

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**9 November 2020**

[HIGH RES IMAGES – HERE](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vykuszotnz1q2ad/AADbABvlhn3mGYXqYIQkll-Ga?dl=0)

**SURF COAST CENTURY GETS THE GREEN LIGHT TO GO AHEAD ON 5 DECEMBER 2020**

The Surf Coast Century 100km and 50km ultra trail marathon has received the green light to proceed on 5 -6 December 2020 in Anglesea, Victoria.

After processing the Victorian Governments [COVID-19 road-map](https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-roadmaps) to reopening and Premier Andrews’s announcements on Sunday 8th November, Torquay based event organisers Rapid Ascent are very excited to announce that this year’s event can go ahead.

Confirmation of the event’s go-ahead comes after it was originally postponed from the 19th September. Many months of planning and replanning the delivery of the event such that it can be done so in a COVID-safe way followed suit.

The Surf Coast Shire has provided its approval for the event and it is believed that all other key stakeholders will now confirm the ability to proceed.

Rapid Ascent’s approach has always been to pursue every opportunity their events to be conducted and for the competitors to be able to achieve their goals in what has been a roller coaster year.

“We genuinely love what we do here at Rapid Ascent – conducting races that put smiles (and grimaces) on people’s faces in some beautiful parts of the country, and our dream was to enable runners to do what they love before the year is out.” said Sam Maffett, Rapid Ascent’s General Manager.

Maffett and co-owner of Rapid Ascent John Jacoby are elated with the positive news.

“We have tried to stay positive and confident that the Century would go ahead, and we believe our determination and willingness to adapt to the ever changing COVID situation has put us in a position where we are now able to proceed with the event at such short notice.” said Jacoby.

“We know many participants have put their heart and soul into this race – as have we – and we cannot wait to deliver these running dreams come December!” added Maffett.

Rapid Ascent emphasise that the format of the 2020 Century will be different compared to previous years in order to fulfil the COVID-Safe restrictions and keep runners and the broader community safe. The main point being to ensure that there are no group gatherings of more than 50 people throughout the event. Other proposed changes include:

* A limited field across all races.
* 100km solo and 50km solo event to be conducted on Saturday 5 December, 2020.
* 100km relay teams event to be conducted on Sunday 6 December, 2020.
* Wave starts of 40 runners across a 2 hour period.
* No support crew or spectators to attend during racing.
* All participants, volunteers and staff must adhere to strict COVID-safe guidelines.

Full details of the Surf Coast Century COVID-Safe plan are available on the event website [HERE](https://surfcoastcentury.rapidascent.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Surf-Coast-Century-COVID-safe-delivery-plan-V3-for-competitors.pdf).

The Surf Coast Shire have been very strong in their support for the event and have put it forward as a pilot event for Victoria to show that events can recommence and be conducted in a COVID-safe way. It is hoped the 2020 Surf Coast Century will pave the way for other events to follow suit, particularly within the Surf Coast Shire.

Surf Coast Shire General Manager Environment and Development Ransce Salan said “After many months of event cancellations, we are so excited that the Surf Coast Century – a hallmark event for our region - can go ahead in 2020.   We are proud to support local event management company Rapid Ascent as a leader in the return of mass participation events and we will continue to work closely with them to ensure the event is delivered in a COVID-safe way.  Events are a big part of our local economy and they will play a significant role as our community recovers from the impacts of the pandemic.”

The 9th edition of the Surf Coast Century presented by MINI will start and finish in Anglesea. Runners will tackle a challenging and scenic 100km or 50km course either as a solo runner or in a relay team of between two and four runners.

The course takes competitors from Anglesea to Torquay on the beach the whole way and then along the cliff top tracks and hinterland trails to Moggs Creek and Aireys Inlet before returning back in Anglesea on the Surf Coast Walk.

The 2019 event attracted 1,400 runners and almost 3,000 spectators from all over Australia and contributed $4 million dollars to the Surf Coast economy with even greater numbers originally forecast for 2020 prior to COVID-19 and the associate effects.

The much-adored ultra-run has built a reputation as one of Australia's ‘bucket-list’ trail running events due to it being one of the more unique 100km ultra courses in the world.

More event information at [www.SurfCoastCentury.com.au](http://www.SurfCoastCentury.com.au)

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**EVENT OVERVIEW:**

* **When:** Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December, 2020
* **Where:** Start/Finish in Anglesea, Victoria - Great Ocean Road
* **What:** 100km and 50km ultra trail runs
* **How:** Do the 100km or 50km solo; or the 100km in a Relay Team of 2, 3 or 4 people
* **Who:** Australia's elite runners through to those tackling their first ultra marathon, groups of friends and corporate groups - everyone is welcome.
* **Entries Open at** [www.surfcoastcentury.com.au](http://www.surfcoastcentury.com.au)
  + Field limit of 200 runners in both the 100km and 50km races – limited remain!
  + Field limit of 120 teams for relay teams of 2 to 4

**HIGH RES IMAGES:**

Accompanying high res images provided, and available via Dropbox [**HERE**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vykuszotnz1q2ad/AADbABvlhn3mGYXqYIQkll-Ga?dl=0). Please credit Rapid Ascent. Additional images are available on request.

**KEY MEDIA CONTACT:**

For further information, images, tailored news stories and athlete interviews please contact:

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