

EPOCH TOUR 2026 - RIDER EVENT MANUAL

EPOCH

— CANTERBURY TOUR —

A DEFINING STAGE RACE

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EPOCH



1. WELCOME

Welcome to the **Epoch Tour 2026**.

This isn't just another weekend of racing.

This is a **multi-day stage race** designed for riders who want something a bit more serious — something worth building toward.

“Epoch” means a defining moment in time — and that’s exactly what this event is aiming to become

You’ve entered a race where:

- Every stage matters
 - Every decision matters
 - And by Sunday... you'll know exactly where you stand
-

2. KEY EVENT INFORMATION

Event Dates:

24–26 April 2026

Event Website:

epochtour.co.nz

Race Director/s Contact:

Marc: 027 342 4815 · Alex: 027 277 6659

First Aid

Karen Madden

Race HQ Locations:

- Friday (TT): Sumner Rugby Club Rooms
 - Saturday: Loburn School
 - Sunday: Cust Community Centre
-

3. EVENT FORMAT

The Epoch Tour is a **multi-stage road race**.

Grades:

- U17 G/B
- Women B/Women A
- Men D/C/B/A

Each stage contributes to:

- **General Classification (GC)** – total time
- **Pringle Homes Points Classification**

Lowest cumulative time wins.

4. EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday 24th April – Prologue Time Trial (Evans Pass)

First Rider: 3:30 PM

Start Interval: 30 seconds

Order:

- U17
 - Men D
 - Men C
 - Women B
 - Women A
 - Men B
 - Men A
-

Saturday 25th April Morning – Stage 2 (Loburn)

- 08:30 – U17
- 08:32 – Men C
- 08:34 – Men D
- 08:36 – Women B
- 10:05 – Men A
- 10:07 – Men B
- 10:10 – Women A

Jersey presentation's:

- 07:45 AM – Men C, Men D, Women B - For the TT the night before
 - 9:15 AM – Men A, Men B, Women A, U17 - For the TT the night before
 - 11:00 AM – Men C, Men D, Women B
 - 1:00 PM – Men A, Men B, Women A, U17
-

Saturday 25th April Afternoon – Stage 3 (Loburn)

- 01:30 – U17
- 01:34 – Men C
- 01:36 – Men D
- 01:38 – Women B
- 02:15 – Men A
- 02:17 – Men B
- 02:20 – Women A

Sunday 26th April Morning – Stage 4 (Cust)

- 08:30 – Men A
- 08:32 – Men B
- 08:34 – Women A
- 08:36 – U17
- 08:38 – Men C
- 08:40 – Men D
- 08:42 – Women B

Jersey Presentation's:

- 07:45 AM – All Grades - For Stage 3
 - 11:30 AM – All Grades
-

Sunday 26th April Afternoon – Stage 5 (Final Stage)

- 12:15 – U17
- 12:30 – Men A
- 12:32 – Men B
- 12:34 – Women A
- 12:38 – Men C
- 12:40 – Men D
- 12:42 – Women B

Final Prizegiving:

- 4:00 PM – All Classifications
-

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Riders must be ready **15 minutes before start time**
 - It is the rider's responsibility to be on time
 - Start times may be adjusted
-

5. REGISTRATION & SIGN-ON

General

All riders must register and collect the following from the Sumner Rugby Club, 25 Campbell street :

- Race numbers
- Timing chip
- Seat post number

Registration open from 2:00pm.

Initial registration may take time. Please allow enough time before your race.

Friday – Prologue Time Trial

Location:

- Time Trial Start area is 500m from the Registration at the corner of **Paisley Street & Wakefield Avenue**.

Riders must be at registration **at least 30 minutes before their scheduled start time**.

Note:

- Start times may shift slightly from those published
- It is the rider's responsibility to be ready on time

Saturday – Stage 2 & Stage 3

Location:

Loburn School, 73 Hodgsons Road

- Leading and points Jerseys will be awarded 45mins before each stage start
 - Registration: There is no registration on days 2 & 3
 - **Compulsory Pre-race briefing 15mins before each race start on the line**
-

Sunday – Stage 4 & Stage 5

Location:

The Cust Community centre, Mill Road, Cust

- Leading and points Jerseys will be awarded 45mins before each stage start
- Registration: There is no registration on days 2 & 3
- **Compulsory Pre-race briefing 15mins before each race start on the line**

6. RACE NUMBERS

- Must be worn as instructed
- Do not modify
- Report lost/damaged numbers

RACE NUMBER PLACEMENT

Each rider will be issued:

- **Two race numbers** for your jersey
- **One seat post number** for your bike

Jersey Numbers:

- Must be placed on **both rear pockets**
- Leave a **clear gap between the numbers** (do not overlap or join them)
- Numbers must be clearly visible from behind at all times

Seat Post Number:

- Must be securely attached to your **seat post**
- Positioned so it is visible from the **left-hand side**

Transponders:

- Transponders must be attached to the front left fork of your bike.
- After you complete the final stage, please make sure you return your transponder.
- Those who fail to return or lose their transponder will be faced with a \$150 replacement fee.



Failure to correctly display numbers may result in:

- Difficulty with timing and results
- Potential time penalties

7. RACE RULES

OPEN ROADS

- Roads remain open
 - Riders must obey all road rules
-

CENTRE LINE RULE

- No crossing the centre line
- Especially in sprint finishes

Penalty:

- Time penalty or disqualification
-

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT & MARSHALS

- Traffic management in place at key intersections
- Marshals positioned throughout

Important:

- No roads are closed
 - Riders must remain alert
-

DANGEROUS RIDING

- No reckless riding
 - Commissaire decisions are final
-

8. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION (GC)

- Total time across all stages
- Lowest time wins

Time Gaps:

[INSERT RULES]

Tie Breaks:

If multiple riders are equal on time, the highest place finisher on the last stage will be the winner

9. CLASSIFICATIONS

Points Classification:

[INSERT DETAILS]

Other Jerseys:

[INSERT]

10. SAFETY & MEDICAL

Medical Support:

Karen Madden

Emergency:

Refer to the closest official to contact them

In an incident:

- Stop if safe
 - Assist if required
 - Notify officials
-

11. COURSE & STAGE DETAILS

Stage 1 – Prologue TT (Evans Pass)

Overview:

The opening stage is an uphill individual time trial on Evans Pass.

Riders start at the intersection of **Campbell Street and Wakefield Avenue**, climb Evans Pass to the summit, turn left onto Summit Road, and continue approximately **800 metres to the finish**.

Key Features:

- Continuous climb from start to finish
- Steady gradient throughout
- Exposed to wind near the summit

Hazards:

- Narrow road in sections
- Open road conditions – oncoming traffic may be present
- Left-hand turn onto Summit Road – take care at the intersection

Post-Finish Safety:

- Riders must descend Evans Pass with care after finishing
- The road remains open to traffic
- Riders will encounter:
 - Motor vehicles
 - Riders still climbing
- There may be increased traffic volumes in both directions

Visibility:

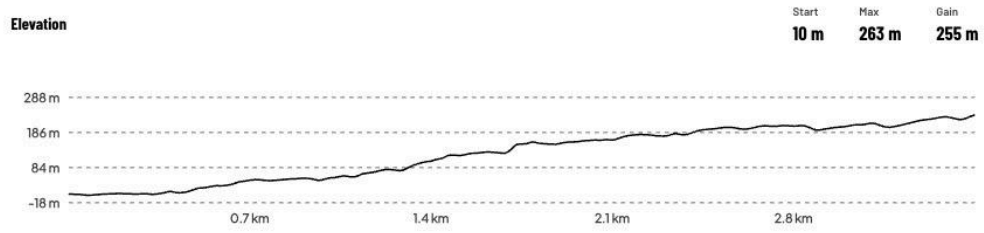
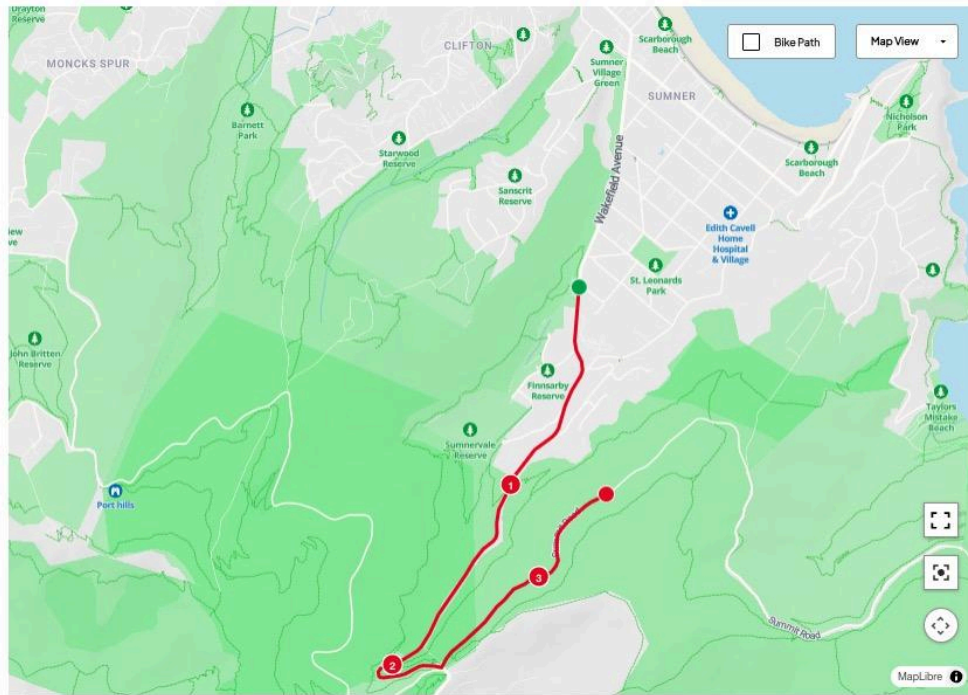
- Later riders may finish closer to sunset
- Light levels may be reduced compared to full daylight
- Ride accordingly and remain visible

Race Notes:

- Riders start at 30-second intervals
- Drafting is not permitted
- Riders must hold their line at all times

Note:

The descent is not part of the race. Riders must take responsibility for descending safely.



Stage 2 – Loburn Circuit (Saturday morning)

Overview:

Stage 2 is a lap-based road race starting and finishing near Loburn School.

The race begins with a **neutralised rollout from Loburn School** to the first corner at Loburn White Rock Road, where racing will commence.

Course Description:

- Neutralised start from Loburn School to Loburn White Rock Road
- Course continues onto **Dicksons Road**
- Left turn onto **Carrs Road** (short climb)
- Undulating terrain continues along Carrs Road
- Left turn onto **Bradys Road**
 - Short gravel section (compact surface, low traffic)
- Left turn onto **Loburn White Rock Road**
- Course passes the start/finish area near the school

Riders will complete multiple laps of this circuit.

Distances:

- U17 / Women B / Men D / Men C:
2.5 laps – 59 km
- Women A / Men B / Men A:
4 laps – 88 km

Start Times

- 08:30 – U17
- 08:32 – Men C
- 08:34 – Men D
- 08:36 – Women B
- 10:05 – Men A
- 10:07 – Men B
- 10:10 – Women A

Finish:

- Final sprint is on **Loburn White Rock Road**
- Approximately **200 metres past Bradys Road**, near North Loburn School

Key Features:

- Rolling terrain throughout
- Short climb on Carrs Road
- Undulating sections favour consistent pacing
- Short gravel sector on Bradys Road

Hazards:

- Open roads with live traffic
- Changes in road surface (including gravel section)
- Riders must remain alert at all times

Traffic Management:

- Full traffic management is in place at all intersections
- Riders will not be required to give way at controlled corners

Race Notes:

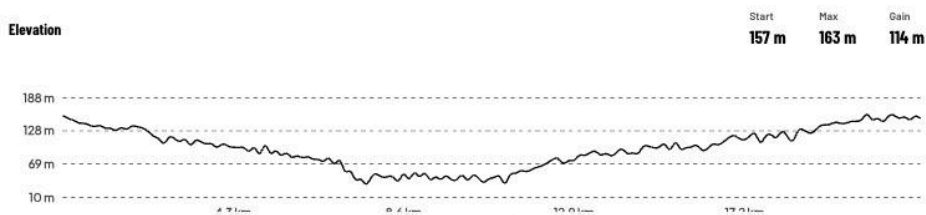
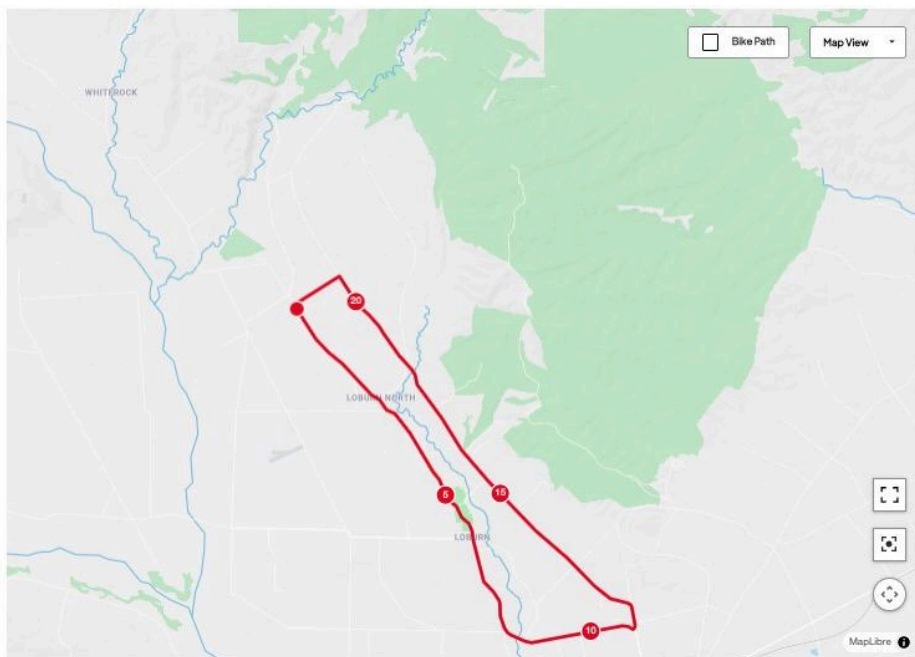
- Neutralised start must be respected
- Racing begins only after the designated point
- Riders must hold their line, particularly on gravel and narrow sections
- Riders must be aware of differing lap counts between grades

Pringle Homes Sprint Points

- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/D7bPzuo14dupzdsW6>
- Top of the climb on Carrs Road x 3 times

Note:

Riders are responsible for knowing their race distance and lap count.



Stage 3 – Ashley Gorge (Saturday Afternoon)

Overview:

Stage 3 is an out-and-back road race starting and finishing near Loburn School, heading out through Ashley Gorge.

The course is predominantly flat in the opening section before transitioning into rolling hill terrain through the gorge.

Course Description:

- Start outside Loburn School
- Head towards Ashley Gorge on predominantly flat roads
- Enter rolling hill terrain through the gorge
- Cross a **one-lane bridge**
- Continue to the turnaround point at approximately the **30 km mark (just before German Road)**
- Return via the same route through Ashley Gorge
- Finish on a long, flat section near Loburn School

Distance:

- All grades:
Full out-and-back – 58 km

Start Times:

- 1:30 PM – U17
- 1:34 PM – Men C
- 1:36 PM – Men D
- 1:38 PM – Women B
- 2:15 PM – Men A
- 2:17 PM – Men B
- 2:20 PM – Women A

Key Features:

- Flat opening section
- Rolling terrain through Ashley Gorge
- One-lane bridge crossing
- Long, flat run to the finish

Hazards:

- Open roads with live traffic
- Traffic speeds may be **80–100 km/h**
- One-lane bridge – riders must stay left and ride single file
- Rolling terrain may affect visibility
- Riders must remain alert at all times

Traffic Management:

- Controlled stop/turnaround point in place for the out-and-back
- Controlled finish area in place

Note:

- There are no controlled intersections on this course
- Riders must remain aware of traffic at all times

Race Notes:

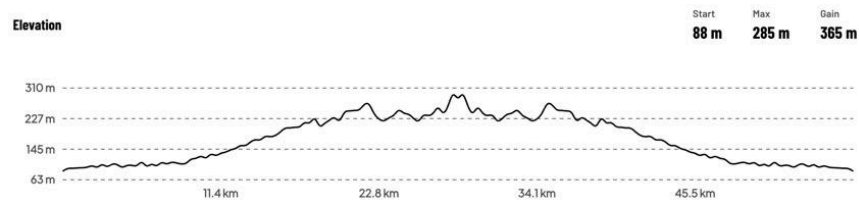
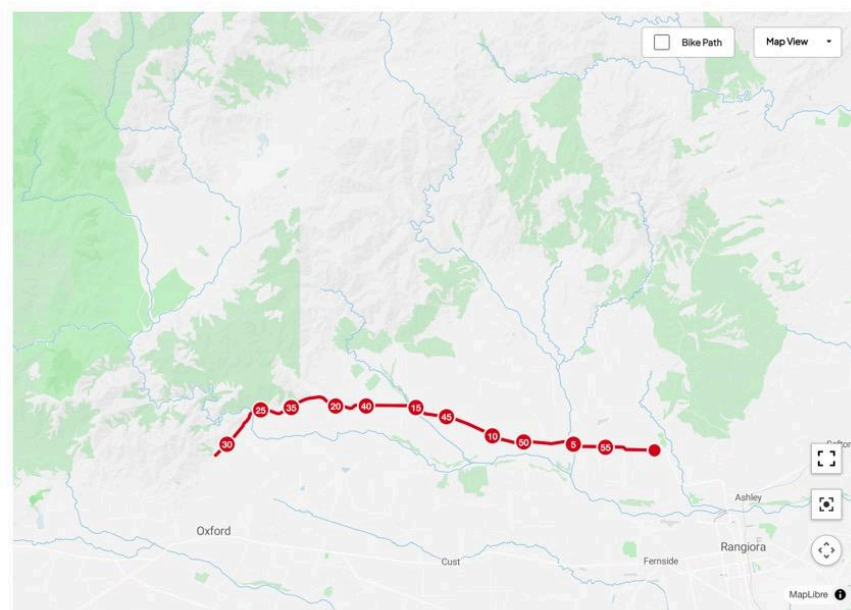
- Riders must hold their line at all times
- Take care approaching and crossing the one-lane bridge
- Be aware of traffic throughout the course
- Finish is on a flat section – expect a fast run-in

Pringle Homes Sprint Points

- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/PbVsbHDDHVkzGcUs6>
- Early on the way out

Note:

Riders are responsible for knowing their race distance and turnaround point.



Stage 4 – Cust Circuit (Sunday Morning)

Overview:

Stage 4 is a lap-based road race starting and finishing in Cust, using a mix of flat, rolling, and hill terrain.

The race starts outside the Cust Domain on Mill Road and follows a loop through Summerhill, German Road, and Oxford before returning to Cust.

Course Description:

- Start outside Cust Domain on **Mill Road**
- Left turn onto **Terrace Road**
- Continue onto **Summerhill Road** and climb the Summerhill climb
- Descend onto **German Road**
- Follow German Road to the top
- Left turn onto **Ashley Gorge Road**
- Descend towards Oxford
- Turn left from **High Street onto Weld Street**
- Continue onto **Barracks Road**
- Left turn onto **Oxford Road**
- Return through Cust
- Sharp left-hand turn downhill past the Cust Community Centre
- Cross a **one-lane bridge**
- Continue onto the next lap

Distance:

- All grades:
2 laps – 72 km

Finish:

- Finish is in Cust on the main road
- Located **before the sharp left-hand turn past the Cust Community Centre**

Start Times:

- 08:30 – Men A
- 08:32 – Men B
- 08:34 – Women A
- 08:36 – U17
- 08:38 – Men C
- 08:40 – Men D
- 08:42 – Women B

Key Features:

- Summerhill climb early in the lap
- Fast descent onto German Road
- Rolling terrain through to Oxford
- Technical section through Cust township
- Fast approach into the finish

Hazards:

- Open roads with live traffic
- Traffic speeds may be up to **80-100 km/h**
- One-lane bridge – riders must stay left and ride single file
- Sharp left-hand turn downhill in Cust (on lap, not at finish)
- Descents where speed and visibility may be reduced
- Riders must remain alert at all times

Traffic Management:

- **Full traffic management is in place at key intersections**
- **Controlled finish area in place**

Note:

- Riders must still remain aware of traffic at all times

Race Notes:

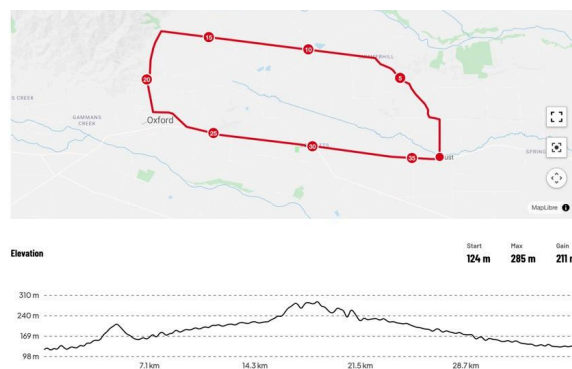
- Riders must hold their line at all times
- Take care on descents and through township sections
- Be cautious when approaching and crossing the one-lane bridge
- Finish approach is fast – maintain control and position

Pringle Homes Sprint Points

- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/wCUYHeaWYorEYGiG6>
- Top of the Summer Hill Climb x 2 times

Note:

Riders are responsible for knowing their race distance and lap count.



Stage 5 – Ashley Gorge Out & Back (Final Stage)

Overview:

Stage 5 is the final stage of the tour. It is an out-and-back road race starting and finishing in Cust.

The course follows a similar opening to Stage 4 before extending further through Ashley Gorge and returning for a flat run to the finish.

Course Description:

- Start outside Cust Domain on **Mill Road** (just over the one-lane bridge)
- Follow the same route as Stage 4 through **Terrace Road and Summerhill Road**
- Climb Summerhill and descend onto **German Road**
- Continue to the end of German Road
- **Right turn onto Ashley Gorge Road** (controlled)
- Continue through Ashley Gorge on rolling terrain to Loburn School (turnaround point)
- Return via the same route through Ashley Gorge
- Turn left back onto **German Road**
- Continue over Summerhill Road
- Turn right onto **Mill Road**
- Sprint to the finish

Distance:

- U17:
Turn before the Ahsley Bridge – 40 km
- All other grades:
Full out-and-back, Turn before the Gary Bridge – 62 km

Start Times:

- 12:15 – U17
- 12:30 – Men A
- 12:32 – Men B
- 12:34 – Women A
- 12:38 – Men C
- 12:40 – Men D
- 12:42 – Women B

Finish:

- Finish is on **Mill Road**, just past the one-lane bridge near Cust Domain
- Flat sprint finish

Key Features:

- Summerhill climb early in the race
- Extended rolling terrain through Ashley Gorge
- Long return section
- Flat run into the finish

Hazards:

- Open roads with live traffic
- Traffic speeds may be up to **80–100 km/h**
- Tree root damage on **German Road** creating road surface undulations
 - These may be difficult to see at speed
 - Riders should keep both hands on the handlebars on descents
- Descents where speed and visibility may be reduced
- Riders must remain alert at all times

Traffic Management:

- Controlled right-hand turn onto Ashley Gorge Road
- Controlled finish area in place

Note:

- Riders must remain aware of traffic throughout the course

Race Notes:

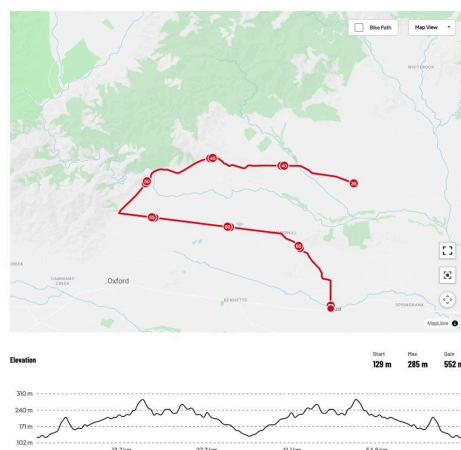
- Riders must hold their line at all times
- Take care on descents, particularly on German Road
- Be aware of surface changes and hidden undulations
- Final section is flat – expect a fast sprint finish

Pringle Homes Sprint Points

- On the way out at the bottom of German Road

Note:

Riders are responsible for knowing their race distance and turnaround point.



12. RIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ride safely
 - Respect others
 - Follow officials
 - Be self-sufficient
-

13. EQUIPMENT

Recommended:

- Roadworthy bike
 - Spares
 - Nutrition
 - Weather gear
-

14. RESULTS & PROTESTS

Results:

<https://www.canterburytour.co.nz/results>

Protests:

- Within 1 hour of race finish
 - Via Marc Prutton, Race Director
-

15. JERSEY PRESENTATIONS & PRIZEGIVING

- Jersey presentation are 45mins before the start of each stage
 - Riders must attend
 - Final prizegiving at the Cust Hotel concluding the final stage
-

16. VOLUNTEERS

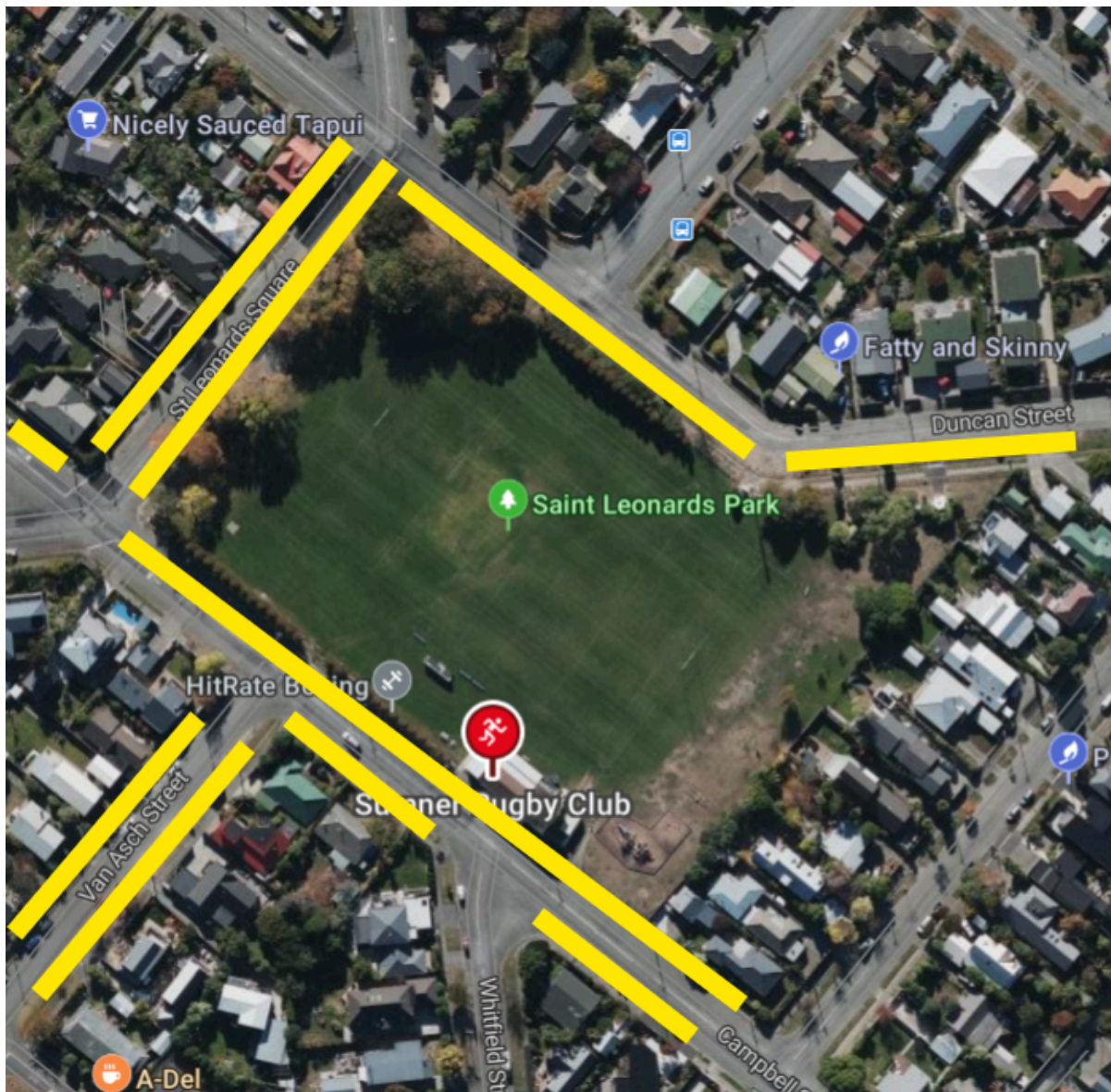
Respect:

- Marshals
 - Officials
 - Volunteers
 - First Aid
 - Photographers
-

17. PARKING

Sumner Rugby club.

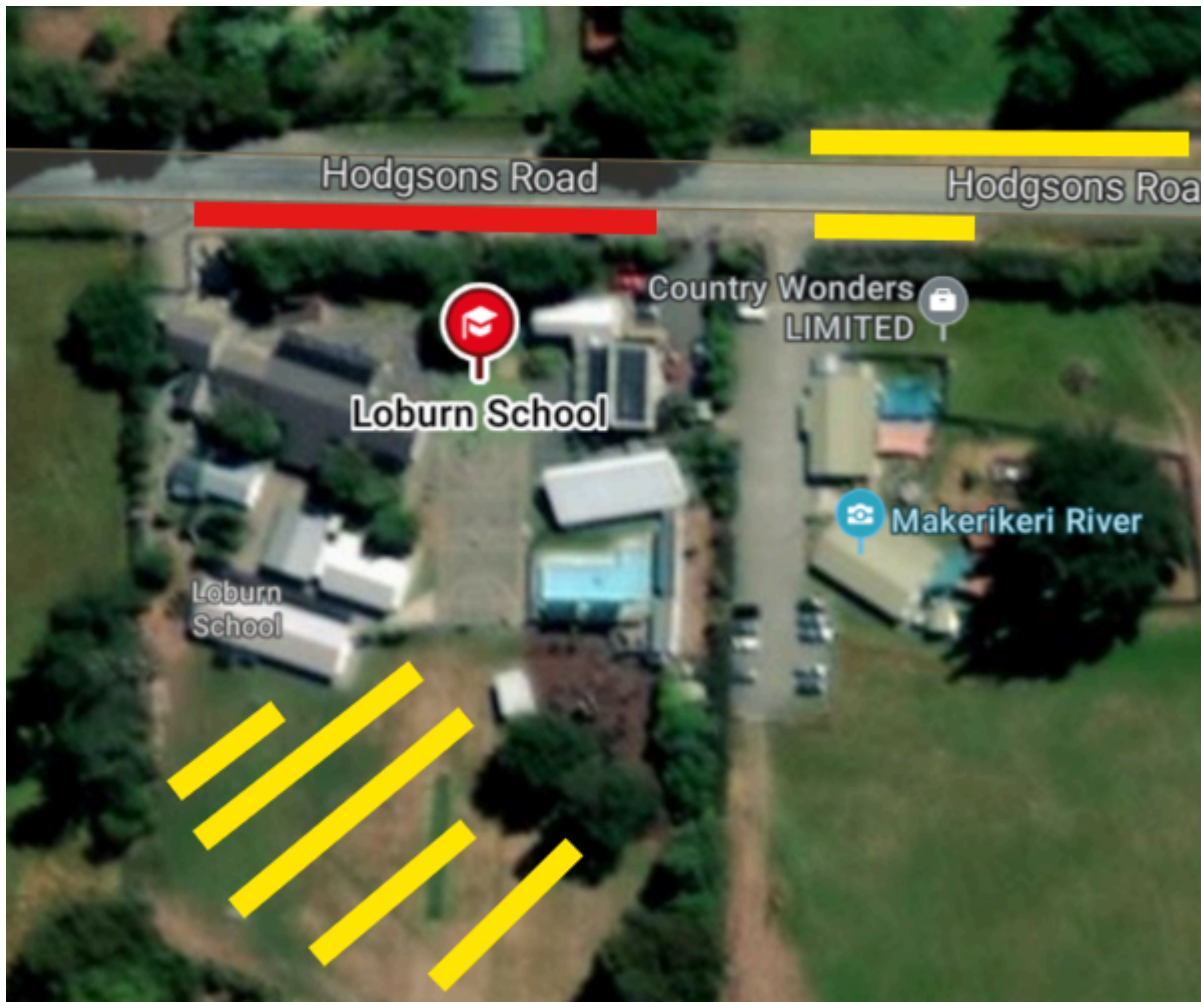
There is ample parking on the streets around the clubrooms.



Loburn School.

Please park on the rear field if you will be coming in the morning and staying all day.

If you plan on coming in and out, please park on the road side to the left of the school. The red area is where we will be corralling the riders..



Cust community centre.

There is ample parking in the community centre's parking area out the front and to the rear.



18. RACE BRIEFING

All riders must watch the pre race briefing and sign to say they have indeed watched it at the race registration.

19. FINAL WORDS

From both of us, we just want to say thanks.

We're genuinely excited to get this underway. The response to the inaugural Epoch Tour has been outstanding, and we've been impressed not just by the number of riders, but by the quality of the field across all grades.

A big thank you as well to everyone who has stepped up to help, volunteers, supporters, and those working behind the scenes. Events like this don't happen without a strong community, and it's great to see that on display.

It's pretty special to have something like this on our doorstep, and we believe this has the potential to grow into one of New Zealand's key road racing events for amateur, developing, and elite riders.

We hope you enjoy the racing.

– Alex & Marc

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is a stylized, scribbled name, likely 'Alex'. The signature on the right is a more legible, cursive name, likely 'Marc'.

20. TT Start List

Please note this is a draft until Thursday next week

<https://www.canterburytour.co.nz/tt-start-list>