

MRA

MISS RODEO AUSTRALIA

Howdy there Rodeo'ers.

Your Miss Rodeo Australia here to tell you about another massive month of experiences, travelling, meeting new people, visiting towns I never knew existed and of course, rodeo'ing.

I left you last month with tales of my very first experience as MRA at Wagga. Since then I have had a couple of weeks off at home relaxing (joking).

It was mustering time at home for my family so I've been helping out with that, but slipped away for a weekend, hopping on a plane to Narrandera Pro Rodeo.

I flew in on the Saturday morning and was picked up by committee member and local business owner Bernie Hayllar.

He and his beautiful wife Jo then showed me around the sites of Narrandera, including the mighty Murrumbidgee River, the koala reserve (unfortunately I didn't see any) and also the famous "Beach" of Narrandera.

The rodeo started later that night, and what a fantastic set up they have! The organisation of the arena, the events, stock, food, bar area and stands were five-star. After the grand opening and Australian anthem the action started! The professionalism in this rodeo was extensive. Thank you to Bernie and Jo for your hospitality and thank you to Narrandera Rodeo for having me.

Next up on the itinerary was Millmerran, QLD. I met up with Millmerran Rodeo Queen 2017 and Miss Rodeo Australia 2018 entrant, the lovely Nicole Evans.

The rodeo started swimmingly, until a storm cut power, but as rodeo people do, they think on their feet and slip into plan B. Cowgirl fire-twirlers entertained the crowd while our hard-working men got that power up and running. But Mother Nature had other plans.

Thirty minutes into restored power we were hit with some very heavy rain, but the people of Millmerran were definitely not letting that stop them! They parked up under cover until it passed and stuck it out to watch our men in rodeo perform!

Thank you to the Millmerran Committee for holding such a fantastic rodeo and for renting out the cabin for Nicole and I to call home for those few days.

After Millmerran it was off to Melbourne, for, wait for it... the Tri Series! Talk about excited. I was bouncing in my seat. Monday saw me in Mansfield after a breath-taking drive from Melbourne!

Tuesday, I experienced one of the most time-honoured, eye-opening and



At the top of Mount Stirling, Victoria.

bucket list items a horseman could dream of riding... the Man from Snowy River trail ride with Bruce and Deb McCormack from McCormack's Trail Rides, Mountain Valley.

Now, if you have never thought of doing this, start thinking and if you are already thinking about doing this, all I can say is DO IT! It is un-be-leivable. Hands down the most amazing



At Chiltern Rodeo with 21 year sponsor Mr. Harold Stacey.



Millmerran Rodeo Queen Tamara Evans and I before the Grand Entry

experience I have had to date.

The ride itself was unreal but climbing the side of the mighty Mt Sterling to reach the top where the countryside unfolds beneath you, well it sure did make this chatter box absolutely speechless for a long while.

I actually have goose bumps all over just writing this and thinking about that moment. I felt like I was standing on top of the world. From there it was all downhill to the famous Craig's Hut, where Bruce and I enjoyed a gorgeous lunch with a view. I did not want to leave, but duties were calling.

Wednesday was spent travelling around in my flash Holden Colorado, provided by Martin's Garage in Mansfield, to

meet the sponsors of Merrijig Pro Rodeo. A special thank you to Helena Simpkin for inviting me into your home for those few days.

Later that day I travelled to Kyabram to meet with my new family for the next few days, long-time committee members and all-around beautiful family, the Matthews'. By 1pm Friday the Tri Series opened and I had rodeo on my mind.

At 7pm sharp the main event started with the Grand Entry and the official opening of the Tri Series.

I even got to experience the action from above, being lifted up in the cherry-picker to have a birds-eye view. The night was a success, brought on by the fantastic committee and their organisation and love for the rodeo.

I would also like to add my deepest condolences to family and friends of late Kyabram committee member, Darren Lloyd, who was sadly and suddenly taken from us over International Dairy Week, earlier this year. I know the committee is still feeling Darren's loss. I give my heart to you guys. Saturday morning brought me back to Merrijig for night two! For a small town, the Mansfield crowd was extreme. Obviously they know that every year this committee puts on one hell of a rodeo!

Congratulations to the entire committee on a fantastic rodeo! Another late night brings another early morning for the final night of the Tri Series, Chiltern. With all

praying, the rain stayed away for us to finish the rodeo and present our Tri Series winners with their buckles.

Congratulations to Cherie O'Donoghue (all-round cowgirl); Shane Kenny (all-round cowboy); Teal Ayers (all-round junior cowgirl); and Darcy Kersh (all-round junior cowboy).

That's all this month, but I'll be back with more exciting stories to tell next month. I'll be sure to see you out there on the road, chasing rodeos!

*Yours truly and with love,
Emma Deicke
Miss Rodeo Australia 2017*

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