run Course

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EVENT PRECINCT MAP #2



KEY

- Control Tent (Check-In, Aid Station, First Aid)
- BBQ/Coffee Van
- Starting Corral
- Communal Gazebo
- Runner Gazebo space
- Toilets
- Run Course

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EVENT BRIEFINGS

VIRTUAL EVENT BRIEFING

A virtual race briefing will be provided to participants via Youtube on Tuesday October 20. It is a requirement of your participation that you view this race briefing. This race briefing will cover important event weekend information as well as any updates that you need to be aware of.

The virtual race briefing will cover;

- Event check-in
- Final event schedule and pre-event processes
- Event rules
- Aid Station and hydration/nutrition information
- Course information
- First aid
- Weather update

PRE-EVENT BRIEFING

A final pre-event briefing will take place at approximately 6:50am in the starting corral prior to the beginning of the event. This will cover any last minute information before the event begins at 7am sharp.



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EVENT RULES

EVENT RULES

Race rules are put in place for the safety of participants, spectators, volunteers, staff and to protect the environment and integrity of Smithfield MTB Park and the surrounding areas. Smurf's BYU is also a registered BYU and, as such, must abide by the rules of a Backyard Ultra. The Race Director reserves the right to remove participants from the course or disqualify participants if they are found to be in breach of these rules.

- **OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE -** No outside assistance or personal aid is allowed once a lap has begun. For example, runners cannot be handed anything by a crew member, pick up personal aid while out on the course or hand anything to a crew member once a lap has begun. Outside assistance will result in disqualification. This includes running or cycling with or near participants while they are on course. Cheering people on as they run past, however, is 100% OK!
- **HEADPHONES -** Headphones are allowed during laps, however, runners must only use one ear bud or bone conduction headphones. This is to ensure your safety while running through the trails, to hear instructions in an emergency or hear MTB's that may be on the course.
- **MANDATORY GEAR -** A **head torch and phone is mandatory during the night laps**. All runners MUST wear a head torch from the 6pm lap until the 6am lap. **A snake bandage is mandatory and must be carried with runners while on course at all times.** It is also HIGHLY recommended that runners carry a hydration system with them each lap due to the heat (handheld, soft flask, hydration pack etc.)
- **LEAVE NO TRACE -** Littering on course will result in disqualification. Carry any rubbish with you and place it in a bin at the end of a lap.
- **FOLLOW THE COURSE -** The Smurf's BYU course includes some out-and-back sections and winding sections through single track trail. The course will be heavily signed and barricades will be used to keep you on course. If you are found to have deliberately cut the course, you will be disqualified. If you make an honest mistake, the Race Director will have final say (eg. disqualification, add extra to next lap etc.).
- **ASSIST FELLOW RUNNERS -** If you come across a runner who is injured, ill or hurt on the course, it is a requirement that you assist that runner. This may mean helping them to a volunteer, providing them with water or notifying an event official (regardless of whether this will interfere with your lap)
- **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS** - It is the responsibility of participants to follow the directions of marshals at all times while on course. This is for the safety of yourself and other participants.
- **AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR -** Aggressive or unsportsmanlike behaviour towards volunteers, event staff or other participants will not be tolerated. Such behaviour will result in immediate disqualification from the event at the discretion of the Race Director
- **MOUNTAIN BIKES -** The course is NOT closed to Mountain Bikes, however, we expect few bikes on course following our community engagement with the local MTB club and on the course. **HOWEVER, all runners are to GIVE WAY to MTB's and be considerate of others using the trails.**

EVENT RULES

EVENT RULES cont.

- **DNF -** In a Backyard Ultra, all competitors, except the final person left standing, are technically a DNF. You DNF by;
    - Failing to complete the loop within the hour
    - Failing to make the start corral before the next loop begins
    - Accepting defeat and choosing to not continue

When you DNF, you will be required to inform the Race Director and ring the "DNF Bell". You MUST inform the race director of your DNF prior to ringing the bell and taking your “memento” off the board.

- All care is taken in the days before the event to remove hazards from the course, however, **it is the responsibility of participants to inform a marshal, volunteer or the Race Director if they identify a hazard on course** that may impact the safety of others.
- **BEGINNING EACH LOOP -** Warning whistles will be blown in the lead up to the beginning of each lap. One whistle will be blown with 3 minutes to go, two whistles with 2 minutes to go, and three whistles with 1 minute to go. A bell will be rung at the beginning of each hour to start the next loop.
- **STARTING CORRAL -** The starting corral is measured to fit all the participants and stays the same size for the duration of the event. All competitors MUST be in the starting corral at the bell to start each loop or will DNF. You may enter the starting corral from the front or the back before the final bell.
- **FINISH LINE -** Each loop finishes when the competitor crosses the finish line. Competitors are then able to leave the course and receive assistance (you can exit the corral from the front or the back once you have crossed the line)
- **LEAVING THE COURSE -** Except for a toilet or a water station, competitors may not leave the course until each loop is completed
- **ARTIFICIAL AIDS -** Artificial aids such as trekking poles are not allowed during a lap
- **ALLOW OTHERS TO PASS -** To ensure the safety of all competitors, slower runners must allow faster runners to pass. In particular, on single track elements of the path, if slowing to a walk it is your repsonsibility to step to the side and allow runners to pass
- **NO NON-COMPETITORS ON THE COURSE -** Other than event marshals and the Race Director, no non-competitors are allowed on the course.
- **WINNER/RESULTS -** The winner is the last person to complete a loop. The winner must complete one more loop than the "assist" runner. If no runner can complete one more loop than everyone else, there will be no winner. For Smurf’s BYU, there will be both a male and female winner.

FIRST AID/EMERGENCIES

FIRST AID TEAM

First aid will be provided by volunteers with appropriate qualifications. The first aid team will consist of a minimum 1 First Aid Officer onsite throughout the event alongside first aid qualified event staff.

For competitors or spectators who have a first aid issue or emergency, you can access assistance at the Race Director tent.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

In the case of an emergency on the course, we have emergency access available at multiple points including Captain Cook Highway, JCU private roads and McGregor St. The event crew will also be able to access most parts of the course via vehical.

Emergency access to the main event precinct is via the JCU carpark. In the event of an emergency, all attendees MUST follow the directions of the event crew.

FIRE

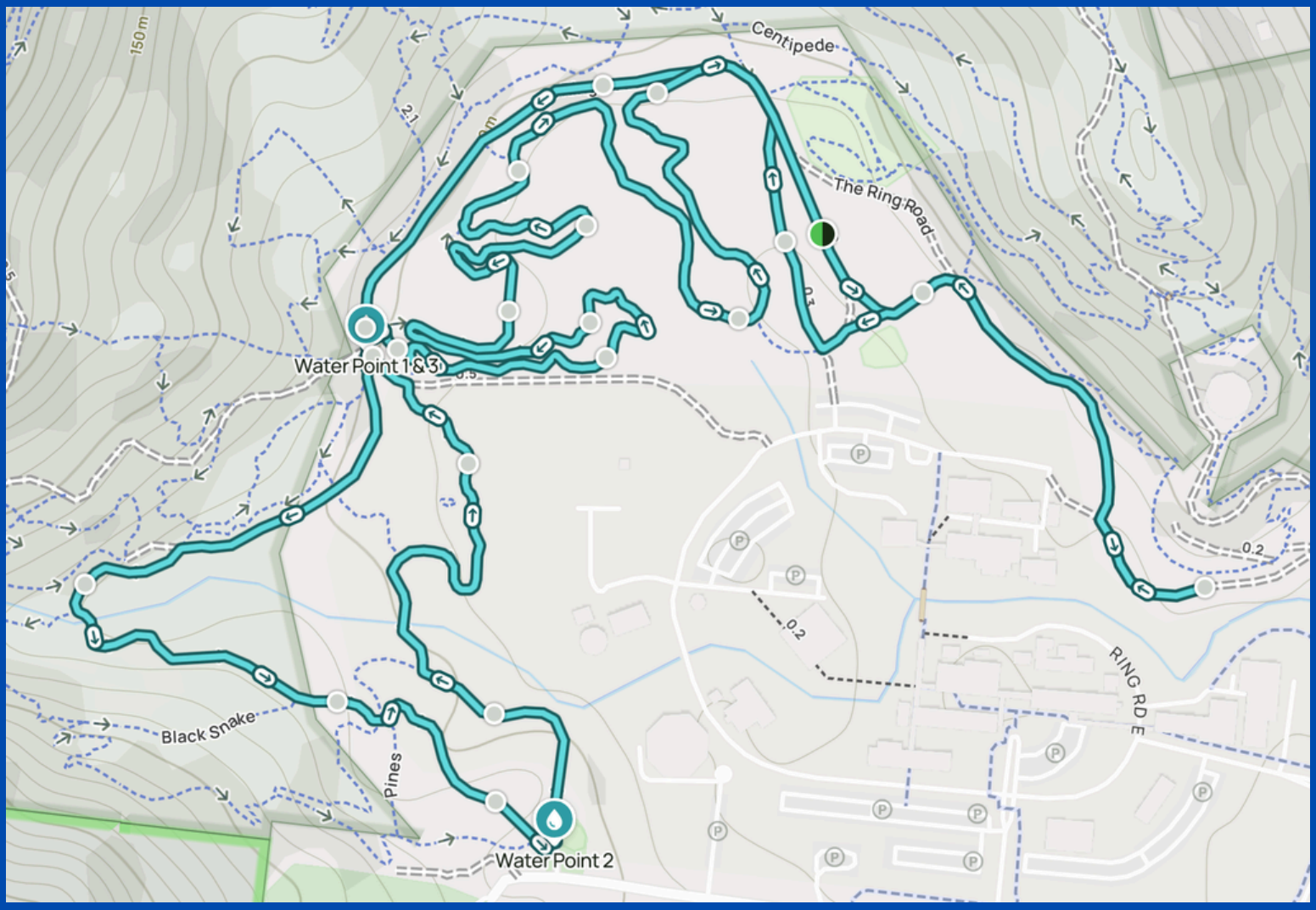
In the event of a fire at the venue or on the course, the emergency assembly point is the car park on the northern side of the JCU buildings (i.e. directly south of the event precinct). In the event of a fire, all attendees MUST follow the directions of the event crew.



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COURSE MAP



COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course begins with a 1.6km out and back section along open dirt road before travelling north back through the event precinct before turning left after the “bridge”. Runners continue to follow the dirt road for approximately 1.3km before turning left on to single track MTB trail (”Flat Snake”).

The course winds through 1.3km of single track rainforest and pine forest trail (first water station), opens up in to a clearing (second water station), and then back in to approximately 2km of single track MTB trail (”Echidna” and “Greenfields”).

The course opens up back on to dirt road for the final few hundred metres before crossing the finish line the opposite direction from which you left.

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AID STATION/WATER STATIONS

WATER STATIONS

Three water stations will be provided for runners at along the course for all runners to access. The first at 2km, the second at 3.3km in the single trail pine forest section (Smithfield MTB Park Trailhead), and the third at 4.2km.

AID STATION - EVENT PRECINCT

A communal "aid station" will be provided in the event precinct near the Race Director tent. The food, fluids and resources available in this area are available for all competitors. Resources available in the aid station will include;

FLUID

- Water
- Cola & Ginger Ale
- Tea bags, instant coffee

FOOD

- Potato Chips
- Lollies
- Muesli Bars
- 2 minute noodles
- Fruit (eg. Banana's, Apples, Oranges etc.)
- Cup-a-soup
- Cookies

OTHER

- Small charging station for charging devices (competitors ONLY)
- Kettle for hot water

TIMING & RESULTS

TIMING
There will be no “timing” for the event. A live leaderboard will be available on our website.

TRACKING
We will update DNF’s at the end of every lap on our results sheets which will be accessible via our website - DNF updates will also be provided on our social media channels. We will also provide other periodic updates on our social media channels throughout the event

RESULTS
Final results will be posted on our webste and social media channels at the conclusion of the event.

FOOD & DRINK

BBQ
Food will be provided throughout the event by **Smoke n Steel!**

Saturday Breakfast: 6am-9am
Saturday Lunch: 11am-1pm
Saturday Dinner: 5pm-8pm

COFFEE VAN
A coffee van will be available throughout Saturday

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POST-EVENT

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FINISH

When you DNF, your first step is to come to the Race Director tent and ring the "DNF" Bell. We will remove your "memento" from the board and get a photo to commemorate your DNF.

Then what you do next is up to you. You could;

- Hang around and cheer on fellow competitors while relaxing in the comfort of the event precinct
- Volunteer to "crew" for other competitors who are going long and need some help
- See the Race Director about helping out as a volunteer
- Go home/accommodation and chill out - but definitely come back and support the runners that will continue on.

The atmosphere of a Backyard Ultra is one of friendship, camaraderie and support. We encourage you and your support crew to hang around as long as you can when you finish to help create an amazing atmosphere for all of our competitors.

THE LAST ONE STANDING

For Smurf's BYU, we will be crowning both a last female standing and last male standing, both of whom will receive a special Smurf's BYU trophy.

RUNNER GAZEBO'S

WHEN CAN I SET UP?

Runners and crew are welcome to set up their gazebos from 3pm Friday afternoon. You are also welcome to set up a gazebo on Saturday morning

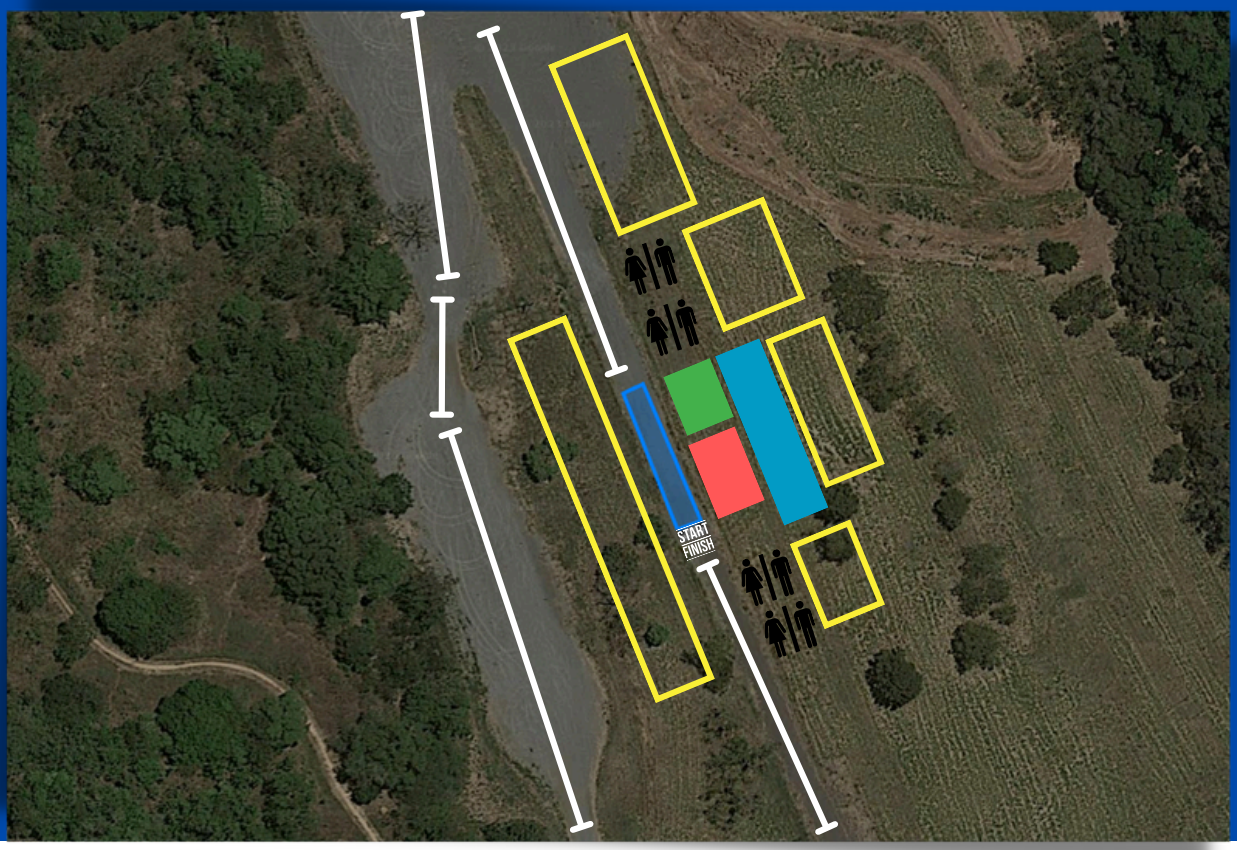
WHERE CAN I SET UP?

When you check in, our team will show you the areas where you can set up your gazebo. When setting up, be aware of other tents and people around you to ensure everyone has clear access to the starting corral.

HOW BIG CAN MY GAZEBO BE?

It is a single 3m x 3m gazebo for each runner. Multiple runners may share a single gazebo. In the case that runners are sharing a gazebo, you may use a larger gazebo size.

Your gazebos MUST be secured with weights or pegs. Do not use guide ropes - this will create a trip hazard.



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SPECTATORS

SPECTATORS

Spectators are more than welcome to come along to Smurf's BYU over the weekend. With the venue being close to Cairns City and the Cairns Northern Beaches, there is easy access to the venue. Just like runners and their crews, spectators are to park in the JCU car park and walk the few hundred metres to the venue.

WEATHER & WILDLIFE

WEATHER FORECAST

Long Range Forecast

At the moment, the long range forecast is predicting high temperatures in the high 20s and minimums in the early to mid 20s for the event weekend. Currently, some showers are predicted. But it is important to note that the weather is one of the most challenging aspects of our event, and more than likely it will be hot and humid. Therefore, prepare appropriately!

PREPARING FOR THE WEATHER

The weather will be a key consideration to ensuring you get the best out of yourself at Smurf's BYU. These temperatures and the humidity are enough to make the day loops difficult. It is absolutely essential that all runners are prepared for very hot and humid conditions with plenty of fluid, electrolytes and a smart hydration plan. There is real risk of issues due to dehydration if this is not managed carefully.

A good portion of the course is under shady rainforest canopy, but there are a couple of longer stretches in direct sun

Although the night loops won't be cold, if there is rain it may be cold enough that you need an extra layer if running in the night.

WILDLIFE

You are likely to come across some wildlife at some point along the course. You may encounter brush turkeys, birds, snakes, wallabies and insects. It is important you are aware of the possibility of wildlife out on course and prepare accordingly. **Snake bandages are mandatory gear for every lap**. It is highly suggested you have access to mosquito repellant at the event precinct.

There have also been recent dingo sightings in the area. We have put extra risk management strategies in place to manage this. But please take care and inform a volunteer or the Race Director if you sight a dingo on course.

FAQ'S

- What shoes should I wear?

Trail shoes are the best choice for this course (particularly if it is wet), however, you can easily run this course in road shoes

- Do I have to have a gazebo

No, we have a small communal gazebo space for you to set up. There are also plenty of shady trees under which you can set up if you choose. This space will be limited so be aware you will be sharing with others

- Is there camping?

No, there is no camping at the venue

- Is there electricity?

There is no electricity at the venue, however, there will be a small charging station available for runners only in the event aid station powered by a generator. ***Please, do not bring your own generator - our permits do not allow extra generators.***

- Can I drive my gear in to the event precinct?

No, there will be no vehicle access to the event precinct except for event and emergency vehicles. There will be a stop/drop/go space at the entrance to the event venue to drop gear. It is approximately 300m from the event precinct

- Can a crew member, friend or family member run or ride some of the lap with me?

No, this would be classed as support during a lap and this is not allowed in a BYU. The course is open for walking/running for everyone on the Friday afternoon - crew, family and friends can check out the course then.

- Can I "stash" supplies out on the course?

No, runners may not store equipment or nutrition anywhere on the course (including water stations). Once the runners leave the starting corral, they cannot utilise any aid until the completion of the next lap (except for accessing the water stations)

- Can I bring my dog/s?

No. Due to the wildlife in the area, dogs are not permitted as per our permit.

- What if I have more questions?

Contact the race director (Josh) at joshua@smurfandsmurfette.com.au

THANK YOU

Special thank you's to the many people who have helped get Smurf's Backyard Ultra up and running for 2026.

In particular, thanks to;

JCU & Cairns MTB Club

Both JCU and Cairns MTB Club have been very supportive of bringing Smurf's BYU to their trails. The Smurf's BYU course is beautiful and captures a great snapshot of our local trails, and the venue is perfect for an event like this. We simply can not put on the BYU without both JCU and Cairns MTB club being on-board, and they have both been fantastic in supporting what will be an epic weekend.

Our Volunteers

These events simply can not run without the help of volunteers who are willing to give up their time. Thank you to all those who have offered their time and services to ensure Smurf's BYU can run!

Smurf Squad

Our training squad are a big influence on the work we do and every single one of our squad members are highly supportive of our events. Whether they are helping out with gear, as volunteers, with promotion of the event or anything else, they are always willing to give up their time to ensure our events are awesome.

SALOME, and my daughters ISABELLA AND OLIVIA

None of this is possible without the support of my family. Salome is always happy to support my crazy schemes and we work hard to ensure balance between life, work, training and family. We are proud to be able to include our girls in our training, racing and events, and it can be hard on the family - but worth it. Thank you Salome, Isabella and Olivia!

THANK YOU EVERYONE!
JOSH (SMURF)

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