



KING OF THE RANGES

STOCKMANS CHALLENGE & BUSH FESTIVAL



INSPIRED BY THE LEGENDARY
ARCHIE 'BUNG' MCINNES

www.kingoftheranges.com.au

22nd - 24th of
September, 2023
Murrurundi, NSW

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NEW WEBSITE

Visit our new website at kingoftheranges.com.au.



Cover photo by Cathy Finlayson

OUR STORY

In 2001 a group of Hunter Valley horsemen journeyed to Corryong, Victoria to compete in the Man From Snowy River Stockman's Challenge. A few repeat visits south got them hooked on the concept and so, with the help of some enthusiastic volunteers, they formed the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge Committee.

They set out with the mission of preserving and bringing public attention to the traditional skills of Australian stockmanship and bushcraft and held their inaugural event in 2004 at the Rosedale Horse Complex, Murrurundi.

Today the King of the Ranges is in its 19th year and is still a not-for-profit community group, run by local volunteers.

HISTORY



Inspiration for the event may have started in Corryong but evolved thanks to stories of Archie 'Bung' McInnes, a local stockman and brave Light Horseman from the early 1900's. He was known through the Hunter Valley as 'The King of the Ranges' for his hazardous work in difficult terrain and his widespread success in the rodeo ring. Not only was he a great buckjump rider and bushman, but he had few equals as a stockman.

Bung joined the First Battalion Light Horse at the outbreak of World War 1 and was wounded during the Beersheba Desert Campaign. He was later decorated with the Military Medal and, after the war, continued his life as a stockman and champion buckjump rider. Bung died at Glenrock Station in 1940 exactly as he had wished; "with my boots on and in the saddle."

OUR TOWN



Murrurundi is a picturesque town, which sits at the foot of the Liverpool Range and at the head of the Pages River. It is surrounded by mountains and fertile farming land and is known as the 'Crown of the Hunter'.



Come on up!

THE STOCKMAN'S

CHALLENGE

The King of the Ranges Stockmen's Challenge showcases the traditional skills of Australian stockmen and women over an exciting and intense 3 day challenge. Cumulative points are gathered over six preliminary events; stock handling, packsaddle, bareback, shoeing, whipcrack and cross country.



Preliminary events take place on Friday and Saturday with the finals on Sunday. Divisions are; **Striplings** (8-13), **Juniors** (14 - 18), **Novice** (never finished in a Stockman's Challenge before), **Ladies** and **Open**.

STOCK HANDLING

Using horse and dog, work a group of cattle free from the mob and navigate a course. Within a set time, competitors must draft out cattle and complete a cutout then, in a controlled manner using a working dog, move three head through an obstacle course.

PACKSADDLE

Pack a packsaddle and lead a pack horse through the bush. Competitors get 6 minutes to pack saddle and bags on their competition horse, ensuring it's balanced. Pack horse is then led through an obstacle course to campsite where horse is unpacked.

BAREBACK

Riders must be ready to face any obstacle no matter what gear is available. Riding bareback competitors navigate a course designed to demonstrate skill, control and manoeuvrability of their horse. The 60 second freestyle routine further demonstrates the horse's ability.



SHOEING

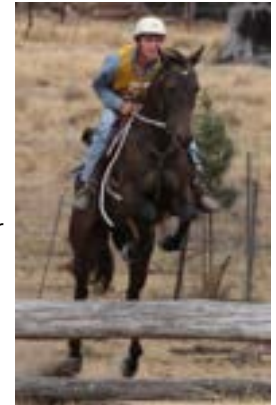
Shoe a horse so it can be ridden over rugged terrain. Depending on category, competitors trim a front and hind hoof, shape shoes and apply them in a set time.

WHIPCRACK

Crack a stock whip to control stock while riding at speed. Cleanly cut targets with a stock whip on a set course and within the time limit. A 30 second freestyle further demonstrates skill with a whip.

CROSS COUNTRY OBSTACLES

Gallop over logs, down banks and through gullies while mustering. Riding in a stock saddle, competitors must complete a 2km course with 20 obstacles as close to optimum time as possible.



FINALS

SUNDAY, RING 1

WORKING HORSE CHALLENGE - Working Pattern.

STRIPLINGS CHALLENGE - Station Horse Pattern.

JUNIOR CHALLENGE - Time Trial.

NOVICE CHALLENGE - Time Trial.

LADIES CHALLENGE - Wild Horse Catch.



OPEN CHALLENGE - Wild Horse Catch and Stock Saddle Buckjump.

THE WORKING HORSE CHALLENGE

The Working Horse Challenge runs separately to the Stockman's Challenge and is the same format as a working cow horse challenge. There are two events on Saturday, a **dry work phase (ride a set pattern)** and a **wet work phase (cattle work)**. Both phases are designed to highlight the ability and versatility of the horse and its relationship to the rider.

The top five riders after the two preliminary events will go into the final on Sunday, which is working horse pattern.



KOTR TROPHY SADDLE 2023

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Australian Stock Horse

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INDIGENOUS STOCKMAN'S PROGRAM

Inspired by our history, the voices and images of Indigenous stockmen, camp cooks, drovers, fencers, shearers... Our Indigenous Ringers are a part of Australia's soul. They share a unique oneness with our land and animals.

With the aim of honouring and continuing their legacy, King of the Ranges created this program in 2015 to assist young Aboriginal stockmen and women from Northern Australia to develop skills and experiences to benefit their careers.



Successful recipients travel to the Upper Hunter, stay locally, and spend time under the guidance of experienced King of the Ranges members. They expand skills, compete in the Challenge and participate in a range of activities aimed at increasing confidence and furthering their all round development.

We look forward to welcoming a new stock man or woman into our 2024 program.



Deb Colleen
O'Dowd

Member - Gifted for her enjoyment

King of the Ranges
Hartmanns, 11/12 2338

Phone: 04 20 402 141 Fax: 02 80 405 543
joan@kingoftheranges.com.au
Open: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 12pm, Sun 10am - 4pm

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SUPPORTING KING OF THE RANGES & LOCAL COMMUNITY

INVITATIONAL DOG TRIAL

The MacCallum & Co invitational dog trial sees 10 invited dogs and their local handlers go up against the Top 10 dogs from the Challenge based on the highest points scored in the dog work section of the Stock Handling event.



Competitors will compete in a preliminary round on Saturday and the Top 6 will advance into the final on Sunday.

PRELIM - Saturday, 1pm & 5pm, Ring 1.
FINAL - Sunday, 10:30am, Ring 1.

CO-ORDINATOR: Ben Crowe

THE WORLD'S LEADING BEEF BRANDS.

Visit www.JBSAA.com.au to find your nearest livestock buyer.

Enjoy some tasty JBS Beef at the Friday night Stockman's Supper and Saturday's Camp Oven Cook Off.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY		Officials & Challenge Competitors	
10am - 6pm	REGISTRATION Secretary's Box	6pm	WELCOME BBQ Sponsor's Tent
From 1pm	COURSE WALKS	7 - 8pm	RIDERS' BRIEFING Sponsor's Tent
3pm - 6pm	VET/GEAR CHECK Ring 1	All day	RAFFLE TICKETS KOTR Merchandise Stall

FRIDAY		Challenge Preliminary Events (Ref Colour Group Schedule)	
7:30am - 5pm	PACKSADDLE PS Course	8am - 3pm	SHOEING Marsh Carney Tent
8am - 4pm	WHIPCRACK Ring 1	8:30am - 4:30pm	BAREBACK BB Course
9:30am - 3:30pm	STOCK HANDLING Ring 2	11:30am & 1pm	STRIPLINGS Packsaddle & Whipcrack

FRIDAY		Bush Festival	
All day	BUSH MARKETS	All day	RAFFLE TICKETS KOTR Merchandise Stall
From 11am	BUSH COOKING DEMO 3 demos - Pursehouse Rural Tent	All day	BLACKSMITH DEMOS Trade Stalls
11:30am & 12:30pm	HEAVY HORSE PLOUGHING Cross Country Course	4:30pm	OLD TIME SHEARING Bar
4:30 - 6:30pm	COCKTAIL HOUR(S) Bar	5 - 5:30pm	OPENING CEREMONY Ring 1
6:30 - 8pm	STOCKMAN'S DINNER Sponsor's Tent	8 - 10pm	LIVE MUSIC - DUBBY & HOWDY - Bar

SATURDAY		Challenge Preliminary Events (Ref Colour Group Schedule)	
7am - 12pm	STOCK HANDLING Ring 2	7am - 1pm	BAREBACK BB Course
8 - 11:30am	SHOEING Marsh Carney Tent	8 - 10am	WHIPCRACK Ring 1
9am - 12pm	PACKSADDLE PS Course	10:30am - 12:30pm	WORKING HORSE Ring 1
12 - 5:30pm	STRIPLINGS Stock Handling, Bareback & Cross Country	From 2:30pm	CROSS COUNTRY OB CC Obstacle Course

SATURDAY		Bush Festival	
All day	BUSH MARKETS	9 & 10:30am	DOG LOTTO Near Ring 2
11:30am - 2:30pm	KIDS CORNER	All day	OLD ENGINES DISPLAY Near Ring 2
11:30am & 12:30pm	HEAVY HORSE PLOUGHING Cross Country Course	2:30 & 4pm	GOAT RACES Ring 2
12:30 - 1:30pm	KIDS WHIPCRACK CLINIC Steve Kemp Stall	3 - 4pm	KIDS WHIPCRACK COMP Ring 2
1 & 5pm	INVITATIONAL DOG TRIAL Ring 1	3 demos	BUSH COOKING DEMO Tucker Tent
3pm	HEAVY HORSE Pumpkin Snatch - Ring 1	3:30pm	BILLY BOILING COMP Ring 1
4pm	TENT PEGGING Ring 1	6 - 7:30pm	KOTR & SPONSORS DINNER Sponsor's Tent
6pm	FINALISTS ANNOUNCED Ring 1	6:45pm	POLEY BUCKJUMP Ring 1
7:30pm	CALCUTTA Ring 1	From 8pm	LIVE MUSIC - RAY BOYS NEXT GEN - Bar

SUNDAY		Ring 1 Challenge Finals & Bush Festival	
8am	WORKING HORSE FINAL		
8:45am	STRIPLINGS FINAL	7:30 - 9am	POETS BREAKFAST & PERFORMED POETRY COMPETITION Pursehouse Rural Tent
9:30am	JUNIOR FINAL		
10am	NOVICE FINAL	9am	GOAT RACES Ring 2
10:30am	WORKING DOG FINAL		
11:30am	MOUNTED PRESENTATION	9:30am - 3:15pm	SPONSORS HOSPITALITY Sponsor's Tent
12:30pm	LADIES WILD HORSE CATCH		
1:30pm	OPEN WILD HORSE CATCH	All day	RAFFLE TICKETS KOTR Merchandise Stall
2:30pm	OPEN BUCKJUMP	All day	BUSH MARKETS
3pm	RAFFLE DRAW		
3:15pm	FINAL PRESENTATION	All day	DISPLAY OF CHILDREN'S PHOTOS & COLOURING Kids Corner

COLOUR GROUP SCHEDULE

		FRIDAY												SATURDAY											
		7am	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30	12pm	12:30	1	1:30	2	2:30	3	3:30	4	4:30	5	5:30	6	
Shoeing 1hr				Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Purple	Purple	Purple	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Black 1-10	
Whicprack 1hr				Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Orange 11-20		
Stock Handling 1.5hr			Pink	Red	Red	Red	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Pink 21-30		
Bareback 1.5hr			Black	Black	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red 31-40		
Packsaddle 1.5hr			Black	Black	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Blue 41-50		
Striplings																							Yellow 51-60		
																							Green 61-70		
																							Purple 71-80		
Shoeing		7am	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30	12pm	12:30	1	1:30	2	2:30	3	3:30	4	4:30	5	5:30	6	
Whicprack				Black	Black	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Finalists Announced	
Stock Handling			Red	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Black	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Finalists Announced	
Bareback			Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Finalists Announced	
Packsaddle			Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Finalists Announced	
Cross Country			Purple	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Finalists Announced	
Working Horse			Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Finalists Announced	
Striplings			Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Finalists Announced	
Ring 1																								Finalists Announced	
Ring 2																								Finalists Announced	

BUSH FESTIVAL

The King of the Ranges Bush Festival is all about famous folklore, long tales and crazy fun. Here's a taste of what to expect:

BILLY GOAT RACES

The famously entertaining goat races return in 2023. We supply the **goats and carts**, and you bring the kids (the two-legged kind).

Saturday 2:30 & 4pm, and Sunday 9am in Ring 2.

Register at the Secretary's Box. Entry fee \$5.

A parent/guardian must sign a waiver at time of entry.

Min age 5yrs. Max weight 50kg.

'King of the... Kids' by Carol Heuchan

Then we bring on some goats

With long hairy coats

I'm talking the sort that are feral.

Hitch them and kids

To go-carts on skids,

Set 'em loose

For some old fashioned peril.

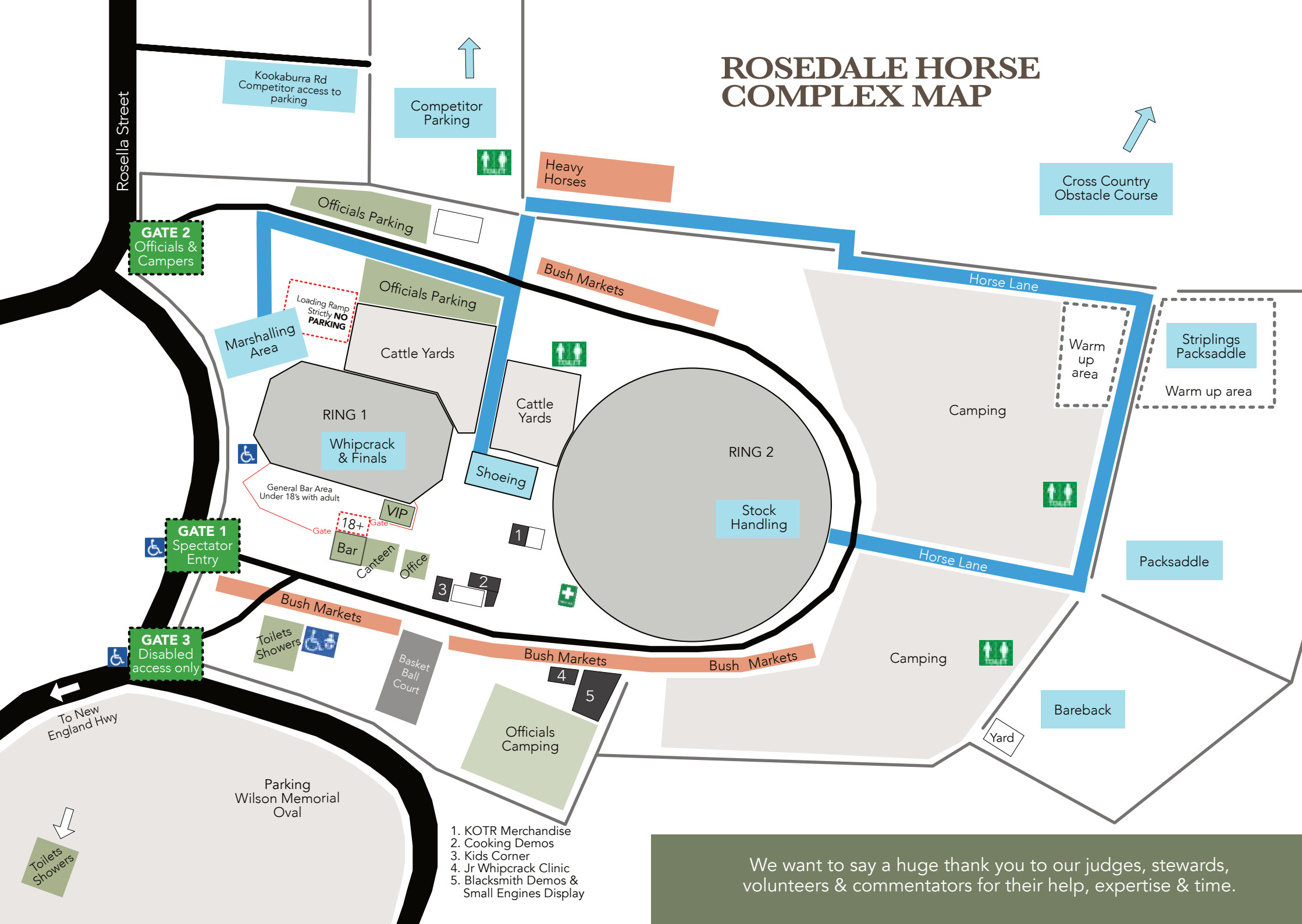


AGL is proud to support the 2023 King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge.

 agl.com.au

 Join the change

ROSEDALE HORSE COMPLEX MAP



- 1. KOTR Merchandise
- 2. Cooking Demos
- 3. Kids Corner
- 4. Jr Whipcrack Clinic
- 5. Blacksmith Demos & Small Engines Display

We want to say a huge thank you to our judges, stewards, volunteers & commentators for their help, expertise & time.

BUSH FESTIVAL

BILLY BOILING COMPETITION

Open to all, this highly competitive and fun contest is one to watch. Or, if you think you've got what it takes, why not give it a go and see if you can bring the heat and be the first to boil the billy.



Saturday 3:30pm in Ring 1.
Register at the Secretary's Box. Entry fee \$5.

JUNIOR WHIPCRACK CLINIC & COMPETITION

Calling all the kids. Talented local whip maker, Steve Kemp, will be helping young and aspiring whip crackers to learn and perfect their technique during a clinic on Saturday. No experience necessary, come along and... give it a crack!

Later on Saturday Steve will then judge performances in the Junior Whipcrack Competition with a prize for the best in each age group. **Age Groups:** 5 - 8yrs, 9 - 12yrs and 13 - 16yrs.

Clinic: Saturday 12:30 - 1:30pm at the Steve Kemp trade stall.
Competition: Saturday 3 - 4pm in Ring 2.
Register at the Secretary's Box. Entry fee \$10.
Eye protection is recommended.

HEAVY HORSE DEMONSTRATIONS

As we celebrate traditional Australian bush skills we shine a light on the crucial role heavy horses played in building this country. **The Clydesdale Society** will be at Rosedale all weekend. See plowing demonstrations above Ring 2 on Friday & Saturday at 11:30am & 12:30pm. The team will do pumpkin snatch races in Ring 1 on Saturday at 3pm. Participants will be chosen from the crowd to ride the sled and race to take the win.



BENGALLA

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BUSH FESTIVAL

DOG 'PEE' LOTTO

Try your luck in our raffles or the Dog Lotto. You 'purchase' one of the numbered tyres and if the dog happens to 'pee' on your tyre first, you win a prize. Enter at the Secretary's Box or around the Dog Lotto circle.
Saturday 9 & 10:30am. Entry fee \$5.

CAMP OVEN COOK OFF

This is a fresh new addition to the KOTR Bush Festival. Get your team together and come along to see if you can take out the trophy in the first ever Camp Oven Cook Off.

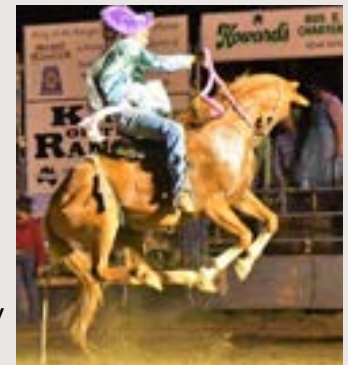
RULES: Teams of up to 4 people. Cooking from **12.30pm Saturday**. Fires limited to the competition time. Judging includes presentation, cleanliness, and taste. Cook 3 dishes - Plain Damper, Fruit Scrolls, Stew or Curry. No commercial or pre-packaged ingredients permitted. Judged by Murrurundi CWA.

There's a special award for best interaction with the crowd to be voted for by spectators. **Register at Secretary's Box.**

FANCY DRESS POLEY SADDLE BUCKJUMP

The highlight of Saturday night has to be the poley buckjump. It has all the thrills and spills you'd expect with the added comedy of fancy dress.

Get in touch on Facebook beforehand or **register at the Secretary's Box** on the day. **Entry fee \$50. Saturday 6:45pm, Ring 1**



BUSH MARKETS

This lively gathering of traditional and creative stalls offers a unique experience for both locals and visitors. The markets run from Friday to Sunday to allow plenty of time for browsing and will be located around Ring 2.

From our diverse group of vendors you'll find leather goods, jewellery, clothes, horse gear, stockwhips, metal art, camping gear, fire pits, camp ovens, saddlery, jeans, hand crafted goods, homewares, accessories, and much more.

Keep an eye out for the **Quirindi Heritage Village** stall for Old Engines and Blacksmith demonstrations on the Heavy Horse side of Ring 2.



FOOD STALLS

The King of the Ranges Canteen will be in operation all day across Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The canteen will be catering for breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon tea, and quick refreshments.

Gray's Food Van is a regular each year and will be back in 2023 with their huge range of hot and cold food and drinks, and everyone's favourite showtime treats.

George and Bean will be in attendance on all three days for the coffee lovers. Our Murrurundi local barista serves only the finest - Toby's Estate.



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ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY NIGHT

OLD TIME SHEARING - 4:30pm
 Step back in time and see how it was done before the invention of engines.

STOCKMAN'S SUPPER - 6:30pm - 8pm
 2 course meal. Tickets \$40 per head, available online or at the Office.

LIVE: HOWDY & DUBBY - From 8pm
 The lads from Tamworth play a great mix of classic Country and Western songs.

SATURDAY NIGHT

KOTR & SPONSOR'S DINNER - 6:30pm - 8pm.
 2 course, camp oven cooked meal. Tickets \$40 per head, available online or at the Office.

JOHN PURCELL MEMORIAL POLEY BUCKJUMP - 6:55pm, Ring 1

CALCUTTA (Top 10 Finalists) - 7:30pm
 Who will be the 20213 King of the Ranges? Bid up for your chance to win the jackpot when your competitor comes out on top.

LIVE MUSIC: RAY BOYS: NEXT GEN - From 8pm
 Your favourite rock & country tunes to keep you dancing all night.

SUNDAY MORNING

POETS BREAKFAST & YARN SPINNING
 Go on, give it a go! In 2023 the Poetry Competition is a written competition and the new Yarn Spinning Competition on Sunday morning is performance-based. Everyone has a story to tell, be it tall or short, famous or funny, join Bush Poet Carol Heuchan for an unforgettable morning. We encourage old hands, beginners and all those in between to join in the great Australian traditions of Bush Poetry & Yarn Spinning. Entry forms and more info on the website.



TICKETS

The Stockman's Challenge showcases skills rarely seen anywhere else in Australia and the Bush Festival adds an extra element of uniqueness. Come along for a family fun weekend and a truly authentic experience.

GATE PASSES	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	3 Day Pass
Adult	\$5	\$25	\$25	\$45
Junior (10 - 17)	\$5	\$10	\$10	\$20
Child (0 - 9)	0	0	0	0
Senior (provide seniors card or pensioner proof at gate)	\$5	\$15	\$15	\$35

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CAMPING

Don't miss any of the action! Stay the weekend on-site and soak up the true blue experience in the gorgeous surrounds of Murrurundi.

Visitor camping is available from Friday to Sunday at a cost of **\$80 for the three days**. If you'd like to stay on Wednesday, Thursday or Monday night it is an extra \$20 per night/site. Book your campsite here - www.trybooking.com/CJQOV. Visit our website for FAQ's.



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AWARDS

The Mounted Presentation of awards - 11:30am on Sunday, Ring 1.

Awards will be presented to the winners of the preliminary challenge events, and the winners and placegetters of the finals completed on Sunday morning; Working Horse, Striplings, Junior and Novice Challenges.

There will be additional awards for:
**Best Rookie Rider • Best Rookie Horse
Highest point score Local & Veteran
Encouragement Award • Leading Quarter
Horse • Leading Thoroughbred
Leading Australian Stock Horse (in each
category)
Highest Scoring Colour Team**



After the Ladies and Open Finals there will be a Final Presentation at 3:15pm in Ring 1 and our 2023 Queen and King of the Ranges will be crowned.

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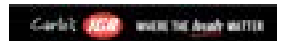
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