



RODEO NEWS



**2023 RODEO
SEASON RECAP**

NOTICES

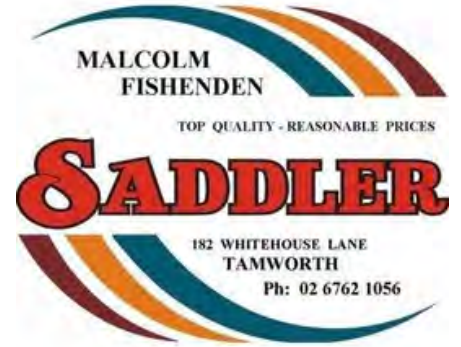
Vol. 1 No. 1
Recap Edition

Designed and written by Courtney Jones
Marketing and Promotions Coordinator

Top News

The 2023 Rodeo Season marks a momentous occasion with the reintroduction of Australian-made trophy saddles from Mal Fishenden Saddlery. This exciting development revives a beloved tradition of supporting locally owned businesses for Australian craftsmanship and quality - a reintroduction the association has eagerly awaited.

A heartfelt appreciation goes to Mal Fishenden for taking on this significant endeavour and graciously sponsoring a saddle.



>>> FRONT COVER

Features Tom Everson sporting a determined expression on his face, as he rides the open bull Catastrophic Cowboy from CMC Rodeo, as dirt kicks up around them in the Caboolture arena for Round 3 of the National Rodeo Finals.

Photo courtesy of East of Images

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>>> BACK COVER

Features a captivating action shot of Sean Hotz riding bareback bucking horse Tokyo Massage from CMC Rodeo at round 3 of the National Rodeo Finals in the Caboolture arena. Securing a qualified ride that earned him a well-deserving third placing.

Photo courtesy of East of Images

>>> OUR APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff members we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your unwavering support and dedication through yet another remarkable rodeo season. Your enthusiasm and commitment have been instrumental in making this season a resounding success. As we reflect on the triumphs and memorable moment of the past season, we are filled with anticipation for the promising journey that lies ahead.

Here's to another thrilling season filled with excitement, camaraderie, and the spirit of competition.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in Caboolture on the December 2nd, 2023



Notices of Motions:

1. General Rules – U18 Junior Bull Ride – to allow girls to ride in U18 junior bull ride.

Moved: Jacky O'Dell **Defeated**

2. General Rules – Late Entries – are to be accepted in all events at all rodeos up until 12pm on Monday prior to rodeo – or – Late entries are not to be accepted at any rodeos in any events.

Moved: Brad Cavanagh **Seconded:** Tom Durbidge

Carried - Late entries accepted for all rodeos and events up till Monday 12pm.

3. General Rules – Flag Judge – The flag judge in time events has the right to flag off anyone in an event if in their opinion is an animal welfare issue.

Moved: Brad Cavanagh **Seconded:** Tom Durbidge **No votes as already in rule book.**

4. General Rules – Time Events – Time event time limits to be changed to: Rope & Tie – 20 seconds. Steer Wrestling – 20 seconds. Team Roping – 20 seconds. Breakaway Roping – 10 seconds. Steer Undecorating – 10 seconds.

Moved: Brad Cavanagh **Seconded:** Tom Durbidge **Defeated**

5. General Rules –Rope & Tie – There is only 3 legal catches in the rope and tie event.

1. Full head catch. 2. Half head catch. 3. Horn catch

Moved: Brad Cavanagh **Seconded:** Tom Durbidge **Defeated**

6. General Rules – Time Event Director – A time event director is to be accredited as a time event judge in both flag judging and barrier judging.

Moved: Brad Cavanagh **Seconded:** Tom Durbidge **Carried**

7. General Rules – Rough Stock Director – A rough stock director is to be accredited as a rough stock judge only.

Moved: Brad Cavanagh **Seconded:** Tom Durbidge **Carried**

8. General Rules – Novice Bull Ride – To allow females to ride bulls in novice bull riding events.

Moved: Mia Brinner **Seconded:** Tony Brinner **Defeated**

9. General Rules for Rough Stock Events – 14 (g) No Rides - Change from:

No Ride applies if:

i. Fouled at the chute gate and claims foul (grab down, slap stock, try to get off, etc.).

ii. Head of stock falls from the chute.

iii. Head of stock is led from the chute and fails to buck.

iv. Head of stock falls in such a manner that endangers the rider.

v. If flank/kicker comes off prior to the eight (8) second time limit, a no-ride will be awarded.

To:

A judge's decision on no-rides will be final if in accordance with rules set forth in each individual event.

No Ride applies if the rider is disadvantaged in any manner due to:

i. Head of stock fouls itself or the rider at the chute gate or the head of stock trips, stumbles, or falls during the eight (8) second time limit regardless of whether the rider goes on with the ride or not. (If the rider goes on with the ride and makes a qualified ride, they will be given a score with the option of a no-ride. Rider must notify judges of his intention immediately.)

ii. Head of stock is led from the chute and fails to buck.

iii. The flank/kicker comes off prior to the eight (8) second time limit.

Moved: Clay Hall **Seconded:** Zane Hall **Carried**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in Caboolture on the December 2nd, 2023



Director Nominations:

Executive Director

Shelley Harrison

Elected Unopposed

Executive Director

Courtney Jones

Appointed 2024

Saddle Ride Operations Director

Graham Browne

Appointed 2024

Bareback Ride Operations Director

Will Kelly

Appointed 2024

Rope & Tie Operations Director

Gene Hingst

Appointed 2024

Barrel Race Operations Director

Kate Patch

Elected Unopposed

Breakaway Roping / Steer Undecorating Operations Director

Nicky Cavanagh

Elected Unopposed

Stock Contractor Operations Director

Dean Weller

Elected Unopposed

2024 Full Board of Directors:

Executive Directors:

- Jason Hall - Chairman
- Shelley Harrison - Legal
- Joshua Green - Committees
- Jay Green - Finance
- Courtney Jones - Animal Welfare
- David Mawhinney - Officials and Contractors

Operations Directors:

- Saras Ramsay - Bull Ride
- Graham Browne - Saddle Ride
- Will Kelly - Bareback Ride
- Kate Patch - Barrel Race
- Nicky Cavanagh - Breakaway Roping / Steer Undecorating
- Gene Hingst - Rope & Tie
- Lachlan O'Neill - Steer Wrestling
- Lee Dickinson - Team Roping
- Brett Gallaway - Junior Events

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Jason Hall - Chairman & Executive Director of Administration

Jason presented his report as a power point presentation. Below is his report:

Rest in Peace to Hue Mills

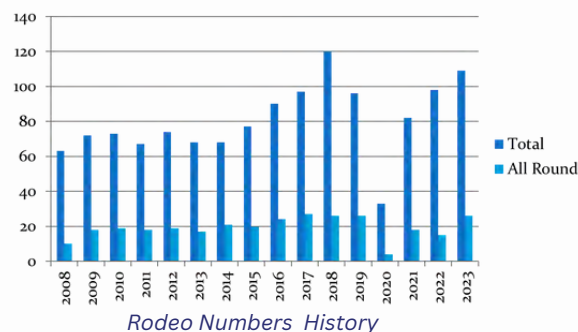
2023 Year in Review:

- Rodeo numbers and prizemoney continue to increase
- Crowd numbers continue to increase
- Competitor numbers have increased in some events (Team Roping, Barrel Race, Breakaway Roping and Mini Bull Ride) but have continued to decline in other events (Bull Ride, Saddle Ride, Bareback Ride and Rope & Tie)
- More judges are required.
- Insurances costs continue to rise

Rodeos in 2023 Season:

A total of 109 Rodeo were events held for the 2023 season.

- 9x Super All Rounds Rodeos
- 17x All Round Rodeos
- 45x Points Awards Rodeos
- 29x Bull Ride
- 5x Junior Rodeos
- 4x Non-Points Rodeos



Jason in action judging at Lawrence Rodeo.

Photo courtesy of East Coast Images

Insurance:

- **Affinity Insurance Brokers (17/08/2022 to 16/08/2023)**
- Public Liability Insurance Premium - \$62,755
- Personal Accident Insurance Premium - \$67,405
- Total Annual Insurance Premium - \$130,160
- Premium Funded - \$15,160
- **Affinity Insurance Brokers (17/08/2023 to 16/08/2024)**
- Public Liability Insurance Premium - \$73,546
- Personal Accident Insurance Premium - \$101,263
- Total Annual Insurance Premium - \$174,814
- Premium Funded - \$0

Thank you to:

- Office Staff - Patty, Kylie and D'Koda
- Executive Directors - Dave, Josh, Jay, Cody and Shelley
- Operations Directors - Saras, Graham, Will, Lachlan, Gene, Lee, Rebecca/Kate, Nicole, Brett and Dean
- Rodeo Queens - Cheyenne, Maralee, Charlotte and Kristy
- Photographers - Mel, Chris, David, Tim, Richard and Becca
- Committees
- Contractors and Officials
- Members and Competitors

Kind Regards,
Jason Hall

Shelley Harrison - Executive Director of Legal

Thanks to all the competitors, directors, and everyone else for the year.

We've had nothing to report on the legal side this year which has been good, we've had not one single Judiciary case. I don't know if it's because I hold the portfolio, and everyone is scared of me. We've had no hearings this year which is pretty good, so thanks a lot guys and we will see you all next year.

Thanks,
Shelley Harrison

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Jay Green - Executive Director of Finance

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed members of the National Rodeo Association (NRA), thank you for gathering today for the Annual General Meeting. It's my pleasure to present the financial report for the year 2023 as the Executive Director for Finance.

I am delighted to announce that the NRA has successfully operated at a profit of \$97,134.05. This positive financial outcome reflects the dedication and hard work of our team and the support from our members.

One notable achievement this year is our ability to invest in quality Australian-made Mal Fishenden Saddles, a testament to our commitment to excellence in the rodeo experience. Additionally, I am proud to report that, for the first time ever, we have successfully paid our insurance in full. Although the total insurance cost increased to \$174,813.12, this accomplishment showcases our strengthened financial position.

Several factors contributed to this success, with the most significant being the increased number of buck outs/runs during our insurance period. We reached a remarkable 13,029 runs, marking an 830-run increase from our previous record in 2018/2019. This surge in activity is mirrored in our financials, specifically in the NRA Levy, Administration, Central Entries, and Trophies, which collectively increased by \$16,038.39. Furthermore, it's important to note that our NRA Public Liability insurance is now required to be purchased by show societies individually. This change resulted in an additional revenue of \$57,755.28. As we look forward, anticipate that next year's financial report will showcase a more streamlined breakdown as we transition to reporting only the NRA Levy. This adjustment aims to enhance transparency and clarity in our financial statements.

As we dissect our financials, it's crucial to highlight that part of our turnover includes prize money. Additionally, "added back" is integral in understanding our financial position. While it may seem that we are holding \$33,148, it is important to clarify that this figure is closer to \$10,000. The NRA absorbs funds from added back when there are no rides in an event, demonstrating our commitment to fair and equitable financial practices.

Membership has experienced a slight uptick this year. While some categories may appear to show a minor drop, it is crucial to emphasize that overall membership is on the rise. Moreover, our day membership numbers have also seen an encouraging increase, reflecting the growing interest and engagement within our community.

Our expenses have remained relatively stable this year, aligning with the increasing number of rodeos. This consistency underscores our commitment to prudent financial management. It's worth noting that our largest outlier in expenses is insurance, a topic that Jason will elaborate on shortly.

In terms of our overall financial position, I am pleased to report that the National Rodeo Association is in an exceptionally positive state. Our financial strength allows us to navigate the dynamic landscape of rodeo events successfully.

I would like to take this moment to express our gratitude to all current and former board members for their invaluable contributions in navigating the challenging terrain of a pandemic and the resurgence of rodeos. The dedication and hard work of our committees, officials, and office staff — Patty, Kylie, and D'Koda — have played a pivotal role in our continued success.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to the competitors who consistently work hard to provide a product that the public enjoys. Your commitment to the sport is the driving force behind the National Rodeo Association's enduring success.

Kind Regards,
Jay Green



Jay in action in the Rope and Tie event.

Photo courtesy of East Coast Images

DIRECTOR REPORTS

David Mawhinney - Executive Director of Officials & Contractors

Dear members,

Although I haven't been to many Rodeos in the 2023 season, I believe it's been a pretty good season all round competitor wise. To all our judges and officials, thank you for the year. All your hard work is appreciated by the competitors and associations.

Although judging is usually a thankless job, competitors, I would like to remind you that not all calls go in your favour and there is not a competitor who hasn't had a 50-50 call go against them or for them. All judges do their job to the best of their ability under pressure.

With the prospect of some new judges and younger judges and officials applying, please always remember to respect the judge's decision. Be mindful to approach all officials with the same courtesy you would expect if you were judging. We cannot run rodeos without officials and judges and with an increasing number of rodeos we welcome any new judges and officials. Those interested are required to complete animal welfare test and judges test (for judges) then participate in shadowing to be proven.

For those that aren't aware, you don't have to be a full judge only. There are options to be a rough stock judge, flag judge or barrier judge only.

As they say, many hands make light work and with many judges also competing, we will welcome more of you to share the load. By doing this, we can continue for everyone to compete and enjoy our sport.

Looking forward to the 2024 season. See you all at Goomeri NYE.

Cheers,

David Mawhinney

Joshua Green - Executive Director of Committees



Josh in the Rope and Tie at Kilcoy Rodeo.

Photo courtesy of East Coast Images

Dear members,

2023 is all but in the books and what a year it's been.

Firstly, I'd like to thank each and every one of our committees for filling our season.

Thank you to our contractors and promoters for going over and beyond to hold professionally run events week in week out, to our Judges, officials, timekeepers, and central entry ladies and of course office staff for going over and beyond to cover our events with over 100 events this season your efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

Secondly, I'd like to thank our members for turning up each and every weekend and representing the national rodeo association to the highest standard.

Week after week I received positive feedback from committees about the professional standard our members set at their events.

2024 looks set to be just as big guys so keep up the great work and we will see you next year.

Cheers,

Josh Green

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Cody Granger - Executive Director of Animal Welfare

Dear members,

Thanks to all the members of the Association for having me as an executive director this year, it's been an eye-opening experience with understanding on keeping a successful association running. Congratulations to the board and Association on a successful year.

On the Animal Welfare front I'm pleased to say that I don't have a whole lot to report on this, is many thanks to the extensive leg work undertaken in previous years to build an understanding within our members and a relationship with our authorities to create processes that work for the better of the sport. I commend you all for taking back the role of Animal Welfare and making my role and reputation for the Association continually better, we all need to look at Animal Welfare as a major part of our lives and a process that ensures the longevity of the Association and a rodeo way of life.

Thanks to the Association for having me this year as a fresh set of eyes and a different background of understanding and I hope I've served you all well.

Kind Regards,
Cody Granger



Cody as a finalist competitor in the Team Roping at Caboolture Finals.

Photo courtesy of East Coast Images

Nicky Cavanagh - Operations Director of Breakaway Roping / Steer Undecorating

As another year ends, I'd like to congratulate all the finalists. It's been a tough year getting down the road and with finals and averages coming into play, it's not over until the last round!

We've had some new rodeos come on board and returning committees and I hear of more coming on board ready for next year.

This year has cemented the changes made in 2021 with the introduction of the Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice about Rodeos) Amendment Regulation 2021.



Nicky competing in the Breakaway Roping event at round one of the finals.

Photo courtesy of Red Hot Shotz Sports Photography

With the new entry fee structure, there has been a significant increase in addback meaning bigger payouts.

It's good to see Tommy Leeson stepping up to help with timed event judging and the new categories of either flag or barrier judge making it easier for judges to still compete in their chosen events with others backfilling their event.

To everyone who has kept calves or steers straight, opened boxes or lined out, thank you! To our office staff, thank you for having draws out as soon as you can to allow everyone to plan their trips and negotiating start times to allow competitors to get to more than one rodeo in a day.

Thank you to all who have supported me in the Director role, providing advice or just a listening ear.

Regards,
Nicky Cavanagh

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Saras Ramsay – Operations Director of Bull Ride

To the executive directors, event directors and most of all to our members,

This year is fastly approaching the end with finals around the corner. I personally would like to congratulate all the finalists across all categories of bull riding, you guys are the ones that have worked the hardest that's why your here, congratulations to Dylan Swan for bullfighter of the year, he was outstanding.

Bull riding has struggled for competitor numbers in the past, but I have seen some growth in the later part of the year, with the mini bull ride numbers stronger since its induction, the future looks good. Bull riders have been spoiled for choice this year with a ton of bull rides on around the country, with a lot of new events this year, it was one of the busiest years I've been involved in.

Thank you to the stock contractors for their hard work and diligence in supplying the right product for all categories and congrats to those who received Bucking Bull of the Year honours.

So, to everyone involved stay driven work hard and get after it.

NRA Bull Riding Director,
Saras Ramsay

Graham Browne – Operations Director of Saddle Ride

Here we are again at the end of the year, another great season with packed rodeo crowds which is great to see.

I would like to congratulate the Saddle Bronc Horse of the year Buffalo Bill that makes it 9 times which is a credit to Peter Gill and the McArthur Boys. Also, congratulations Tom Durbidge for Pick Up Man of the year.

I would like to say well done to all that made it to the finals this year. This year's Saddle Bronc finalists have been supported by MKN Auto Electrical and Fabrication thank you for your generosity, it is much appreciated by all.

It has been a big year, and the calibre of stock has been outstanding by all contractors. Good luck to everyone competing at the finals. Merry Christmas, happy trails and stay safe.

Kind Regards,
Graham Browne

Lachlan O'Neill – Operations Director of Steer Wrestling

Well, it's been another great year of Steer Wrestling with good entries across the board and some new faces really putting in this year and making it to the finals.

It was great to see Woodford, Killarney and Warwick adding Steer Wrestling to their bull and bronc shows plus Nambour, Imbil, Wandoan, and Lowood all coming on board and running full rodeos.

Congrats to Cooper Roche on winning the rookie title and being right up there at this part of the year, it's a real credit to you and I know firsthand how much effort you have put in over the last 12 months.

For the rest of it though it all comes down to tonight, hope everyone has a good finals and is ready for a few weeks off before it all kicks on again.

Thanks,
Lachlan O'Neill



Lachlan completing his victory lap as the 2023 National Steer Wrestling Champion.

Photo courtesy of East Coast Images

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Gene Hingst - Operations Director of Rope & Tie

2023 has been a big year for Rope and Tie. We have brought in a number of new rules to improve and sustain our event. This should assist with maintaining the event for years to come.

I would like to thank the contractors for doing their utmost to provide adequate stock. I would like to thank all competitors for their continuous efforts in supporting the event and maintaining the rules. I would also like to call out and thank some of our younger rodeo competitors who do not compete in the Rope and Tie event but continue to support the competitors with box assistance and untying of stock. I would like to congratulate Lachlan Mayer for winning the Rookie Rope and Tie for 2023.

In closing, I hope to see you all down the rodeo road next year.

Regards,
Gene Hingst



Gene competing in the Team Roping at round three of the finals.

Photo courtesy of Becca May Photography

Lee Dickinson - Operations Director of Team Roping

First, I'd like to congratulate the finalists in 2023 in all events. Especially the people that have made it to their first finals and welcome all the new competitors. Also, a special mention to Tom Whitwell for making both ends in the Team Roping finals, good job. To all contractors, great job done this year especially in the current drought conditions the stock look good.

I didn't get to many rodeos this year due to family commitments however I have been fortunate enough to have had fundraising opportunities and raise enough money to supply finalists vest to all Team Roping finalists at no cost to the competitors, plus incentive prizes. I hope to do the same next year.

I'd like to thank the O'Neill family for their dedication to our sport and supplying stock over the years, best of luck for your future endeavours. Also looking forward to roping some Destiny Downs cattle next year.

Looking forward to 2024 good luck to all competitors and safe travels.

Regards,
Lee Dickinson

Kate Patch - Operations Director of Barrel Race

I would like to firstly start off with thanking the board for accepting my application as the new Barrel Racing Director. Whilst I still have considerable amount to learn, I am a very approachable person and will consider all feedback to better myself and courses set for the distant future.

With only being in this position a short time, reflecting on the year had I observed a considerable amount of barrel racers chasing titles and points all year. Congratulations to all the competitors for the hard work that goes into competing every single weekend. It's great to see juniors stepping up and holding their own against open competitors and it's showing the future of our sport is very bright and in good hands.

I'm hoping moving forward we can organise more novice barrel races and have this run smoothly and effectively with Bull and Bronc Rodeos.

With many thanks again,
Kate Patch



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO EVENT FINALISTS



Bull Ride finalists and round 3 Bull Fighters



Bareback Ride finalists dressed in their sponsored shirts



Saddle Ride finalists and Director proudly sporting their sponsored jackets



Breakaway Roping finalists





NATIONAL FINALS RODEO EVENT FINALISTS



U18 Junior Bull Ride finalists proudly sporting their sponsored jackets



U15 Mini Bull Ride finalists proudly sporting their sponsored vests



U12 Mini Bull Ride finalists proudly dressed in their sponsored shirts and vests



Thank you to our Sponsors



Finalist photos courtesy of East Coast Images

NATIONAL FINALS

RESULTS



Round 1
18/11/23

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BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1	Jack Watt	\$ 1,362.00	74
2	Jack McArthur	\$ 903.00	70

No. Of Competitors: 11

SADDLE RIDE \$ PTS

1	Kielan Cox	\$ 824.00	79
2	Ken Coleman	\$ 618.00	68
3	Darcy Wockner	\$ 412.00	67
4	Michael Neylon	\$ 103.00	63
4	Mitch Schneider	\$ 103.00	63

No. Of Competitors: 8

BAREBACK RIDE \$ PTS

1	Ross Tilley	\$ 832.50	74
2	Tyson Croucher	\$ 610.50	72
3	Kielan Cox	\$ 407.00	65

No. Of Competitors: 5

ROPE & TIE \$ SEC

1	Brock Eastwell	\$ 796.00	10.790
2	Steve Augustin	\$ 597.00	12.380
3	Dylan Corbet	\$ 398.00	14.569
4	Thomas Whitwell	\$ 199.00	17.558

No. Of Competitors: 7

STEER WRESTLING \$ SEC

1	Cooper Roche	\$ 936.00	4.162
2	Ben Eastwell	\$ 702.00	4.357
3	Lachlan O'Neill	\$ 468.00	5.563
4	Thomas Whitwell	\$ 234.00	6.509

No. Of Competitors: 12

TEAM ROPING \$ SEC

1	Thomas Whitwell	\$ 936.00	6.422
	Steve Augustin	\$ 936.00	
2	Gene Hingst	\$ 702.00	6.729
	Josh Green	\$ 702.00	
3	Brock Eastwell	\$ 418.00	12.934
	Thomas Whitwell	\$ 418.00	
4	Rebecca Leeson	\$ 234.00	15.052
	Murray Whitwell	\$ 234.00	

No. Of Competitors: 12

BARREL RACE \$ SEC

1	Ella Christensen	\$ 936.00	15.695
2	Wendy Christie	\$ 702.00	15.746
3	Tahlia Harrop	\$ 468.00	15.968
4	Elyssa Kenny	\$ 234.00	16.061

No. Of Competitors: 12

BREAKAWAY ROPING \$ SEC

1	Katie Vaughan	\$ 964.00	2.179
2	Nicole Cavanagh	\$ 723.00	2.379
3	Denae Hart	\$ 482.00	3.050
4	Natalie Davison	\$ 244.00	3.858

No. Of Competitors: 13

STEER UNDECORATING \$ SEC

No Scores
No. Of Competitors: 6

U18 JUNIOR BARREL RACE \$ SEC

1	Brydie Leeson	\$ 104.00	14.707
2	Emily Ward	\$ 78.00	15.090
3	Hailey Leeson	\$ 52.00	15.200
4	Sam Gilliland	\$ 26.00	15.230

No. Of Competitors: 12

U18 JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING \$ SEC

1	Rhys O'Toole	\$ 104.00	2.760
2	Billy Gallaway	\$ 78.00	3.194
3	Tommy Leeson	\$ 52.00	3.246
4	Madison Harland	\$ 26.00	3.259

No. Of Competitors: 12

U18 JUNIOR BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1	Ethan Coster	\$ 104.00	76
2	Brumby McWhirter	\$ 78.00	73
3	Wesley McDonald	\$ 52.00	71
4	Baylee Proctor	\$ 26.00	65

No. Of Competitors: 12

U15 MINI BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1	Lane Cross	\$ 104.00	67
2	Rex Walker	\$ 31.20	63
2	Jacob Davies	\$ 31.20	63
2	Jake Blewitt	\$ 31.20	63
2	Billy Gallaway	\$ 31.20	63
2	Harry Armitage	\$ 31.20	63

No. Of Competitors: 12

7-U12 MINI BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1	Danny Kennedy	\$ 104.00	66
2	Archie Geran	\$ 78.00	65
3	Billy Cook	\$ 52.00	63
4	Wiley Roots	\$ 8.70	62
4	Jonathon Carlo	\$ 8.70	62
4	Chase Wieland	\$ 8.70	62

No. Of Competitors: 12

For all rodeo standings visit www.nationalrodeoassociation.com.au

National Rodeo Association

NATIONAL FINALS

RESULTS



Round 2
25/11/23

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BULL RIDE \$ PTS

No Scores

No. Of Competitors: 11

SADDLE RIDE \$ PTS

1 Kielan Cox \$ 1,236.00 67

2 Charlie Wockner \$ 824.00 60

No. Of Competitors: 8

BAREBACK RIDE \$ PTS

1 Ross Tilley \$ 1,850.00 68

No. Of Competitors: 5

ROPE & TIE \$ SEC

1 Thomas Whitwell \$ 833.00 11.805

2 Brock Eastwell \$ 610.00 19.682

3 Steve Augustin \$ 407.00 21.757

No. Of Competitors: 5

STEER WRESTLING \$ SEC

1 Glenn Lefoe \$ 936.00 4.732

2 Ben Eastwell \$ 702.00 4.901

3 Lachlan O'Neill \$ 468.00 5.291

4 Kielan Cox \$ 234.00 5.696

No. Of Competitors: 12

TEAM ROPING \$ SEC

1 Jeff Miller \$ 1,053.00 8.537

John Osborne \$ 1,053.00

2 Thomas Whitwell \$ 772.00 14.803

Steve Augustin \$ 772.00

3 Matthew Bunn \$ 515.00 17.569

Johnny Gordon \$ 515.00

No. Of Competitors: 24

BARREL RACE \$ SEC

1 Kate Patch \$ 936.00 16.412

2 Ella Christensen \$ 702.00 16.498

3 Jordyn O'Toole \$ 468.00 17.098

4 Tahlia Harrop \$ 234.00 17.203

No. Of Competitors: 12

BREAKAWAY ROPING \$ SEC

1 Rebecca Leeson \$ 964.00 2.821

2 Katie Vaughan \$ 723.00 2.891

3 Courtney Jones \$ 482.00 3.508

4 Savannah Halley \$ 241.00 3.922

No. Of Competitors: 13

STEER UNDECORATING \$ SEC

1 Cheyenne Whitwell \$ 242.00 2.570

2 Kate Patch \$ 181.50 11.652

3 Katie Vaughan \$ 121.00 11.829

4 Denae Hart \$ 60.50 11.943

No. Of Competitors: 7

U18 JUNIOR BARREL RACE \$ SEC

1 Brydie Leeson \$ 104.00 15.897

2 Jordyn O'Toole \$ 78.00 16.315

3 Ella Christensen \$ 52.00 16.649

4 Hailey Leeson \$ 26.00 16.718

No. Of Competitors: 12

U18 JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING \$ SEC

1 Brandy Durbidge \$ 104.00 2.719

2 Brydie Leeson \$ 78.00 3.197

3 Tommy Leeson \$ 52.00 3.341

4 Madison Harland \$ 26.00 3.674

No. Of Competitors: 12

U18 JUNIOR BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1 Baylee Proctor \$ 91.00 67

1 Jay Buffier \$ 91.00 67

3 Wesley McDonald \$ 52.00 65

4 Lucas Taylor \$ 26.00 64

No. Of Competitors: 12

U15 MINI BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1 Lane Cross \$ 104.00 76

2 Billy Gallaway \$ 78.00 65

3 Harry Armitage \$ 52.00 62

4 Baylee Proctor \$ 26.00 61

No. Of Competitors: 12

7-U12 MINI BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1 Ebbet Walker \$ 91.00 62

1 Billy Cook \$ 91.00 62

3 Jake Washband \$ 39.00 60

3 Chase Wieland \$ 39.00 60

No. Of Competitors: 12

For all rodeo standings visit www.nationalrodeoassociation.com.au

National Rodeo Association

NATIONAL FINALS

RESULTS



Round 3
2/12/23

C
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BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1 Zane Hall \$ 2,270.00 69

No. Of Competitors: 11

SADDLE RIDE \$ PTS

1 Darcy Wockner \$ 796.00 70

2 Michael Neylon \$ 497.50 68

2 Kielan Cox \$ 497.50 68

4 Dave Mawhinney \$ 199.00 65

No. Of Competitors: 7

BAREBACK RIDE \$ PTS

1 Ross Tilley \$ 801.00 65

2 Tyson Croucher \$ 587.00 64

3 Sean Hotz \$ 392.00 57

No. Of Competitors: 4

ROPE & TIE \$ SEC

1 Thomas Whitwell \$ 768.00 9.343

2 Jay Green \$ 576.00 9.429

3 Brock Eastwell \$ 384.00 10.537

4 Steve Augustin \$ 192.00 14.732

No. Of Competitors: 6

STEER WRESTLING \$ SEC

1 Thomas Whitwell \$ 936.00 5.200

2 Kielan Cox \$ 702.00 5.266

3 Glenn Lefoe \$ 468.00 5.597

4 Lachlan O'Neill \$ 234.00 5.676

No. Of Competitors: 12

TEAM ROPING \$ SEC

1 Brock Eastwell \$ 936.00 6.514

Thomas Whitwell \$ 936.00

2 Jeff Miller \$ 702.00 8.713

John Osborne \$ 702.00

3 Zac Hingst \$ 468.00 10.140

Dane Van Peperzeel \$ 468.00

4 Rebecca Leeson \$ 234.00 12.644

Murray Whitwell \$ 234.00

No. Of Competitors: 24

BARREL RACE \$ SEC

1 Kate Patch \$ 936.00 15.936

2 Jordyn O'Toole \$ 702.00 16.060

3 Tahlia Harrop \$ 468.00 16.168

4 Ella Christensen \$ 234.00 16.174

No. Of Competitors: 12

BREAKAWAY ROPING \$ SEC

1 Natalie Davison \$ 1,084.00 3.205

2 Rebecca Leeson \$ 795.00 3.321

3 Denae Hart \$ 531.00 12.945

No. Of Competitors: 13

STEER UNDECORATING \$ SEC

1 Cheyenne Whitwell \$ 242.00 1.771

2 Katie Vaughan \$ 181.50 1.971

3 Denae Hart \$ 121.00 2.775

4 Stacey Freeman \$ 60.50 3.560

No. Of Competitors: 7

U18 JUNIOR BARREL RACE \$ SEC

1 Jordyn O'Toole \$ 104.00 15.196

2 Ella Christensen \$ 78.00 15.278

3 Sam Gilliland \$ 52.00 15.508

4 Hailey Leeson \$ 26.00 15.514

No. Of Competitors: 12

U18 JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING \$ SEC

1 Jordyn O'Toole \$ 104.00 2.783

2 Brydie Leeson \$ 78.00 3.363

3 Madison Harland \$ 52.00 3.811

4 Demi Grigor \$ 26.00 3.994

No. Of Competitors: 12

U18 JUNIOR BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1 Jay Buffier \$ 153.00 73

2 Jaxsen Tremayne \$ 102.00 67

No. Of Competitors: 11

U15 MINI BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1 Corbin Amos \$ 104.00 72

2 Baylee Proctor \$ 78.00 66

3 Larran Cook \$ 26.00 63

3 Rex Walker \$ 26.00 63

3 Lane Cross \$ 26.00 63

No. Of Competitors: 12

7-U12 MINI BULL RIDE \$ PTS

1 Billy Cook \$ 104.00 67

2 Sidney Geran \$ 78.00 63

3 Wiley Roots \$ 52.00 61

4 Chace Wensley \$ 26.00 59

No. Of Competitors: 12

For all rodeo results visit www.nationalrodeoassociation.com.au

National Rodeo Association



2023 NATIONAL STANDINGS

BULL RIDE	ROPE & TIE	TEAM ROPING HEADER	TEAM ROPING HEELER	NOVICE BULL RIDE
2240 MCARTHUR, JACK	2880 WHITWELL, THOMAS	1835 MILLER, JEFF	1710 OSBORNE, JOHN	1370 MCDONALD, WESLEY
1040 WATT, JACK	2120 AUGUSTIN, STEVE	835 EASTWELL, BROCK	1240 AUGUSTIN, STEVE	770 GALLAGHER, JESSE
800 HALL, CLAY	1880 GREEN, JAY	815 HINGST, GENE	870 WHITWELL, THOMAS	720 EVERSON, THOMAS
750 BROWNE, LLEYTON	1500 EASTWELL, BROCK	790 MCPHEE, WAYNE	545 VAN PEPERZEEL, DANE *R*	670 FERGUSON, CADE
580 THOMSON, TY	920 GALL, CLAY	720 WHITWELL, THOMAS	525 MCPHEE, WYCE	640 TAYLOR, LUCAS
500 JONES, JOSHUA	280 ABRIOL, DUNHILL	440 HINGST, ZAC	500 GREEN, JOSH	500 TROTTER, ZANE
480 RUHLAND, DAN	240 GREEN, JOSH	345 LEESON, REBECCA	315 WHITWELL, MURRAY	500 MEECH, DYLAN
460 HALL, ZANE	240 CORBET, DYLAN	275 DAVISON, ROSS	275 COGZELL, GEORGINA	460 USMAR, KOBY
440 LEATHER, MACAULIE	200 WEIER, BLAKE	260 BUNN, MATTHEW	265 GRANGER, CODY	400 TURNER, KASH
400 FRANCIS, BRYN *R*	160 HEEB, TIM	210 VAUGHAN, KATIE	260 GORDON, JOHNNY	390 LEATHER, BOSTON
300 WILSON, TYLAH	160 MAYER, LACHLAN *R*	160 BOYCE, MICHAEL	250 HEEB, TIM	320 POLZIN, MYLES
240 TROTTER, ZANE *R*	40 MCHUGH, MATTHEW *R*	140 MOORE, JORDYN	240 KENNY, SHANE	320 BRADFORD, PETER (PJ)
220 BRADFORD, PETER (PJ)	40 AYERS, COBEN	130 EVERINGHAM, MATTHEW	225 STANLEY, RUSSELL	300 STRINGER, SCOTT
180 HOLLEY, CAMERON		130 CAVANAGH, TROY	210 BOYCE, WILLEM *R*	280 NORRINGTON, SEAN
160 FIELDER, BRADY	STEER WRESTLING	120 CAVANAGH, BRAD	120 LIAVER, DAVID	200 RAAEN, LINDEN
150 MORAN, BEN	1720 O'NEILL, LACHLAN	120 GALL, CLAY	120 GREEN, JAY	200 MORAN, BEN
120 SNOWDEN, COOPER *R*	1240 WHITWELL, THOMAS	120 VAN PEPERZEEL, ROBBERT	105 CLEM, CLINTON	180 HOLLEY, CAMERON
80 WILKINSON, TROY	1200 LEFOE, GLENN	100 FREEMAN, STACEY	90 HINGST, GENE	180 POINTON, TRENT
80 ROSS, KOBY	1020 EASTWELL, BEN	100 DURBIDGE, TOM	80 WEIER, BLAKE	160 REITER, BEN
80 REITER, BEN	900 ROCHE, COOPER *R*	90 WHITWELL, CHEYENNE	75 MAYER, LACHLAN *R*	160 CRINION, FINN
80 KRAUT, JOEL	880 COX, KIELAN	80 EGGINS, TRENT	70 MCHUGH, MATTHEW *R*	160 MCWHIRTER, BRUMBY
	820 GORDON, JOHNNY	75 BUSHELL, NORM	70 MARSHALL, DANIELLE	160 TRIPLETT, THOMAS
SADDLE RIDE	640 RAMSAY, SARAS	50 SPEEDY, LINDSEY	50 MCHUGH, TERRY	140 PROWSE, TRISTAN
4550 COX, KIELAN	640 MCGAHAN, CHRIS	50 LEESON, TODD	50 MACKENZIE, CHRIS	140 CHRISTIE, BLAKE
2520 WOCKNER, DARCY *R*	460 MEDWAY, JOE	50 MCHUGH, MATTHEW *R*	50 DONEATHY, STEVE	140 HAWKER, NOAH
2250 COLEMAN, KEN	280 ALLEN, IAN	45 CLEM, CLINTON	45 AUGUSTIN, SCOTT	120 BOND, CHARLES
1570 NEYLON, MICHAEL	240 THOMSON, TY		30 DICKINSON, LEE	120 VELLA, KURT
820 GRAYSON, LANE	240 JONES, MARCUS		30 CAVANAGH, NICOLE	
370 SCHNEIDER, MITCH *R*	160 HALL, CLAY			
340 CAPEWELL, JACK	160 WILKINSON, TROY			
300 MAWHINNEY, DAVE	120 DOWTON, ANGUS	ALL-ROUND COWBOY	SENIOR BULL RIDE	ALL-ROUND COWGIRL
220 WOCKNER, CHARLIE *R*	120 MAYER, LACHLAN	5330 WHITWELL, THOMAS	750 DOUGLAS, MARK	4910 WHITWELL, CHEYENNE
160 RALPH, KARL	100 EASTWELL, BROCK	4800 COX, KIELAN	670 KRAUT, JOEL	3180 PATCH, KATE
100 CROSBY, WILL	60 WEIER, BLAKE	3240 AUGUSTIN, STEVE	480 POINTON, TRENT	2510 VAUGHAN, KATIE
100 MACQUEEN, JOE *R*	40 RAMSAY, KALAN *R*	2415 EASTWELL, BROCK	240 KENYON, CLINTON	1705 LEESON, REBECCA
60 MCWHIRTER, TERRY	40 EASTWELL, MITCH	2000 GREEN, JAY	150 BOND, CHARLES	1700 O'TOOLE, JORDYN
40 BRIGHTON, BRAYDEN		1040 GALL, CLAY	140 DAY, IAN	1580 HART, DENAE
		1020 GORDON, JOHNNY	100 BOLTON, TOMMY	1170 MARSHALL, DANIELLE
BAREBACK RIDE		740 GREEN, JOSH	80 LOCKWOOD, BEN	740 FREEMAN, STACEY
3670 TILLEY, ROSS *R*		500 HALL, CLAY	70 WIELAND, MALCOLM	620 MOORE, JORDYN
3590 CROUCHER, TYSON		355 MAYER, LACHLAN	60 PEARSE, SONNY	480 O'NEILL, TAMMY
2260 HOTZ, SEAN		300 THOMSON, TY	60 LONG, MATTHEW	370 CAVANAGH, NICOLE
280 COX, KIELAN		240 WEIER, BLAKE	20 BOND, DAMIEN	320 AUGUSTIN, ASHLEIGH
120 BUTTON, BOWMAN		170 HEEB, TIM		180 HOGNO, MIKYLA
80 TRUSZ, NICK		160 MCHUGH, MATTHEW		
60 GAY, NATHAN				

Another Outstanding Season

For full standings visit www.nationalrodeoassociation.com.au

National Rodeo Association



2023 NATIONAL STANDINGS

BARREL RACE

3940	PATCH, KATE
2480	CHRISTENSEN, ELLA *R*
1720	WHITWELL, CHEYENNE
1360	PUGSLEY, KATRINA
1340	O'TOOLE, JORDYN
1120	HUGHES, JANENE
940	HARROP, TAHLIA
740	CHRISTIE, WENDY
440	O'NEILL, TAMMY
300	AUGUSTIN, ASHLEIGH
270	KENNY, ELLYSA
260	STORIE, TAHLIAH *R*
200	BOYCE, TARNI
180	READ, BROOKE
180	DAVISON, CHELSEA
160	HANSEN, LOUISE
150	HART, DENAE
140	REID, ANDREA
100	SMALL, KAYHLA
100	BANKS, COURTNEY
80	MILLER, SHELLIE
80	NAGEL, TEAGAN

BREAKAWAY ROPING

1720	WHITWELL, CHEYENNE
1360	LEESON, REBECCA
1140	MARSHALL, DANIELLE
940	VAUGHAN, KATIE
760	DAVISON, NATALIE
720	JONES, COURTNEY
680	O'TOOLE, JORDYN
660	HART, DENAE
400	BROWNE, PETA
360	HINGST, NICOL
340	HEEB, CHANTELE
340	CAVANAGH, NICOLE
280	CRANSTON, KRISTY
240	PORTER, TRACEY
240	CORBET, LIBBY *R*
220	HALLEY, SAVANNAH *R*
200	MOORE, JORDYN
160	ARMITAGE, EMILY *R*
120	O'NEILL, TAMMY
80	COTTAM, JAMIE
80	YOUNG, STEPHANIE
80	AUGUSTIN, ASHLEIGH
80	WILKINSON, MONTANA *R*

STEER UNDECORATING

1680	WHITWELL, CHEYENNE
1380	VAUGHAN, KATIE
940	HART, DENAE
640	FREEMAN, STACEY
440	PATCH, KATE
280	MOORE, JORDYN
200	KOCH, REBECCA
200	YOUNG, REBECCA
120	HOGNO, MIKYLA
80	O'TOOLE, JORDYN
40	BUSHELL, CHRISTINE

U18 JUNIOR BULL RIDE

1990	TAYLOR, LUCAS
1920	MCDONALD, WESLEY
1890	BUFFIER, JAY
1530	MEECH, DYLAN
1460	COSTER, ETHAN
1020	TREMAYNE, JAXSEN
790	PROCTOR, BAYLEE
780	GALLAGHER, JESSE
680	MCWHIRTER, BRUMBY
540	TURNER, KASH
450	FODEN, DAWSON
440	KELIHER, TY
400	FERGUSON, CADE
320	HAWKER, JAKE
320	AHERN, MATTY
310	CROSS, LANE
300	MOSS, ADAM
300	GILMORE, DANE
280	SNOWDON, COOPER
270	INNES, FRASER
240	CROYDEN, BLAKE
190	VELLA, KURT
190	WADSWORTH, JHETT
160	RAAEN, LINDEN
160	LEATHER, BOSTON
160	MASLEN, ZAINÉ
160	COLLINS, DEKLAN
150	TAYLOR, JAKE
130	WARD, LEVI
130	USMAR, KOBY
120	TRIPLETT, THOMAS
110	KELLETT, JACOB
110	ROOTS, DUSTIN

U15 JUNIOR STEER / MINI BULL RIDE

2822	ARMITAGE, HARRY
2600	CROSS, LANE
2299	GALLAWAY, BILLY
1250	PROCTOR, BAYLEE
980	MERRELL, RILEY
920	GILL, CLAY
900	AMOS, CORBIN
872	BLEWITT, JAKE
750	SALTER, BRODIE
692	DAVIES, JACOB
642	WALKER, REX
560	COOK, LARRAN
450	KENNEDY, BILLY
430	SMITH, LEO
320	INNES, FRASER
300	LANGTON, QUAYDEN
290	ZUMBANSEN, JOSHUA
280	HOLLOWAY, COLE
260	RAMSAY, JACKSON
250	EVERINGHAM, TAJ
200	EGAN, CLAY
180	FOGARTY, WILL

7-U12 PODDY / MINI BULL RIDE

2570	GERAN, SIDNEY
2170	COOK, BILLY
2100	GERAN, ARCHIE
1467	MORRIS, ELIJAH-JAMES
1030	WIELAND, CHASE
900	WENSLEY, CHACE
820	COUTTS, HUNTER
820	ROOTS, WYLIE
800	WASHBAND, JAKE
630	CARLO, JONATHON
590	KENNEDY, DANNY
560	WALKER, EBBET
330	HARRISON, LINKYN
270	DIPLOCK-BARRON, KNOX
247	DIETRICH, COHEN
180	TAYLOR, WILEY
150	GROVES, NASH
90	BOYCE, ANGUS
80	ADDISON, MAXIMUS
80	EAGLESON, ISSAC

U18 JUNIOR BARREL RACE

3100	CHRISTENSEN, ELLA
2640	O'TOOLE, JORDYN
2260	LEESON, BRYDIE
1180	HART, MILEY
1060	ANDERSON, MARALEE
940	LEESON, HAILEY
780	ROBSON, ALICE
540	DUNN, MONTANA
480	BEAUCHAMP, MIA
360	GILLILAND, SAMANTHA
280	WATSON, SIENNA
260	BAUMAN, BREANNA
240	LOWNDES, CHILLI
200	PURKIS, AMY
180	BAUMAN, CASEY
160	GRIGOR, DEMI
160	HINGST, ABBY
160	BELLINGHAM, ALETA
120	MCCORMACK, HAYLEY
100	ROOTS, CHELSEY

U18 JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING

1460	LEESON, BRYDIE
920	O'TOOLE, JORDYN
860	GALLAWAY, BILLY
820	LEESON, TOMMY
640	CAVANAGH, CODY
640	HARLAND, MADISON
620	HINGST, ZAC
480	DURBIDGE, BRANDY
420	O'TOOLE, RHYS
320	DUNN, MONTANNA
180	CORBET, LIBBY
180	GRIGOR, DEMI
160	HART, MILEY
80	GILMORE, DANE
80	AYERS, COBEN
80	MCCORMACK, HAYLEY
80	MARCH, MACKENZIE
60	HINGST, ABBY
40	FOXLEE, JOSEPH
20	LEESON, HAILEY

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For full standings visit www.nationalrodeoassociation.com.au

National Rodeo Association

2023 NATIONAL RODEO AWARDS



OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

U12 MINI BUCKING BULLS OF THE YEAR:

Crusty the Clown – Double C Mini Bulls
Blinky Bill – Down Low Mini Bulls

Buckle sponsored by Jack Jones Bucking Bulls

U15 MINI BUCKING BULL OF THE YEAR:

Nosegard – Doak Rodeo Company

Buckle Sponsored by CSG Plumbing

BUCKING BULL OF THE YEAR: Smoke – CMC Rodeo

SADDLE HORSE OF THE YEAR: Buffalo Bill – CMC Rodeo

Buckle sponsored by Campdraft Christian Connect

BAREBACK HORSE OF THE YEAR:

Tokyo Massage – CMC Rodeo

BULL FIGHTER OF THE YEAR: Dylan Swan

PICK UP MAN OF THE YEAR: Tom Durbidge

ALL ROUND CHAMPION COWBOY: Thomas Whitwell

ALL ROUND CHAMPION COWGIRL: Cheyenne Whitwell

All Round Buckles sponsored by Bob Berg

RODEO QUEEN AND PRINCESS:

2023 RODEO QUEEN: Tahliah Storie

Buckle sponsored in honour of Judy Johnstone. This buckle has been sponsored by Spike and Judy Johnson since 1979.

2023 FUNDRAISING QUEEN: Kylie Chapman

2023 RODEO PRINCESS: Alice Knox

2023 JUNIOR RODEO PRINCESS: Miley Hart

INCENTIVE AWARDS:

GRAHAM BURTON MEMORIAL TROPHY: Tommy Leeson

GREG MEECH MEMORIAL INCENTIVE AWARD:

Maralee Anderson

Donated by Ann Kelly

JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:

7-U12 MINI BULL RIDE:

Encouragement Award: Cohen Dietrich

Finals Aggregate: Billy Cook

Runner Up: Billy Cook

CHAMPION: Sidney Geran

JUNIOR STEER RIDE:

Encouragement Award: Simon Collet

Finals Aggregate: Lane Cross

Runner Up: Lane Cross

CHAMPION: Harry Armitage

Buckle sponsored by Rope it, Risk it, Ride it

JUNIOR BULL RIDE:

Encouragement Award: Charlie Blackmore

Finals Aggregate: Jay Buffier

Runner Up: Wesley McDonald

CHAMPION: Lucas Taylor

Buckle sponsored by Power 2 Accounting

JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING:

Encouragement Award: Hannah Kriesch

Finals Aggregate: Madison Harland

Runner Up: Jordyn O'Toole

CHAMPION: Brydie Leeson

JUNIOR BARREL RACE:

Encouragement Award: Olivia Foxlee

Finals Aggregate: Brydie Leeson

Runner Up: Jordyn O'Toole

CHAMPION: Ella Christensen

OPEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:

STEER UNDECORATING:

Finals Aggregate: Cheyenne Whitwell

Runner Up: Katie Vaughan

CHAMPION: Cheyenne Whitwell

BREAKAWAY ROPING:

Finals Aggregate: Katie Vaughan

Rookie: Libby Corbet

Runner Up: Rebecca Leeson

CHAMPION: Cheyenne Whitwell

BARREL RACE:

Finals Aggregate: Ella Christensen

Rookie: Ella Christensen

Runner Up: Ella Christensen

CHAMPION: Kate Patch

Buckle sponsored by Rawhide Western Wear

TEAM ROPING HEELER:

Finals Aggregate: John Osborne

Rookie: Dane Van Peperzeel

Runner Up: Steve Augustin

CHAMPION: John Osborne

TEAM ROPING HEADER:

Finals Aggregate: Jeff Miller

Rookie: Matthew McHugh

Runner Up: Brock Eastwell

CHAMPION: Jeff Miller

STEER WRESTLING:

Finals Aggregate: Ben Eastwell

Rookie: Cooper Roche

Runner Up: Thomas Whitwell

CHAMPION: Lachlan O'Neill

ROPE & TIE:

Finals Aggregate: Thomas Whitwell

Rookie: Lachlan Mayer

Runner Up: Steve Augustin

CHAMPION: Thomas Whitwell

BAREBACK RIDE

Finals Aggregate: Ross Tilley

Rookie: Ross Tilley

Runner Up: Tyson Croucher

CHAMPION: Ross Tilley

SADDLE RIDE:

Finals Aggregate: Kielan Cox

Rookie: Darcy Wockner

Runner Up: Darcy Wockner

CHAMPION: Kielan Cox

BULL RIDE:

Novice Bull Ride: Wesley McDonald

Senior Bull Ride: Mark Douglas

Finals Aggregate: Jack McArthur

Rookie: Bryn Francis

Runner Up: Jack Watt

CHAMPION: Jack McArthur

Congratulations to National Champions and Award Winners!



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

The National Rodeo Finals ignited the towns of Gympie, Stanthorpe, and Caboolture with electric energy as cowboys and cowgirls from across the country, their faces set with determination, descended upon the arenas to test their skills. Among them stood the top 12 finalists, each one a beacon of grit and skill in the world of rodeo. The events to come over the three rounds was an outstanding showcase of talent, drive and heightened emotions as national titles were decided.

BULL RIDE:

The three rounds of the National Rodeo Finals showcased the remarkable athleticism of the bucking stock from BK Bucking Bulls, J+J Rodeo and CMC Rodeo, establishing them as the event's standout performers. They challenged all that attempted to ride and out of 32 buck outs, only three qualified rides stood tall as a testament to the skill and bravery of the riders who dared challenge the wild. Notably, a highly acclaimed Zane Hall distinguished himself as one of these qualified rides and emerging as overall high money earner of the event with a remarkable performance in round three at Caboolture where his lone qualified ride on Indy from the CMC Rodeo pen earned him over \$2,200.

Meanwhile, it was the now seven-time National Champion Jack McArthur (featured right), who asserted his dominance with a high point lead, adding another finals average and championship titles to his well-known collection, further solidifying his legacy in the sport. Jack Watt was a formidable contender for the finals average title, as he demonstrated with an exceptional ride in round one at Gympie, scoring 74 points atop Harty from BK Bucking Bulls. This ride earned him the honour of the highest scored bull ride of the 2023 National Rodeo Finals. However, his finals journey was abruptly ended by an unfortunate injury sustained during his round two ride at Stanthorpe. Despite this setback, Jack's unwavering commitment and consistent performance throughout the year remained strong as he concluded the season as the Reserve National Bull Ride Champion, solidifying his reputation as a top-tier competitor.

Our Rookie Champion of the year was rightfully awarded to Bryn Francis, whose exceptional skill and talent not only earned him this title but also secured him a coveted spot among the top twelve finalists.

As the dust settled and the presentation ceremony commenced, Jack McArthur demonstrated true sportsmanship when being awarded the Finals Average buckle, as he graciously announced that he would be presenting the buckle to Jack Watt. A gesture that resonated deeply with all in attendance, highlighting the profound respect and camaraderie among these elite athletes in the demanding world of rodeo.



Photo courtesy of East of Coast Images



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

SADDLE RIDE:

Once again, the Saddle Ride competition bore witness to the unwavering dominance of Kielan Cox (featured below). Despite the formidable challenge of a broken hand, he once again showcased his mastery skills in the arena with unparalleled skill and determination. Against all odds, Kielan emerged victorious, separating himself from his fellow competitors with an unbeatable high point lead and surpassing as the event's high money earner with a remarkable performance that earned him above \$2,500 in winnings through two round victories and a commendable second place finish. His exceptional showing not only cemented his status as a rough stock force to be reckoned with, but also propelled him to clinch the Finals Average and his third consecutive National Championship title.

We speculate, could Kielan be on the path to a new record? The current benchmark stands at five consecutive championships held by Jack Capewell, but with Kielan's current demonstration of skill and determination, the possibility of him rewriting the record books looms tantalising close.

As Kielan added more accolades to his illustrious collection, the spotlight also illuminated Darcy Wockner, who distinguished himself with the titles of Reserve Champion and Rookie Champion, a testament to his exceptional talent and dedication throughout the season's trials and triumphs. This feat echoed a similar triumph achieved by Kielan in 2019, allowing us to speculate whether a similar path rest ahead for Darcy.

Adding to the excitement, the legendary nine-time Bucking Horse of Year Champion, Buffalo Bill, made an appearance at both the first and third rounds, where our champions Kielan and Darcy were fortunate to draw him from the pen, both executing qualified rides and securing the victory in their respective rounds.



Photo courtesy of Richard Cox Media



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

BAREBACK RIDE:

The Bareback Ride event captivated audiences with its spectacle of skill and determination, as two competitors engaged in a gripping battle for the prestigious National Championship. Throughout all three rounds, both contenders delivered stellar performances, each securing qualified rides and refusing to yield. The tension peaked in the final round, where the outcome of the National Championship hung in suspense.

In a stunning turn of events, newcomer Ross Tilley emerged as the ultimate victor, leaving an indelible impression on the competitive scene. Ross's remarkable feat included a clean sweep of all titles, an unprecedented achievement in our Bareback Riding history. With total earnings exceeding \$3,400, courtesy of his dominant performance of first placings across all three rounds, Tilley not only secured the Finals Average, but also claimed the Rookie Champion and National Championship titles. In an interview with Rodeo Queen Tahliah Storie, reflecting on his extraordinary accomplishment, Ross mentioned "It's very special, there is absolutely no way to describe it". He has made his presence known. As a rookie to the competitive arena, Ross's achievements highlight his promising future in the rodeo circuit and serves as an inspiration to aspiring riders everywhere.

Close behind, with a mere 80-point difference, stood the esteemed three-time National Champion Tyson Croucher, whose commendable performance including two round placings and a second-place average finish, earned him the position of Reserve National Champion. As a new rodeo season begins, anticipation waits for the unfolding events to come.



Ross Tilley proudly representing the Bareback Ride event in the grand entry of round three at Caboolture.

Photo courtesy of East Coast Images



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

ROPE AND TIE:

In the fiercely competitive event of Rope and Tie, seasoned competitor and now three-time National Champion Thomas Whitwell (featured below) showcased his mastery with an awe-inspiring finals performance. Holding the top position entering the finals, he maintained his lead with unwavering consistency across all three rounds, securing him two first finishes and a commendable fourth. His dominance translated into substantial earnings as the highest money earner, pocketing an impressive \$1800 and reinforcing his reputation as a premier contender in the sport. With his remarkable consistency both in the finals and throughout the rodeo season, Thomas secured not only the Finals Average title but also the prestigious National Championship.

Steve Augustin claimed the Reserve National Champion title, entering the finals in equal second position, Steve capitalised on his stellar performance throughout the finals, earning placings in all three rounds, to elevate his standing in the competition. The Rookie Championship title was proudly earned by rising talent Lachlan Mayer whose determination and efforts throughout the season also secured him a coveted spot among the top twelve finalists in his finals debut.

Photo courtesy of East of Coast Images



National Rodeo Association



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

STEER WRESTLING:

In the electrifying Steer Wrestling event, Ben Eastwell and Glen Lefoe emerged as top contenders, showcasing their aptitude as they each pocketed over \$1,400 across the intense three rounds. Delivering two timely runs apiece, they secured their journey to the pay window.

However, amidst the fierce competition, local hero Lachlan O'Neill (featured below) dominated the leaderboard. Entering the finals in top position, he maintained his lead with three well-timed runs, ultimately securing his sixth National Championship in spectacular fashion. Partnered with his esteemed Steer Wrestling Horse of the Year, Byron, a horse graced with awards before, Lachlan's victory was a testament to his skill and partnership with his equine companion.

The Reserve Championship was claimed by the versatile cowboy, Thomas Whitwell, whose talent, and determination were evident throughout the competition, complete with an excellent showing to secure the victory in round three.

Notably, Ben Eastwell, not only left with a substantial sum, but also claimed the Finals Average title, after demonstrating his ability and consistency in his three qualified runs.

The Rookie Championship title was rightfully awarded to fellow local competitor Cooper Roche, whose impressive season efforts earned him a coveted position among the top twelve finalists. Adding to his excitement, Cooper demonstrated remarkable ability and consistency with three qualified runs over the rounds and emerged victorious at Gympie round one, solidifying his status as a rising star in the sport.

Photo courtesy of East of Coast Images



National Rodeo Association



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

TEAM ROPING:

The Team Roping event witnessed the commanding presence of dynamic duo, Jeff Miller as the header and Johnny Osborne as the heeler who dominated the arena with their unmatched synergy. Their performance in the final two rounds was nothing short of spectacular, solidifying their status as top contenders and earning each over \$1,700 in winnings, highlighting them as the top earners. Their exceptional showing in the finals, combined with their unwavering dedication throughout the season, concluded in their well-deserved winning of the National Championship and Finals Average titles.

As the points available became increasingly crucial in the finals, the competition for the Reserve Championship intensified. Brock Eastwell emerged as the Reserve Champion Header, propelled from sixth to second position by his prosperous finals performance of a first and third placing. Similarly, Steve Augustin's exceptional showing including a first and second placing, launched him from fourth to second position, earning him the title of Reserve Champion Heeler. This highlighted the thrilling unpredictability of the finals.

Amidst the excitement, a new generation of the esteemed McHugh rodeo family emerged with Matthew McHugh claiming the Rookie Champion Header Title. Dane Van Peperzeel's triumph as the Rookie Champion Heeler, and marking his debut amongst the top twelve finalists, signalled a promising start to his rodeo career, adding to the anticipation for future competitions.

Photo courtesy of East of Coast Images



National Rodeo Association



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

BARREL RACE:

The Barrel Race event concluded with an exhilarating display of talent and determination, as season veterans and rising stars alike left an indelible mark on the competition. Among the standout performances was that of junior competitor Ella Christensen whose partnership with her steadfast palomino mare, Chilli, demanded recognition as a new rising star in the sport. Together they amassed over \$1,800 across the three rounds, securing first-place in round one and second place finishes in the subsequent rounds, to emerge as the event's top earner. Ella and Chilli's successful season and stellar finals performance earned them the prestigious titles as of National Reserve Champion, Rookie Champion, and Finals Average. A true testament to their ability.

Meanwhile, the formidable duo of Kate Patch and her off-the-track chestnut gelding, Red, continued their reign over the national circuit, maintaining an unbeatable high point lead. Since their debut in 2017, Kate and Red (featured below) have been an unstoppable force, together demonstrating the epitome of skill, determination, and partnership in the competitive arena of rodeo. Recently joined by the promising grey gelding Ted, the team solidified their supremacy by clinching the National Championship title in the year-long race. Despite missing the first round, Kate and Red made a triumphant return for the final two rounds, where they showcased their unparalleled skill, claiming victory in both and reaffirming their status as the undisputed dream team in barrel racing. Kate's remarkable sixth consecutive year as National Champion undeniably cements their legacy as true legends of the sport.



Photo courtesy of Richard Cox Media

Speculation now arise, could Kate's journey continue to record breaking lengths?

With the current benchmark of eight consecutive championships, held by Brooke Cavanagh (Frahm), looming large. With Kate's team continuously demonstrating their exceptional abilities, the prospect of rewriting the record books appears tantalisingly close. Leaving us eagerly awaiting for the possible unfolding of this thrilling chapter in barrel racing history.



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

BREAKAWAY ROPING:

The Breakaway Roping event during the finals witnessed both change and impressive feats from the season-long competition hold strong, as competitors contested for coveted titles. With the escalating importance of points available during the finals, the competition for the titles intensified.

Notably, Rebecca Leeson's outstanding performance earned her to the position of top money earner, with winnings exceeding \$1,700. Her victory in round two and a commendable second place in round three reshuffled the leaderboard, securing her the title of Reserve Champion. Emphasising the significance and unpredictability of the finals. Cheyenne Whitwell (featured below), from the renowned Whitwell rodeo family, secured the National Championship title with her trusted chestnut partner, Jack, adding another accolade to her impressive collection. Despite a modest performance in the finals, Cheyenne's consistent efforts throughout the season, maintained her position atop the leaderboard.

Additionally, Katie Vaughan's prosperous journey during the finals was equally impressive, demonstrating exceptional skill mounted above Cheyenne's horse Jack, ascending from tenth to fourth position powered by triumphs of an early victory in round one and a strong second place in round two, ultimately claiming the Finals Average title.

The emergence of junior competitor Libby Corbet sparked excitement late in the season, as her remarkable victory at the Crow's Nest Rodeo secured her the Rookie Championship title.

Photo courtesy of Red Hot Shotz Photography



National Rodeo Association



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

STEER UNDECORATING:

The Steer Undecorating event unfolded as an exhilarating and closely contested competition between friends and competitors alike. They entered the finals as the top two contenders, separated by a mere 60-point difference, preparing the arena for an intense showdown. Among these contenders stood the formidable cowgirl, Cheyenne Whitwell. Together with her versatile partner, Joker, they displayed an unstoppable combination of force and skill, securing victories in the final two rounds, pocketing over \$400 in prizemoney to be the events top earner. Cheyenne's outstanding performance not only earned her the Finals Average title but also crowned her the National Champion for a second time in her illustrious rodeo career.

However, their influence extended beyond their own triumphs. Joker's invaluable assistance proved instrumental in supporting Katie Vaughan's journey through the finals. Together they secured commendable second and third finishes in two rounds, allowing Katie to maintain her close second position behind Cheyenne. Katie's unwavering skill in the fiercely competitive atmosphere earned her the title of Reserve Champion. The event not only showcased individual prowess but also highlighted the enduring bonds of camaraderie within the competitive rodeo community, serving as a powerful testament to the spirit of sportsmanship and mutual support among its members.

ALL-ROUND COWGIRL:

Cheyenne Whitwell's dominance in the rodeo arena is truly remarkable, and her latest achievement of clinching her eighth All-Round Cowgirl Championship title is a testament to her exceptional talent and dedication to the sport. Since earning her first All-Round title at the young age of 15 while a junior competitor in 2011, she has consistently showcased her prowess across various rodeo disciplines.

Earning an impressive array of titles and accolades encompassing championships, reserve championships, and finals average – sixteen Barrel Race titles, five Breakaway Roping titles, and five Steer Undecorating titles – with these under her belt, Cheyenne's versatility and excellence has shone through. Her ability to excel in multiple events demonstrates not only her skill but also her determination and adaptability in the highly competitive world of rodeo.



Photo courtesy of East Coast Images

Cheyenne Whitwell's name has become synonymous with excellence in the rodeo community, and her continued success is a source of inspiration for aspiring cowgirls everywhere.



NATIONAL FINALS RODEO RECAP

Written by Courtney Jones

ALL-ROUND COWBOY:

Thomas Whitwell's victory in the National All-Round Cowboy Championship was a culmination of an intense season-long battle with Kielan Cox, ultimately decided in the last round of the finals. Renowned for his proficiency in timed events, Thomas's ability in Rope and Tie, Steer Wrestling, and both sides of the Team Roping box, propelled him to his third All-Round Cowboy title, cementing his status as a legend in the sport.

His extensive list of accolades speaks volumes, boasting an impressive and combined collection encompassing championships, reserve championships, and finals average titles – six Rope and Tie titles, four Steer Wrestling titles and two Team Roping titles – showcasing his consistent excellence across multiple rodeo disciplines. Thomas's victory not only secured the championship but also earned him the distinction of being the highest money earner of the finals, amassing over \$6,000 in earnings across three events, outpacing his closest competitors by more than \$2,100. This financial success reflects his talent and dedication to excellence in the sport of rodeo.

Photo courtesy of Red Hot Shotz Photography



As we concluded our recap of the 2023 National Finals Rodeo, the emotions were infused with a bittersweet mix of exhilaration and nostalgia. The events that unfolded were captivating, as we relived the moments of our competitors' victories and triumphs while the national titles were decided and etched into the annals of rodeo history.



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Rookie Champions

Race to Rookie Interview series with Rodeo Queen Tahliah Storie



Our 2024 Rodeo Queen, Tahliah Storie, conducted a Race to Rookie interview series sharing insightful interviews with our leading rookies. Here from those rookie competitors before they became the 2024 National Rookie Champions, capturing their essence before their victorious moment.

Rookie Barrel Race Champion – Ella Christensen

Name, Age, Hometown, Occupation - Ella Christensen, 15, Miriam Vale, student.

Horses name, age and a little about them - Chillie, 14, Chillie is a curious horse she loves people and especially loves food.

How long have you been competing in this event - 8 years.

Current leaderboard position - Leading the rookie so far, second in the open and leading the junior.

When did you join the National Rodeo Association - 7 years ago.

What drew you to compete with the National Rodeo Association - The NRA Junior Rodeo Series.

How do you feel about being the current leading Rookie in your event and what would it mean to win that title - I'm grateful of the position and to win the title would be a highlight of my career.

Favourite run this year - Stanthorpe All-Round.

Favourite Rodeo of the year - Stanthorpe Rodeo.

Event idol - Jordan Briggs US.

What is something people don't know about you - I used to campdraft before rodeo.

Do you have any personal sponsors or favourite products you use - Ariat Australia and CAMfinance for personal sponsors and favourite products are Flair Equine Nasal Strips.



Rookie Rope & Tie Champion – Lachlan Mayer



Name, Age, Hometown, Occupation - Lachlan Mayer, 27, Chinchilla, operator in the mines.

Horses name, age and a little about them - I'm grateful to have a great mate in Tom Whitwell who has let me use his horse Ruthless this year he is 21 and for a bloke trying to get into rope and tie he's perfect for a beginner like myself.

How long have you been competing in this event - I roped my first calf the day before Goombungee rodeo this year.

Current leaderboard position - I'm currently sitting 9th in the standings and leading the Rookie title.

When did you join the National Rodeo Association - This is my first season in the NRA.

What drew you to compete with the National Rodeo Association - The close-knit competitor group that gets around everyone having a go.

How do you feel about being the current leading Rookie in your event and what would it mean to win that title - Great, mostly surprised but happy to get a chance to compete with good cowboys and learn along the way.

Favourite run this year - Probably Goombungee being my first rope and tie run.

Favourite Rodeo of the year - Crow's Nest was great this year, good crowd and well run.

Event idol - I'd say Tom Whitwell he has help me out a lot this year not just with rope and tie but with all my events in general.

What is something people don't know about you - I love getting out on my boat and going fishing when I'm not out rodeoing.

Do you have any personal sponsors or favourite products you use - I always use Classic Ropes, and love wearing Cinch Australia clothing.

Photos courtesy of East Coast Images

Rookie Champions

Race to Rookie Interview series with Rodeo Queen Tahliah Storie



Rookie Steer Wrestling Champion - Cooper Roche

Name, Age, Hometown, Occupation - Cooper Roche, 19, Woodford, Carpenter.

Horses name, age and a little about them - Diamond in Disguise, 11. She was originally a barrel racing horse, I was lucky enough to buy her and put her on the steer wrestling side 22 months ago, with the ongoing help from Steve Doneathy. Pony boy, 12, owned by David Mawhinney. He was a pick-up horse but I'm fortunate that David has let me put him on the steer wrestling side and let me train him.

How long have you been competing in this event - I jumped my first steer about 18 months ago, so a little less than that.

Current leaderboard position - I'm currently sitting 8th with a tight run to the finals.

When did you join the National Rodeo Association - I joined the NRA in 2021.

What drew you to compete with the National Rodeo Association - Junior rodeos for chute dogging.

How do you feel about being the current leading Rookie in your event and what would it mean to win that title - It's feels great to be leading the rookie in the steer wrestling. I'm just very fortunate and grateful to have some incredible and knowledgeable people around me to help week in week out.

Favourite run this year - Would definitely say Brymaroo it was definitely not the prettiest but, I was lucky to get the win and fortunate to take Byron of Lachlan O'Neill's.

Favourite Rodeo of the year - Lawrence would be my favourite with a big crowd on the grandstand above and the river on the other side.

Event idol - Would have to be Lachlan O'Neil, very grateful to have learnt so much from him and still.

What is something people don't know about you - I hate snakes.

Do you have any personal sponsors or favourite products you use - Definitely Ariat Australia products.



Rookie Team Roping Heeler Champion - Dane Van Peperzeel



Name, Age, Hometown, Occupation - Dane Van Peperzeel, 24, Rathdowney, Plumber.

Horses name, age and a little about them - Brick is a 13yr old bay gelding who was initially a calf roping horse when I purchased him.

How long have you been competing in this event - I have been roping for 2 1/2 years now.

Current leaderboard position - 4th in the standings.

When did you join the National Rodeo Association - 2021.

What drew you to compete with the National Rodeo Association - I started roping early on with Zac Hingst and wanted to compete with him at NRA.

How do you feel about being the current leading Rookie in your event and what would it mean to win that title - Feels good to be able to rope well enough to be leading and it would also be my first title. To win it with Zac would be awesome.

Favourite run this year - Dayboro Rodeo with Zac being first out was awesome with all the people sitting on the hill. Even though we only ended up 4th, we both roped really well and did our jobs on both ends.

Favourite Rodeo of the year - Definitely Canungra Rodeo which Zac and I managed to take the win at this year.

Event idol - Would have to be Mark Knox.

What is something people don't know about you - I used to play soccer at a professional level my whole life before rodeo.

Do you have any personal sponsors or favourite products you use - I always use my Cactus Ropes and my Rawhide Western / Chris Mackenzie Saddler saddle.

National All-Round Cowgirl Cheyenne Whitwell

Interview with Rodeo Queen Tahliah Storie



“We have so many great competitors, but when you think about the All-Round Cowgirl, I have a name that comes straight to mind, and with good reason. She is one of the most decorated cowgirls in the association and has been for many years, she is no stranger to being number one and for this National Rodeo Finals she wears that exact back number as representation of the highest point earned competitor”.

Name, Age, Hometown - Cheyenne Whitwell, 27, Mt Tarampa QLD.

Events you compete in - Barrel Racing, Breakaway Roping, Steer Undecorating and Team Roping.

Current positions in the standings - #3 in the Barrel Racing, #1 in the Breakaway Roping, #1 in the Steer Undecorating, #1 All-Round Cowgirl.

How long have you been competing in rodeo? When and how did you get into it - I have probably been competing since the time I could walk and talk, both my parents competed in rodeo, so I was brought up into the rodeo lifestyle.

What are some your previous achievements - I won my first NRA open barrel racing title in 2010 when I was 13 years old and also managed to win the following 4 years. In 2016 I won the APRA rookie all round champion cowgirl. I have also won 7 all-round cowgirl titles in NRA.

What do you believe makes a successful cowgirl - Never giving up, we've all struggled with good days and bad days you just have to keep practicing and showing up.

Most memorable moment this year in rodeo - There's probably been a couple but winning the barrel race and the breakaway roping at my hometown rodeo Lowood is definitely up there.

Favourite event and why - Probably barrel racing, I like to go fast and also when you start having success on young horses you've trained there's no better feeling.

Favourite rodeo products - I'm not sure what are my favourites, I use Rattler Rope viper breakaway rope that I like and also like Ortho Equine horse boots.

How do you feel coming into the final round of the National Finals Rodeo in the number one position - it's a nice feeling, just very thankful for the successful year I have had.

How to you conquer the nerves and pressure? Do you feel your mental game has to be strong - I definitely think you have to have a strong mental game; I find just surrounding myself with positive people and good vibes definitely helps keep the nerves and pressure away.

What advice would you give the younger generation or people starting out in rodeo - Don't be afraid to ask for help, if you see someone doing well or you're struggling with something never be scared to ask for some advice most of the rodeo family are more than willing to help!

What would you like to see more of in rodeo - I would like to see more all-round rodeos with more prize money up and also more novice barrel races at rodeos.

“Thank you Cheyenne for chatting with me, you are definitely someone I know a lot of girls look up to and such a positive bright light for the sport. You and your family always go above and beyond to help and support those who are starting out or needing a hand and it does not go unnoticed. Congratulations on another fabulous and successful year of rodeo!”





National All-Round Cowboy Thomas Whitwell

Interview with Rodeo Queen Tahliah Storie

“Thinking of All-Round cowboys, I have a name in mind and talent definitely runs in the family. He has been very successful in the association for many years, and like his sister he is no stranger to being number one. This cowboy has been battling it out for the highly sought after All-Round Cowboy title with Kielan Cox, going back and forth changing the leaderboard all year and has emerged victorious”.

Name, Age, Hometown - Tom Whitwell, 30, Mt Tarampa QLD.

Events you compete in - Steer Wrestling, Rope & Tie, Team Roping both heading and heeling.

Current positions in the standings - #1 in the Rope & Tie, #2 in the Steer Wrestling, #4 In the Team Roping Header, #5 in the Team Roping Heeler, #1 All-Round Cowboy.

How long have you been competing in rodeo? When and how did you get into it - Both my parents have always been into rodeo so i pretty much started riding and learning to rope since I could walk, and it just continued on from there.

What are some your previous achievements - I've been lucky enough to win 2 NRA all round titles, 2 NRA rope and tie titles and 1 NRA team roping heeling title plus I've been able to make the APRA finals a few times team roping and calf roping and once Steer wrestling.

What do you believe makes a successful cowboy - A successful Cowboy in my eyes is someone who always tries there best no matter what and is always working towards bettering themselves and others inside and outside of the arena.

Most memorable moment this year in rodeo - Definitely been a few, between be able to watch a few of my close mates who I've helped get their first cheques to making the APRA finals for the first time in the Steer wrestling.

Favourite event and why - Definitely the steer wrestling, I've always enjoyed the thrill of it plus it's always been an event I've struggled with the most, so I've had to work a lot harder to get where I am then my other events, which makes it a bit more rewarding.

Favourite rodeo products - I don't really have much preference to be fair, usually whatever gear my sister has lying around I can steal and whatever ropes are available at the time.

How do you feel coming into the final round of the National Finals Rodeo in the number one position - It's a really good feeling but anything can happen over the finals with the extra points and average as well, so I just try do my best each round and hope for the best.

How to you conquer the nerves and pressure? Do you feel your mental game has to be strong - Lots of practice over the years and putting myself in pressure situations at home so when you get to rodeo you just treat it like a practice run and just do your job and don't over complicate it.

What advice would you give the younger generation or people starting out in rodeo - Surround yourself with good people, always give it 100%, ask as many questions as you can and learn of as many people as you can and most importantly enjoy it.

“Thank you Thomas for chatting with me, you are someone I know a lot of people look up to and just like Cheyenne you are such a positive bright light for the sport. You and your family always go above and beyond to help and support those who are starting out or needing a hand and it definitely does not go unnoticed. Congratulations on another fabulous and successful year of rodeo! I am grateful to have had your guidance and support with starting a new sport and will be forever thankful to you all.”



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