



Rob Carn and Snowgum's winning run in the Novice.

The Just Country Australia Campdraft, Rodeo, Races and Gymkhana is held on Easter weekend in the little township of Boulia, Queensland. For such a small town it is a massive event that almost doubles the population of Boulia and the campdraft, rodeo and races committees work hard together to make it all happen.

NAPCO – Marion Downs are a long term supporter and we were lucky to have been donated with a lovely line of steers which made for some fabulous runs during the weekend.

Due to the races running from lunchtime on Saturday, we start campdrafting mid afternoon on Thursday. With our fantastic announcer, Todd Donaldson, we started the Davenport Downs – Paraway Pastoral Maiden A that was kindly judged by Dean Warren. The Final was run on Sunday with first place being nabbed by Nathan Mura and Ironjack Outlaw on 170 points.

Friday morning kicked off with our highlight draft for the weekend, the Mitech \$10 000 Novice with judge John Paine coming across from Winton. Competitors had some cracking runs and in the Final Round on Sunday, we had an exhilarating four way run off that ended with Rob Carn and Snowgum taking out first place on 260 points, Alan Davison & Deluxe taking out second place on 257 points and third also going to Alan Davison & Cherish on 253 points. Ellie Blacket took out the Highest Scoring Novice Local Rider with 82 points, taking home some cash and handy prizes.



Ladies Lineup – First Suzy Logan on Conway, second Jodie Warren on Ray, third Bella Reardon on Bubbles, fourth Cassie Jessup on Mustbe Boots, equal fifth, sixth & seventh Gretta Allan on Wylene, Patrice Elliott on Lynx Fever & Prue Fargher on Cold Play, equal eighth Prue Fargher on Eleora Hope, Amanda Cluff on Strika, Ellie Blacket on El Pascol Merlin, Elizabeth Gooden on Pirate and Meg Bailey on Design.

We then moved on with the Mini Draft that was won by Zoe Mourilyan & Jazz and kindly sponsored by past committee members, Sarah Malloy & Brad Mourilyan. Following was the Desert Sands Motel Junior Draft and Charlie Iraci & Roana Jane showed us all how it's done, arm cast & all! Layla Bailey and Roy took out the Tonkies Carpentry Juvenile Draft with 85 points – the Bailey's are great supporters of our draft, who compete and keep committee members buzzing with coffee all weekend by towing their van all the way from North of Julia Creek.

We finished off the campdrafting on Friday with Morgan Richards judging the GBA Consulting Engineers Encouragement Draft that was taken out by Darcy Turner and Idiot. The fun didn't stop there, with the gymkhana running into the night starting with the kids and working up to the open age events.

On Saturday morning we began with the Woodham Petroleum Maiden B. The Final Round was run on Sunday which taken out by Rob Carn and Deep Heat on 176 points. We quickly jumped into the Garland Cattle Transport Open Campdraft and ran the Final Round on Sunday. It was a worthwhile trip across from Corfield for Judge, Dean Warren, as he took out first place with 175 points on Sungirl. Just before lunch we pulled up and everyone donned their dresses & best shirts for the races. The kids were treated to Easter egg races while the bookies were busy taking every ones' bets.

The ladies didn't party too hard as the Mount Isa Pets and Produce Ladies Draft was first up on Sunday. Valued Sponsor, Suzy Logan and Conway deservedly earned first place with 89 points. We then rattled through the finals to make space in the yards for the rodeo events to begin and competitors to head off to Springsure for the Golden Anniversary National Finals.

Thanks must go to all of our fantastic Sponsors & the Boulia Shire Council for maintenance and

lending machinery, the grounds are looking better than ever.

In comparison to the size of our event, we have a very small committee (collectively our kids outnumber the adults – we should be set for committee members in about fifteen years' time!) who all work super hard to bring together a fantastic weekend. We are extremely appreciative of all of the volunteers and friends who jump in the backyards, on a gate or keep an eye on a roguey child.

A massive congratulations to all placegetters and thank you to all competitors & those involved in the running of the weekend. We couldn't have asked for the campdraft to run any more smoothly and we look forward to seeing old and new faces next year!

Question Time with Treasurer, Brit Morice

Campdrafting history? I love to have a few runs every now and then. I enjoy the people and the competition. My favourite horse that I've competed on was Scout who was a stockcamp horse at Killarney Station (NT), he got me around my first course!

Why did you jump on the Committee? This little Boulia Campdraft Committee is more like a family than a committee. So, it's a win win, I get to be involved in the campdrafts and also be part of the family.

What do future Boulia campdrafts need? Shade, other events like team penning and a new secretary's box with air conditioning!

Best memory from the weekend? Watching the nail biting finals and handing out the prizes was the best part of the weekend for me!

 **Boulia Campdraft Club Inc. Secretary, Robyn McPherson.**

 **Cassie Jessup Photography and Ann Britton Photography.**

ANN BRITTON
OUTBACK PHOTOGRAPHY



Tilly and pony, Ruby, having a blast with mum, Prue Fargher, in the gymkhana.



Dakota Blacket on Alfie with mum, Maryellen Boyd Blacket, leading the way.