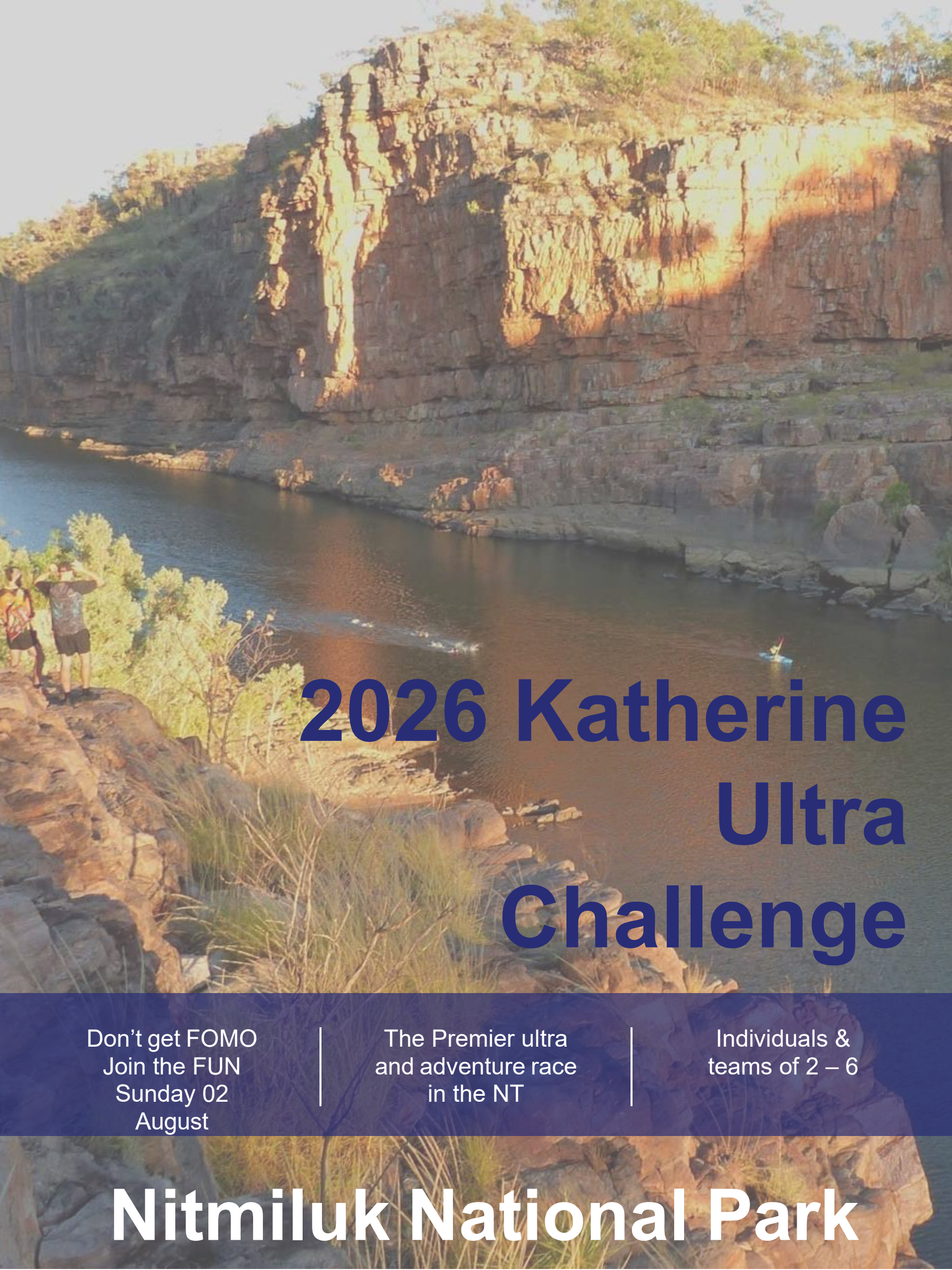




2026 Katherine Ultra Challenge

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Nitmiluk National Park

2026 Katherine Ultra Challenge

Basics

Date: Sunday 02 August 2026
Gun time: 6:45am
Location: Nitmiluk National Park, Katherine Gorge
Legs: 6: - swim, canoe, trail run, road bike, mountain bike, 4WD road run
Register by: Midnight 30st July 2026 ACST

Event Volunteers:

Event Director & KMSC President:	Sam Minehan
Event Timer:	Luke Hong, Gary Wall and John Hovius
Event Volunteer Manager & KMC Secretary:	Mary Williams
KMSC Treasurer:	Luke Hong
Event Course Marker & Committee:	Ben Wright

Don't just take our word for it!

"This is an incredible challenge in one of the country's most incredible landscapes! The Katherine Ultra has a keen following among Australia's best athletes, but what is especially great about this event is that non-elite athletes can take part too."

"Find a few likeminded friends, decide who is doing which leg, and you've got yourself one heck of an adventure. Whether you want to finish first, or go at your own pace, this event ticks all the boxes."

"This race embraces the majesty and spectacular scenery of one of the Territory's top beauty spots, and spots fill up quickly with interest from around the country as people look to combine this experience with a Territory holiday. If you're considering entering - don't delay."

"The Katherine Ultra Challenge is the hardest, most beautiful, swim, ride, and run you could ever hope for. It's an epic ultra-adventure race for competitors, surrounded by the epic and ultra landscape of the Nitmiluk National Park and Katherine Gorge."

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Message from the President

Katherine Multisport Club (KMSC) are ecstatic to once again be able to present you with the opportunity to become one with nature as you find your flow at one of.

Australia's premier ultra-adventure races right here in the Territory. The 2026 Katherine Ultra is a one-day, six-legged multisport event that will take place on Sunday 02 August at Katherine's stunning Nitmiluk National Park.

This ultra event can't be missed by any athlete of any mind-set and ability. Encompassing six different legs, participants (both cruisers and competitors and everyone in between) can race solo or with up to 6 mates on varying terrain to complete "the ultimate" through one of the most spectacular landscapes in our country.

Get pumped to experience swimming and paddling through our epic gorge, running and riding on our world-class mountain bike trails and relaxing (camping encouraged) in our incredible Nitmiluk National Park with some of the best natural beauty and wildlife the Territory has to offer.

This event would not be possible without the incredible support of KMSC, Nitmiluk and many others. I would like to personally send a massive shout out to all individuals involved and reiterate how dedicated, hard-working and inspiring you all are. To those who gave feedback and advice, to those who helped with the many hours of preparation before the big day, to those who have already entered, to those who will enter, to those who have helped spread the word, to those who have conned their mates into entering with them and to all those who will help on the day. It is a huge pleasure to "work" with every one of you to put on this epic event.

Race Hard, Race Fair.

Sam Minehan
KMSC President

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2026 Katherine Ultra Challenge

– MANDATORY READ & ACKNOWLEDGE UNDERSTANDING –

Rules & Considerations Part 1 of 2

- ❑ **Mandatory** pre-race brief is online and will be sent out to all participants registered during race week. It is each participants duty to watch and understand each point outlined in this briefing
- ❑ **Transponder collection will be:**
 - ❑ **From 3.00pm - 5.00pm** Saturday 01 August at the Ranger Station
- ❑ You must **only** park in the designated spaces at the Visitor Centre
- ❑ This is a **RUBBISH FREE EVENT**
 - ❑ Strictly **NO** littering out on course or at the Ranger Station
 - ❑ You must take all your rubbish home with you
- ❑ The Ranger Station will be the main transition area
 - ❑ This is where you rack your bike and can leave all your other supplies
 - ❑ First Aid and all other support will be here at the Ranger Station
- ❑ Transport to the swim, canoe and run starts from the jetty will leave **from 5.30am**
 - ❑ **Allow 10 minutes to walk** from the Ranger Station to the Boat Jetty / Loading Area
 - ❑ All swimmers and officials will need to arrive at the Boat Jetty / Loading Area **at 5.15am** to be on one of the first boats
 - ❑ All participants **MUST wear the pool buoy** throughout the swim leg
 - ❑ All canoeists and trail runners will need to arrive at the Boat Jetty / Loading Area **before 6.15am** to be on the second and third lots of boats
 - ❑ Canoeists in a team may not be able to complete the road ride due to insufficient transport time **unless** they run a shorter route back to the Ranger Station while your teammate runs the longer route
 - ❑ Please ensure you use the bathroom prior to boarding the ferries.



2026 Katherine Ultra Challenge

– MANDATORY READ & ACKNOWLEDGE UNDERSTANDING –

Rules & Considerations Part 2 of 2

- ☐ Follow the pink ribbons out on course
 - ☐ If you do not see a ribbon for 500 metres, turn back until you see one again
- ☐ Ensure you are sufficiently fit to complete this event / your event leg
 - ☐ If you look to be struggling in the swim, a race official will pick you up in their canoe
- ☐ There will be four vessels on the water throughout the race – remain aware throughout
- ☐ If you are struggling in any other leg, please inform other competitors out on course for them to relay the message to a race official at the next aid station
- ☐ There will NOT be any technical bike support on race day
 - ☐ Please ensure your bike is in good condition prior to the race to avoid potential mishaps
- ☐ All participants must be self-sufficient
 - ☐ There will only be limited water available at Butterfly Junction & the Ranger Station
 - ☐ Ensure you bring sufficient food
- ☐ **Note, this year there ARE CUT-OFF TIMES!** All individuals and teams **will** be permitted to continue if they do not complete:
 - ☐ **the swim prior to 8:00am**
 - ☐ **the mountain bike prior to 3:00pm**
- ☐ Toilets are located at the campground 100m from the ranger station, and portaloos at transition.
- ☐ Note that there is no road closure for the road ride. Participants must be road-safety-aware
- ☐ All participants **MUST wear a helmet** for the entire duration of both rides
- ☐ This 2026 event follows the Triathlon Australia Technical rules
 - ☐ [CLICK HERE](#) to read and ensure you fully understand and agree to [them](#) before event day
- ☐ Crocodile management. Parks complete regular surveys of the gorge for crocodiles. In the event of a confirmed saltwater crocodile in the gorge, the swim and canoe will be canceled.



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Race Schedule

Time	Detail	Location
01 Aug: 1500 - 1700	Collection of transponders and registration	Ranger Station
02 Aug: 0430	Transition opens and late check in	Ranger Station
0515	Marshalling of swimmers, water safety & officials (including bag drop) for transport to Race Start.	Nitmiluk Park, Boat Jetty / Loading Area
0545	1st boats depart ONLY carrying swimmers, officials and gear	Boat Jetty / Loading Area
0545 - 0615	Marshalling of canoeists and runners for transport to Race Start.	Boat Jetty / Loading Area
0630	2nd boats departs carrying canoeists and some runners	Boat Jetty / Loading Area
0645	3rd boats departs carrying runners	Boat Jetty / Loading Area
0645	Race start. Swimmers start first as per course details below ** MUST complete swim leg prior to 0800 **	2nd Gorge
0710 - 0800	Anticipated start of Kayak leg as per course details below ** MUST start canoe leg by 0800 **	2nd Gorge
0815 - 0900	Short boat trip taking runners to southern rock hole for Trail Run leg as per course details below	2nd Gorge/Southern Rock hole to Ranger Station
0815-0830	Anticipate the 1st boat back to boat ramp full with road riders, finished swimmers, and athlete gear bags for return to transition	Boat Ramp to Transition
0900 - 1130	Anticipated start of Road Bike leg as per course details below	Ranger Station
1000 - 1430	Anticipated start of MTB leg as per course details below ** MUST start MTB prior to 1500 **	Ranger Station
1130 - 1700	Anticipated start of 4WD Road Run as per course details below ** MUST start 4WD Road Run prior to 1700 **	Ranger Station
1200 - 1900	Anticipated Finish times ** official finish time cut off 1900 **	Ranger Station
1500	Presentations	Transition



2026 Katherine Ultra Challenge

TIMING CHIPS

All competitors racing on the course must wear their timing chip at all times.

- The timing chip must be around the **left ankle** at all times.
- Teams will only be supplied with **one timing chip per team**.
 - Team competitors must pass on the timing chip from team member to team member throughout the entire event.
- Lost timing chips will incur a **replacement fee of \$20**. Additionally, you / your team will not receive split times throughout the race.
- If you pull out of the race halfway through the event, please return the timing chip to the finish line and inform the timing staff that you have pulled out.
 - Non-returned timing chips will incur a **replacement fee of \$20**.
- When you finish the event (congratulations!), official race staff will collect your timing chip



CHIP: Facing outward on left ankle

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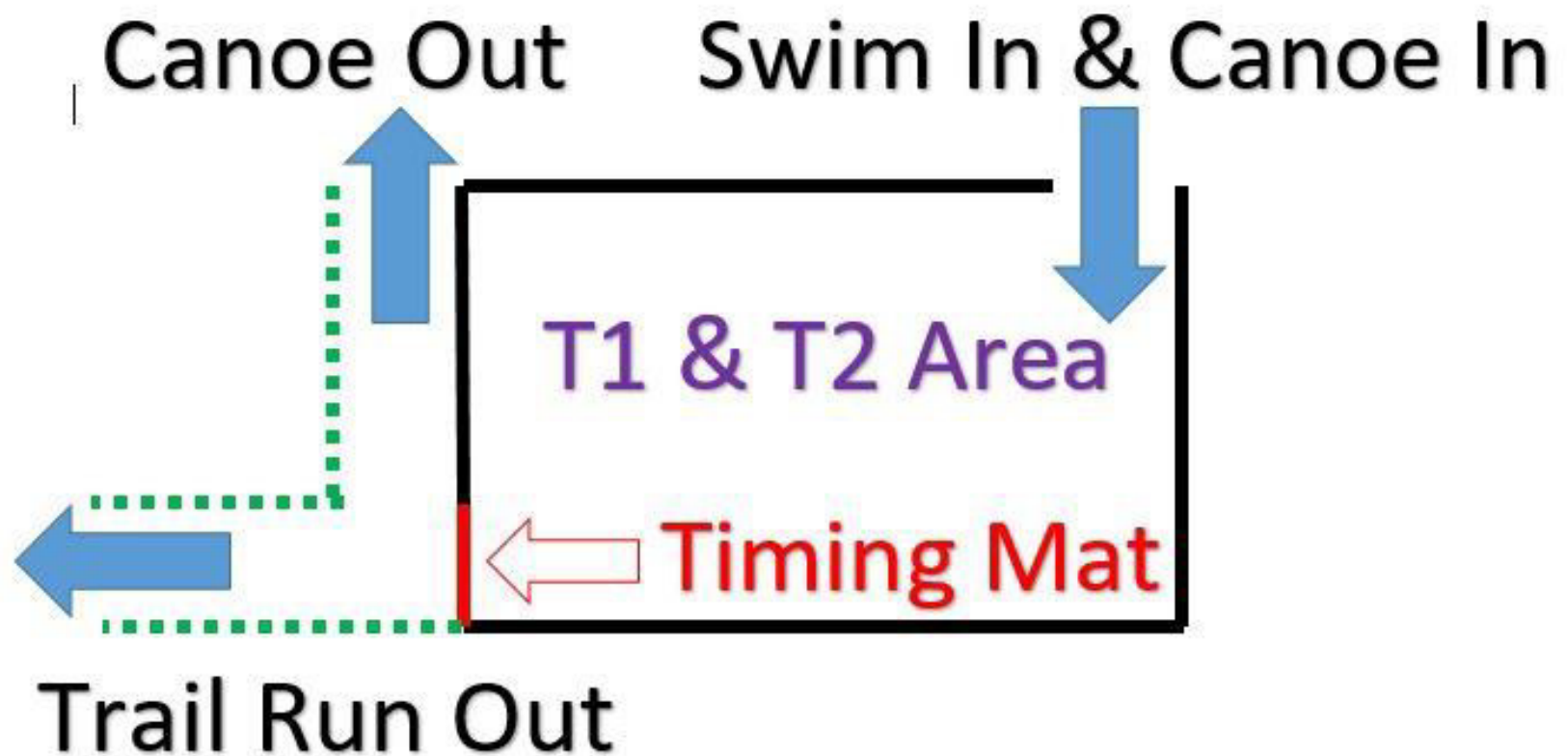
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TRANSITION MAPS

Transition 1 & 2

This is where you will finish the swim and start the canoe leg.

This is the *same* area that you will finish the canoe leg and start the run leg.



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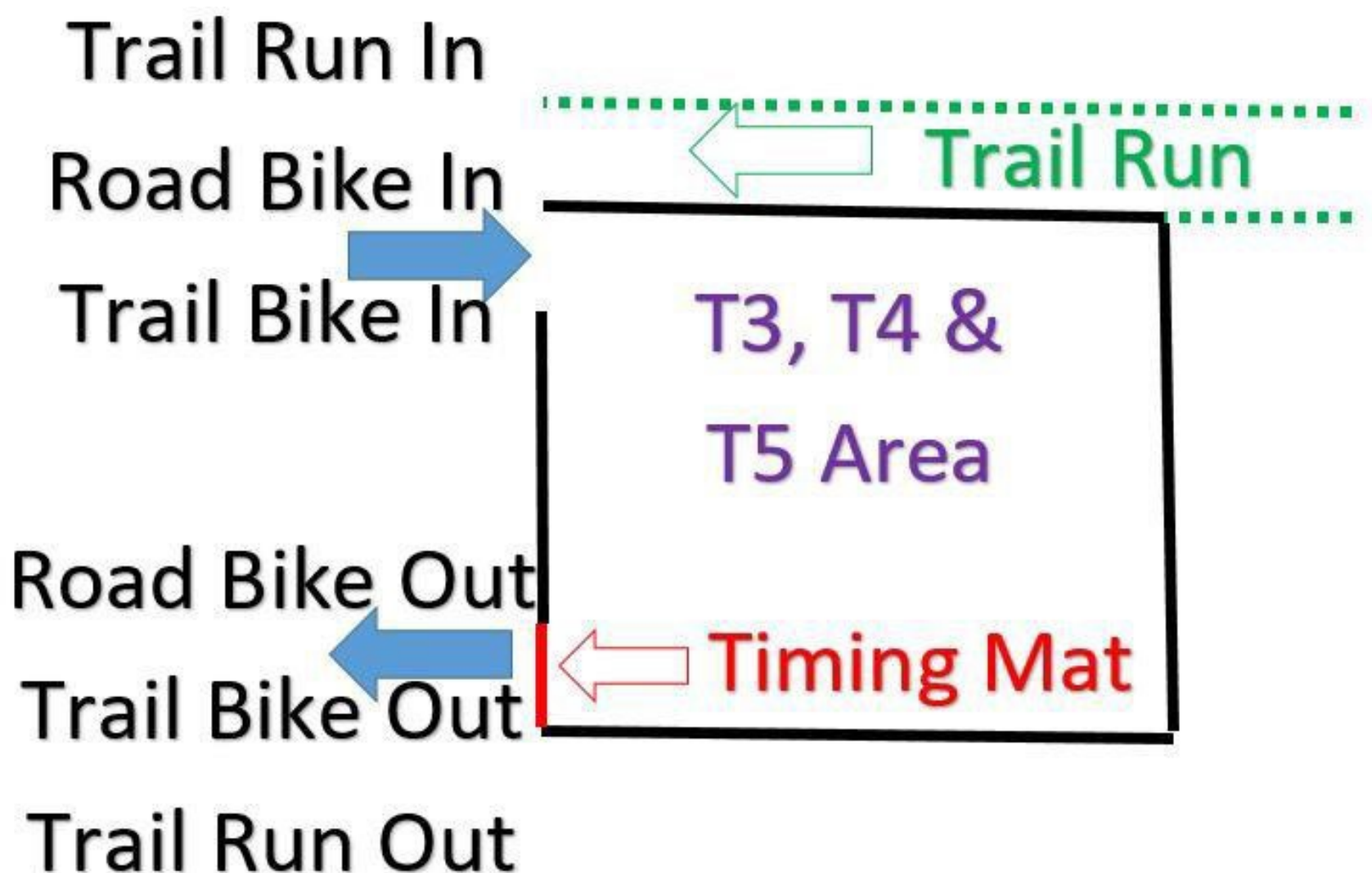


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TRANSITION MAPS

Transition 3, 4 & 5

This is where you will finish and start all other portions of the event.



2026 Katherine Ultra Challenge

Course Details

The following pages detail each leg. Please ensure you are well-versed in all legs (even if you are not completing all legs). Note that the listed distance are approximate.

- 2km Swim
- 4.2km Canoe
- 10km Trail Run
- 40km Road Bike
- 18km Mountain Bike
- 10km 4WD Road Run

Swim ~ 2km

Enjoy a 2-kilometre swim out and back in the majestic Nitmiluk (Second) Gorge. Wetsuits permitted.

- You must wear the provided personal buoy for the entire duration of the race.
- Ensure you are sufficiently fit to complete this swim. If you look to be struggling, a race official will pick you up in their canoe and / or order you out of the water – whichever is safe / appropriate at the time and place in question. The race official's decision is **final**.
- Marshal at the boat ramp from 0515 to be transported to the start line to begin the swim.
- A race official will start the race at 0645 sharp.
- Upon starting, you will need to swim under a wire that the canoes are moored too.
- Raise your hand to signal to an official in a canoe if you begin to struggle. You will be transported to race start. Canoes are **not** to be used to rest. When you call for a canoe, **your race is over**.
- Wetsuits are recommended, but not essential.
- When you finish / arrive back at race start, immediately ascend the stairs to the transition area to begin the next leg.
- If you are in a team, give your canoeist a hi-5, then move to the left of the stairs.
- If you are going solo, go to the right of the stairs and jump into a canoe!

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Course Details

Swim ~ 2km

Enjoy a 2-kilometre swim out and back in the majestic Nitmiluk (Second) Gorge. Wetsuits permitted. **** Provided bouys MUST be worn at all times throughout the swim ****



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Course Details

Canoe ~ 4.2km

After the swim leg, participants will pair up in a double canoe. Pairs will be made up according to the finishing order of the swim – i.e. 1st and 2nd paddle together, 3rd and 4th, etc. – those in a team will begin the paddle once their swimmer has finished. Pairs will paddle out and back together, discovering a little more of the specky Nitmiluk (Second) Gorge.

- Begin the canoe on the same route as the swim, just going a little deeper into the 2nd Gorge, deeper into your flow.
- Once returned on the out and back course, if you are going solo, jump out of the canoe and go to the right of the stairs to locate your shoes, race bib and hydration system before you start the Trail Run!
- If you are in a team, hi-5 your runner and give them encouragement to begin the first climb!



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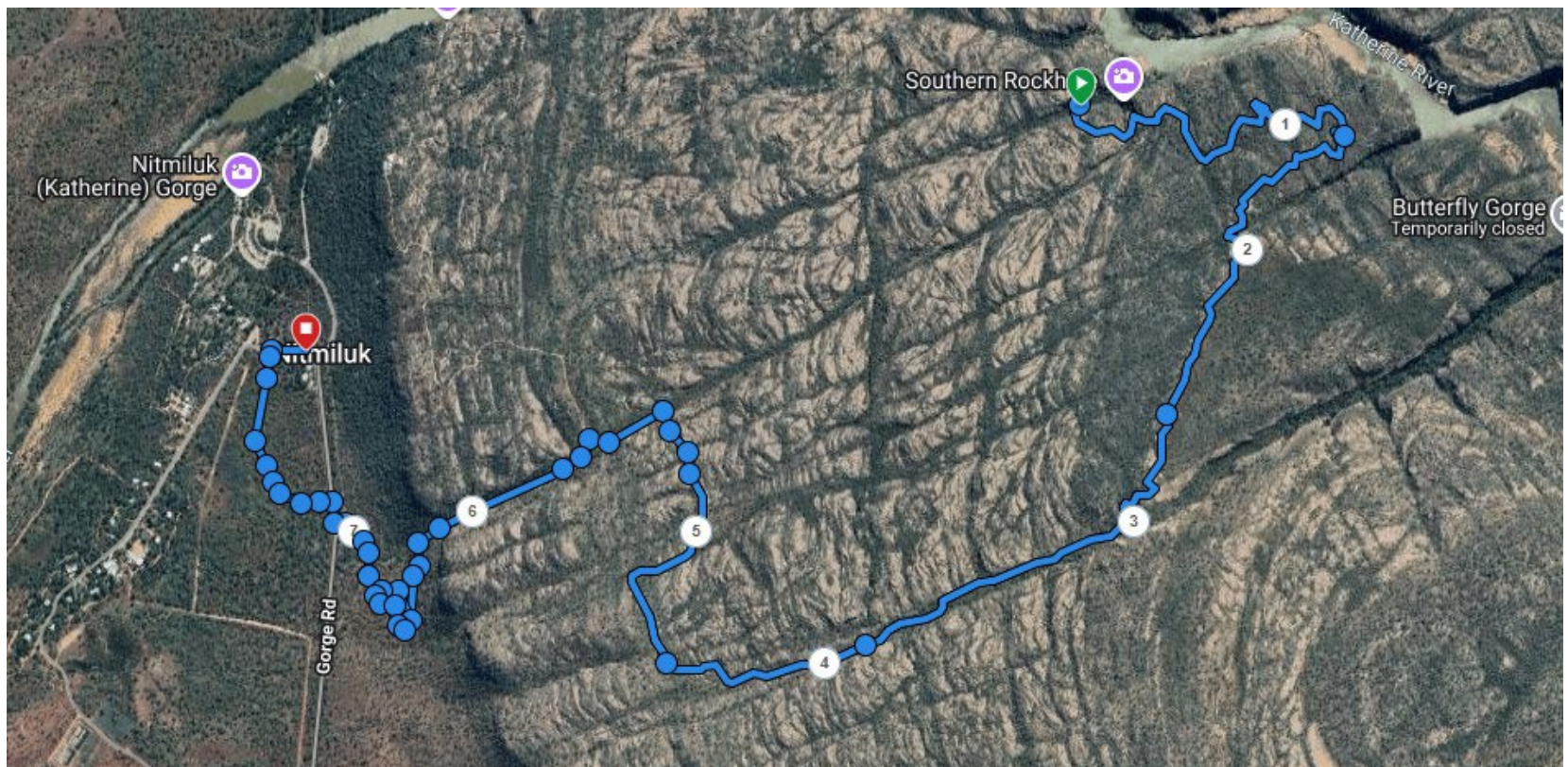


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Course Details

Trail Run ~ 10km

From the bottom of Southern Rockhole, run with stream up to the top of the cliff face to Pat's Lookout and travel along the clearly marked path (Waleka) to the awe-inspiring Jeddah's Rock to then head towards Butterfly Junction. From the Junction, scoot along (Yambi) before flying down Gurumal Trail and Jalkwarak back to transition at the Nitmiluk Ranger Station.



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Course Details

Road Bike ~ 40km

From the Nitmiluk Ranger Station, push yourself towards the edge of the Katherine township before turning at Jaensch Road to roll back to the transition area at the Nitmiluk Ranger Station.

**** Helmets MUST be worn at all times prior to taking your bike off the rack, and whilst on your bike ****



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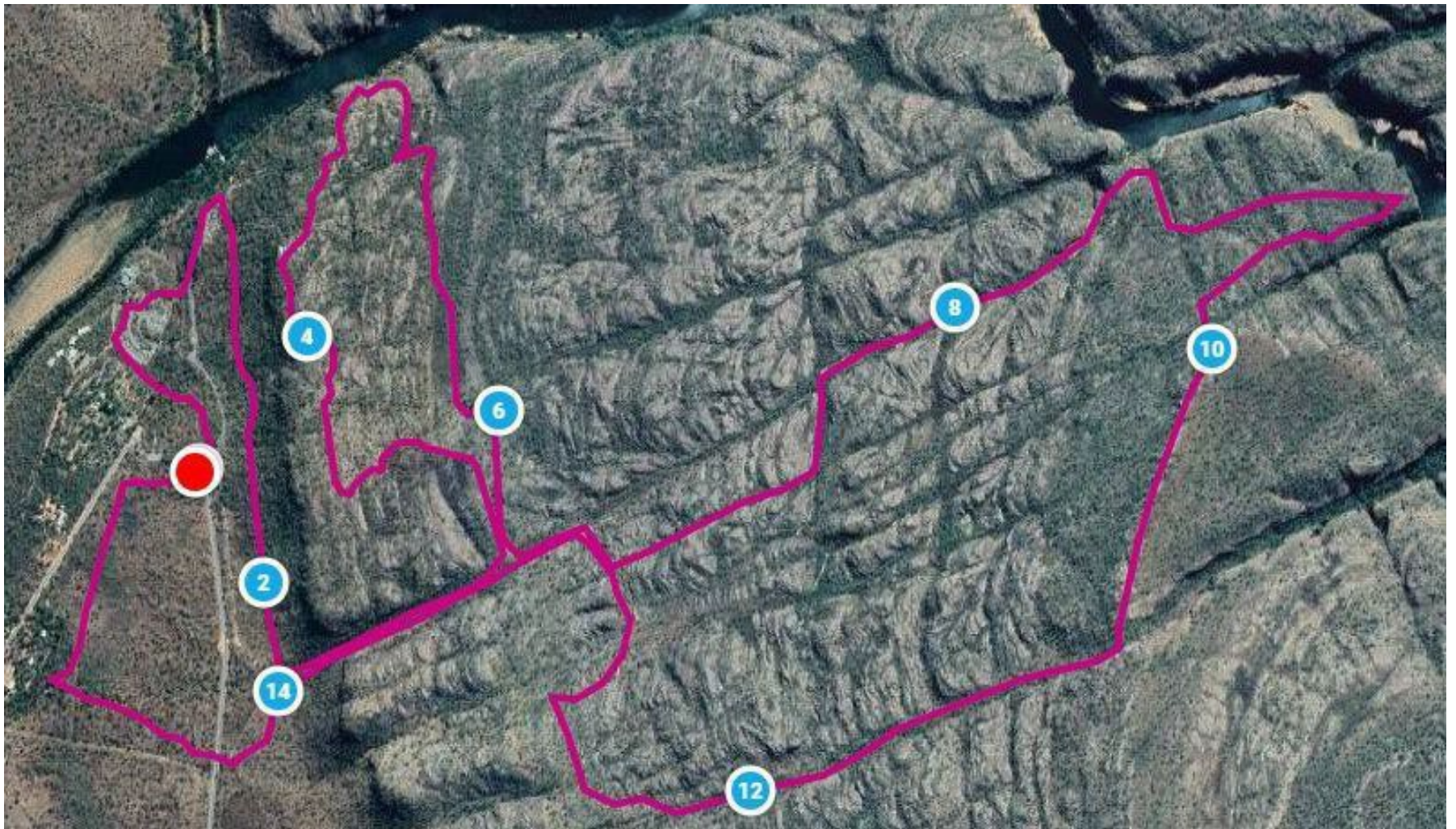
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Course Details

Mountain Bike ~ 18km

Jump from one bike to another (or use the same), and you will be awe-struck as you ride through challenging, world class, flowing tracks, crisscrossing the Southern Escarpment before arriving back at the transition area at the Nitmiluk Ranger Station.

**** Helmets MUST be worn at all times prior to taking your bike off the rack, and whilst on your bike ****



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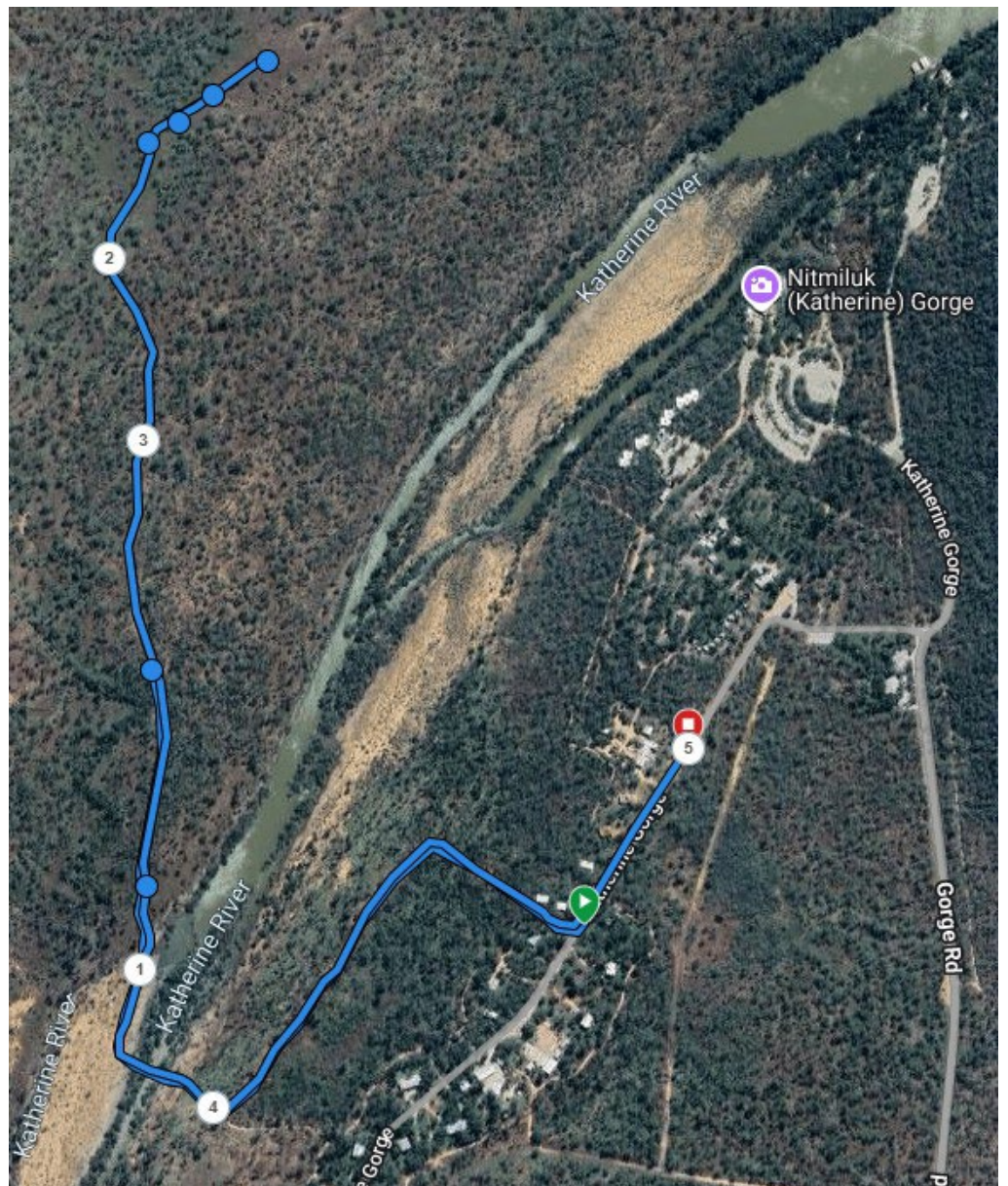


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Course Details

4WD Road Run ~ 10km

To top off the epic day, tick your legs over for 10 clicks on a 2 x 5km out-and-back 4WD course towards Seventeen Mile Creek to return back to the finish line to copious cheers and an extremely well earned beverage (we recommend a cup of water!). Please note that this course includes both rocky and sandy sections.



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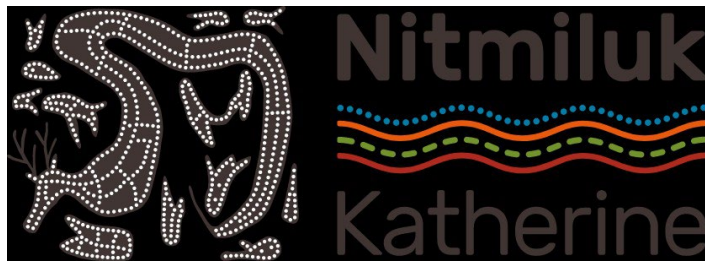
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Massive thanks! Couldn't have done it without you all!



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